

Sanborn Regional School Board

Public Hearing

Minutes

Sanborn Regional Middle School
Newton, NH

February 22, 2017
7:00 PM

In attendance: Mr. Corey Masson, Ms. Nancy Ross, Ms. Janice Bennett, Mr. Peter Broderick, Ms. Sheila Pierce, Ms. Tammy Gluck.

Others in attendance: Mrs. Carol Coppola

The school board opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM

Salute the flag

The School Board held a public hearing to review the petitioned warrant article pertaining to the preparation of the default budget. Mr. Masson read the warrant article as it appears on the warrant.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Ami Faria requested an explanation from the school board.

Ms. Ross expressed the school board's opinion on the preparation of the default budget by the budget committee. The school district has a set of checks and balances. Currently the budget committee prepares and recommends a budget at the deliberative session.

Vanessa Matias requested additional information on the preparation of the default budget.

Ean McGregor – the NH RSA would prescribe exactly how the default budget is prepared.

Carol Coppola – the NH Department of Revenue does not prescribe how governments prepare or have involvement with the intricacies of the calculation.

Mr. Broderick explained the definition of one-time expenses.

Ami Faria explained how a vote of a yes would assign the budget committee the task of preparing the default budget

Ms. Ross – the school board should oversee the preparation of the default budget because the school board is intimately aware of the needs of the school district.

Ami Faria- as a budget committee member, doesn't believe it should be the role of the budget committee, putting both in the hands of one body is not beneficial.

Ean McGregor – Why would the school district elect to have a budget committee?

Mr. Broderick – explained the school district is an SB2 community and the budget committee was adopted at that time.

Ms. Ross – explained traditional school district meetings as well as the public view that the district's budget should be prepared by an independent body. Not every school district is a Senate Bill 2 community.

Ms. Gluck – some school districts have a budget advisory committee, the committee works in concert with the school district to prepare a budget.

Ean McGregor – SB1 is a traditional school district budget process and SB2 is a separate section of the law that allows for a budget committee. A budget advisory committee is also a possibility, which would contain members that are appointed by the school board.

Ms. Gluck – could change to remove budget committee or have an advisory committee or none.

Mr. Masson – explained NH RSA 32:18 and 10% rule.

Ean McGregor – questioned the ability of the school board to transfer funds to allocate then to the necessary areas of the budget.

Ms. Ross – answered questions about one-time expenses

Vanessa Matias commented it makes sense that the needs of the school district may change in a year and therefore needs of the district will change.

Ms. Bennett – a budget is an informed decision based on experience, the district spends money on highly qualified administrators that have proven experience in their field.

Ean McGregor – a significant issue with the fact the budget committee has no responsibility to ensure the funds budgeted will meet the needs of the district. Capital items are itemized and added as warrant articles they should be included in the operating budget.

Ms. Ross – this is the first year the warrant articles were added, typically they are included with the budget warrant article.

Ms. Bennett – in the 18 years as a school board member this question arises each year.

Ms. Ross – 9 years as a school board member the district prepares a five year plan.

Ean McGregor – Collective Bargaining Agreements should not be on the warrant for residents to vote on. These should not be on a warrant; a change at the state level is needed.

Ms. Ross – Mr. McGregor you can run for an elected position and reach out to the public.

Mr. Masson closed the public hearing at 7:35 pm, all in favor.

Carol Coppola
Recorder