

Newfound Area School District

Budget Hearing

Minutes

January 15, 2015

6:30 pm

Newfound Regional High School, Auditorium

Budget Committee Members: Harold "Skip" Reilly, Alexandria Christen Dolloff, Bristol
Jeff Bird, Bridgewater John Jenness, New Hampton
Gina Rescigno, Groton Stan Newton, Hebron
Jeff Levesque, School Board Representative

Absent: Ruby Hill, Danbury

School Board Members: Sue Cheney, Alexandria Ben Laroche, Bristol
Vincent Paul Migliore, Bridgewater Christine Duval, New Hampton
Jeff Levesque, Groton (Budget Committee Rep)
Don Franklin, Hebron Sharon Klapyk, Danbury

District Staff: Michael Limanni, Business Administrator
Stacy Buckley, Superintendent

Hearing called to order at 6:31 PM by John Jenness, Chairman. The members of the school board, district, and budget committee were introduced, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Jenness explained the process of the hearing and noted that as each warrant article is discussed, the floor will be opened to the public for questions and comments.

Warrant Article 1 – To choose all necessary School District Officials for the year ensuing. (Second Session, March 8, 2016 – election day)

Mr. Jenness noted that there are positions on both the school board and budget committee open for the town of Alexandria (3 year term each), Bridgewater (3 year term each) and Danbury (2 year term each). The filing period is January 20-29 at the respective town halls.

No discussion.

Warrant Article 2 – EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND: BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Shall the Newfound Area School District vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) to be added to the Expendable Trust Fund: Building Maintenance, and to authorize the use/transfer in that amount from the undesignated fund balance available July 1, 2016 for this purpose?

No discussion.

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Warrant Article 3 – OPERATING BUDGET: Shall the Newfound Area School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the “First Session,” for the purposes set forth there in, totaling Twenty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Twelve Thousand and Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars (\$22,812,760)? Should this article be defeated, the Default Budget shall be Twenty-Three Million, Two Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fourteen Dollars (\$23,285,714) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Newfound Area School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13,X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

John Jenness took the audience through the difference between the 15-16 budget and the 16-17 proposed budget. He pointed out that the budget is a 0.2% net increase year over year. He then discussed the default budget.

He also discussed the goals of the budget for 2016-2017. These goals include meeting student’s needs, long-range planning, facilities upkeep, curriculum and instruction processes, retain programing, enhance efficiency and staying within the tax cap.

Mr. Jenness also spoke to the new staffing included in the budget – an athletic trainer at NMMS and NRHS, as well as a behavioral specialist based at BES but working district-wide.

Mr. Jenness then reviewed some of the items that were included in the budget at each school in the district as well as district wide items, which were originally included in the principal presentations to the budget committee and school board.

Archie Auger, Bristol, Commented that he did not see information regarding the revenue from Hill tuition in the budget handout and would like a summary of its impact on the budget. Michael Limanni, business administrator, addressed his question directing him to the last page of the budget handout. The revenues shown on the worksheet addressed as “other revenue” have, in the past, been made up by a HealthTrust reimbursement for overpayment of premiums. This year, the district will not be receiving any of that money; however, the revenue line does show about \$600,000 from the Hill tuition agreement.

Archie Auger, Bristol, asked about an article past a year or two ago regarding unexpended fund balances and if the \$250,000 that was retained has been used. Michael Limanni addressed his question. He stated the district has not had to use that unexpended fund balance. Each year the budget has finished with an unexpected surplus, so we have not had to touch the fund balance. He clarified that it is not a reserve and can only be used in emergency situations. Mr. Auger followed up with a question asking what the maximum amount in that balance, Michael stated it was \$250,000.

Jeff Levesque pointed out that the fund can only be expended with approval of the budget committee and the State of NH, so it is not easily accessed.

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John stated that the budget committee will be meeting after the hearing and that the meeting is open to the public. He thanked everyone in attendance for coming out.

Hearing was closed at 6:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Bliss
Budget Committee Clerk