

SANBORN REGIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

A meeting of the Sanborn Regional Budget Committee was held on Thursday, November 17, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. The following were recorded as present:

SRSD BUDGET COMMITTEE

Annie Collyer, Chairperson
Charlton Swasey, Vice-Chairman
James Doggett
Sandi Rogers-Osterloh
Ami Faria
Jack Kozec
Tammy Gluck, School Committee Representative

EXCUSED

Cheryl Gannon

The meeting began with a salute to the flag.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Ms. Collyer welcomed Carol Coppola, Business Administrator and other members of the public.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC FORUM

The Committee reviewed the public forum held on November 6, 2016. Approximately 30 residents attended the event.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh was glad they held the public forum.

Mr. Doggett said there were a lot more people than they normally get. A student from the student council also attended and spoke at the forum. All three towns were represented.

Ms. Collyer stated one resident from Fremont said he was worried about how they are losing talented athletes to private schools. The parents said they need to spend millions of dollars more on athletics.

Mr. Doggett explained that some people had opposing opinions of the Budget Committee, however, it was a mix of conversation and wasn't all one sided, which is unusual.

Ms. Faria thinks the turnout was better than we hoped for. It sounds worth it to continue reaching out in that way.

Ms. Collyer said maybe the spring would be a good time to hold another public forum. It would almost be better to do it right after the vote to get people's opinions on what they had to choose from.

PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW

Ms. Collyer thanked Ms. Coppola for getting them the answers to their questions.

The Committee viewed the pie chart on page 75 of the budget book which displayed percentages in each category.

Ms. Coppola explained that some personnel information is not public information so they have to go in manually on each line item in the personnel budget to remove the non-public information. She told the Committee they have been provided with actual wages paid and the 2018 proposed personnel wages. She stated they are broken down by account number. She explained the only thing they don't have is benefits at this point.

The Committee went through their questions and the answers that were provided on the salaries. Ms. Coppola provided a link to the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Committee to review. She explained there are early retirees for FY 2018 from teachers and administrators. She stated the details aren't public information yet.

Ms. Coppola referred to the NH Retirement System and how much it is increasing for employers. It is increasing for teachers 11% and all the staff members is increasing under 2%. That is the amount they have to contribute. There s no increase for employees.

Ms. Coppola explained the teacher incentive initiatives is part of the Collectve Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The link is provided to the CBA.

Ms. Collyer thanked Ms. Coppola for providing the amount of detail she has provided. She suggested when the time comes, to include these questions and answers in the "Did You Know" article and make them available on the website.

Ms. Collyer explained we will be reviewing the budget by sections, however, if any questions come up to a section that has already be reviewed, they can go back and discuss it until they are fully satisfied and until they understand.

Ms. Collyer shared an email she received today from Dr. Blake with the Committee regarding the information that Ms. Coppola has provided. She read his email to the Committee members.

Ms. Coppola stated she will not be returning next year but did not have a date when her last day will be yet. She said the cost per sport is not readily accessible.

The Master Schedule is on line. Ms. Collyer said the actual listing of all classes by section is a follow up question regarding the number of students in each course, and has not yet been provided.

Ms. Collyer informed the Committee of the upcoming meeting schedule. On 12/1 we will have both elementary schools and the middle school principals presenting their budgets. On 12/8, the high school, athletics and technology budget will be presented. Ms. Coppola stated she will not be in attendance. On 12/15, Grounds and Facilities will be reviewed. Ms. Collyer stated the CIP will probably be addressed by the School Board. Ms. Coppola is not sure if she can attend the 12/15 meeting.

Ms. Collyer is looking for more clarification of the default budget. She referred to the list of historical capital improvements and asked what, if any, impact those have had on the default budget. Ms. Coppola did not have the answers with her, and BudCom will ask in their questions to the Administration.

Ms. Coppola explained they wouldn't become part of the default budget if purchased prior to its formulation in the fall. Ms. Collyer mentioned the School Board and Administration removes capital improvements from the default budget when done early in the year, and not, by State law, when they are done with unexpended funds at the end of the year. She asked which ones have not been removed from prior years.

Ms. Coppola explained any decisions made in April 2017 have no affect on the default budget, and are not deducted.

Ms. Collyer was questioning the particular expenses. Ms. Coppola said she can look into it. She explained the default budget and the process.

Ms. Collyer will forward some questions to Dr. Blake regarding the CIP.

Ms. Faria said there were comments from the forum about money that is returned to the taxpayers at the end of the year from the unexpended funds. She said there were questions why aren't we seeing certain money returned from the unexpended funds.

Mr. Kozec referred to pg. 73 and the question was if the amount in the default budget from last year was a separate fund. Was the \$1,144,000 in the budget number or in a separate line item? The amount credited in FY 17 is a combination from 2 prior years, and not reflected in the default budget.

