

APPROVED

Budget Committee Meeting

February 1, 2018

Members Present: T Smith, G Rumph, M Traister, B Stewart, and R Spaulding.
Also present: R Lynch (School Board).

A quorum of the Budget Committee members being present, the Chairman commenced meeting at 5:04 pm. The quorum was present throughout the meeting.

Minutes of 01-23-17 meeting were approved as amended.

The special Public Hearing scheduled for next Tuesday, the 6th was discussed. The FY 2018 shortfall of \$74K +/- was discussed and clarified. \$38K from School Tuition Trust Fund, \$30K from retainage, and \$6K balance from current operating budget. School Board approves using the retainage on Monday and the BC will approve same after Public Hearing.

Discussion regarding School Budget. Mr Stewart asked if there are any areas the budget may be reduced, the reason being a potential increase in the town budget and concern for a substantial increase in tax rate. Mr Spaulding and Mr Lynch stated the proposed budget is the minimum amount needed with cuts and adjustments taken prior to this budget.

A question was raised to clarify the increase in principal's salary. It was revealed the SB authorized a 10-day increase in his contract from 200 to 210 days along with a 2.75% increase in the base amount.

All further line items were brought up for discussion to see if there may be any decreases in the amounts. Items including STEM Equipment 5K. What is it for? ESOL \$27.5K It is contracted at \$60/hr. Is there any latitude? Preschool \$12K; After school program \$4.8K, what is it about: Psychological testing \$10K, why the

amount changes year to year; Technology \$20K, other items with minor dollar amounts discussed.

There was substantial discussion regarding Curricular Development to see if there may be reduction in amount.

During the discussion Mr Stewart stated the each \$7,000-7,300 adds \$0.01 to the tax rate.

Mr Spaulding will take questions back to SAU who will return next week to explain the reasons for the line item amounts in question.

At the request of the Library Trustees, the proposed Library budget submitted to the Selectboard was also distributed to BC members.

Special Public Hearing for FY 2018 issue to be held on Tuesday, February 6th at 5:00pm town hall with regularly scheduled BC meeting immediately thereafter.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm

Respectfully submitted

Tom F Smith, Chairman