Ms. Faria asked if we could get a list of account numbers that are considered "other programs". Ms. Coppola said it is everything that is not special education.

Ms. Collyer asked about the budget vs. actual total for FY 16 that is on page 152 of the budget book, about \$1, 015,000. A portion of that was returned to the taxpayers, but not the rest. She wondered where the rest can be found. Ms. Coppola said no health insurance is included in those individual line items. Ms. Collyer asked Ms. Coppola about the \$870,000. She questioned with the \$266,000 removed, where did the remaining money go and if it got spent. Ms. Coppola said the money doesn't go anywhere. Ms. Collyer said this was not an accusatory question, but one for clarification. Ms. Collyer explained the \$870,000 difference between the budgeted and actual. She said it appears to have been spent and asked if that is the health insurance?.

Ms. Coppola said the answer to the question is provided in the line items. She cannot answer that question.

Ms. Collyer asked what the difference is between the budgeted and actuals so that we can account for the \$581,000 of that, but asked where is the other \$300,000. Ms. Coppola stated she understands the question but Ms. Collyer doesn't like her answer. Ms. Collyer affirmed that is the case, that she finds the answer incomplete and insufficient, to account for \$300,000.

There were no further questions on the budget. Ms. Collyer requested from Committee members to get any follow up questions they may have to her and she will send them to Dr. Blake. She thanked Ms. Coppola.

There was no public comment.

COMMITTEE COMMENT

Mr. Doggett is concerned with monies spent at the end of the year on capital projects should eventually be rolled out of the default budget. That money is saved in various areas left over at the end of the year and just left there. It keeps going back and forth and never leaves the budget when it should.

Ms. Collyer said this isn't something the School Board is doing but rather it is the looseness of the procedures at the State level. If capital projects are put off until the end of the year, it doesn't come out of the default budget.

Ms. Faria said capital projects won't be in the default budget because they are a one time expense.

Mr. Swasey highlighted areas that go into the default . He said the money is slushing around in there and that is legitimate. He said the school board never takes that out of the default budget. He also stated he is unsatisfied with the answer by the business administrator tonight to his question. It was totally unacceptable.

Ms. Collyer wants to find out why utility rates are going up.

Ms. Rogers-Osterloh agreed with Mr. Swasey. She wanted to know why we just can't ask for a tally of the \$266,000. It may have come from 200 areas, but, someone has already determined what those 200 areas are.

Ms. Collyer said the \$266,000 was a conglomeration of some higher and lower things. That is why the tally includes so many sheets.

Ms. Faria said the \$266,000 is reflected in 53 pages of information.

Ms. Collyer is dissatisfied with comments by Ms. Coppola on where the \$300,000 difference is. She found her response to be non-cooperative. She finds it concerning and non-productive.

Mr. Doggett said this is not a line item budget as promised. It is getting better, however, some of these budgets with notes, make no sense.

Ms. Collyer encouraged them to ask questions if something doesn't make sense to them.

Ms. Gluck stated the School Board and Budget Committee have to work together and give something to the public and to pass something that is fair to the district, taxpayers, and children. The accusatory tone from both sides needs to stop.

Mr. Swasey also agreed this is not a line item budget. He said it is disappointing when he is not told the truth and explained this is where animosity comes from. He said the School Board Chair promised them a line item budget.

Ms. Collyer requested that Ms. Gluck share their concerns regarding the resistance from Ms. Coppola. Ms. Gluck suggested they share those concerns themselves because it is their interpretation.

Ms. Faria reminded the Committee we got 99% of our questions answered within a reasonable timeframe.

Mr. Swasey gave Ms. Coppola credit for following the law. Ms. Faria said this is better than that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Doggett made a motion to accept the minutes of October 27, 2016. Seconded by Mr. Swasey.

Two amendments were made to the minutes. Ms. Rogers-Osterloh said the math coordinator question has not been answered yet. Ms. Faria said they are still waiting on the number of students in each course.

VOTE: 7-0 motion carries

Mr. Doggett motion made a to approve the minutes of November 6, 2016 as written. Seconded by Mr. Swasey. VOTE: 6-1-0 (Faria abstained) motion carries

Minutes from the November 9, 2016 meeting were not yet available.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Swasey is looking for an explanation from Mrs. Howard on how a NH history book can become outdated and need to be replaced as she stated.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Collyer announced the next meeting agenda will include "Other Business". The next meeting will be held on December 1, 2016. Ms. Faria stated she will not be at the meeting on December 1st.

Ms. Collyer reminded the Committee to submit any follow up questions to her by Monday, November 28th and she will forward them to Dr. Blake.

Mr. Doggett wants to know why it is so expensive to bring in new personnel on to staff as stated by Ms. Coppola. Ms. Faria suggested it may have to do with training that is required before a new hire starts work.

ADJOURN

Mr. Doggett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Gluck. VOTE: 7-0 motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by,
Linda Mahoney