

Board of Selectmen
Grange Hall
December 10, 2012
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: Mark Walter, Emmett Lyman. Absent: John Blaschik
Also Present: Mary Beth Iacobelli, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Cynthia Varricchio,
Finance Director, Denise Dill, Tax Collector, Melissa Ziobron, State Representative Elect, Sarah
Clark, Board of Education Interim Administrative Assistant

Board of Finance Members:
Susan Link, Chairman
Daniel Alexander
Bruce Dutch
Harvey Thomas
Raymond Willis

Board of Education Members:
Nancy Haslam, Chair
Bryan Perry, Secretary
Laurie Alt
William Barney
Tracey Gionta

1. First Selectman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education

A. 2013-2014 Budget Discussion: A review of the upcoming budget items were reviewed by First Selectman Mark Walter, Interim Superintendent Mary Beth Iacobelli and Finance Director Cindy Varricchio.

Key items presented:

- Health Insurance increases, potential 25% increase due to changes in employee census (increase), 90% medical loss ratio, 67% increase in catastrophic medical claims and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It was noted that there will be interviews with health benefit consultants (insurance brokers) later in the week; in an effort to assist the Town and Board of Education in navigating Federal and State changes to health insurance.
- Oil increases, because of a surplus from fiscal year 2011-2012 which provided savings in the current fiscal year.
- Superintendent's priorities:
 - Staffing to meet district-wide instructional and operational needs.
 - Providing resources to implement District Improvement Plan; Curriculum, Teacher Efficacy and Student Engagement.

- Integrated Student Information System to replace obsolete and under supported/non-supported databases.
- Technology infrastructure, hardware and software to support increased instructional and operational needs across the district.
- Opportunities for shared services that will improve functionality, efficiency and reduce costs.
- Unfunded Board of Education mandates:
 - New System for Educator Evaluation Development (SEED) that requires training and resources to implement.
 - Mandated participation in magnet schools that requires the district to fund tuition.
 - Safe School and Climate legislation.
 - Mandated student success plans grades 6-12.
- Key Board of Education budget items:
 - Negotiated contract increases, overall 1.9% increase.
 - Transportation, 2.5% contracted increase. There was discussion with regard to the number of students who ride the number of school buses. Board of Education Chair Nancy Haslam stated that we are required to ensure a bus capacity for all enrolled students. The geography and the time students are riding the bus was discussed. It was also noted that ensuring a seat for every student is critical in the event of something such as an emergency evacuation.
 - Continued reductions to grant funding sources, coupled with increased special education tuitions that are not being reimbursed by excess cost at the full rate.
 - Small reductions from endowment fund sources.
- Revaluation is finishing up. The preliminary indications are a 15% reduction in the Grand List. The process of calculating the mill rate was reviewed with the corresponding Grand List reduction and the resulting increase to the mill rate. An example was given comparing the current year Grand List and mill rate to the projected reduced Grand List and property value using the 2012-2013 approved budget. It was noted that that if your property value dropped by 15%; your property taxes would not have necessarily increased, even though the mill rate increased.

B. 2011-2012 Audit Discussion: The 2011-2012 audit recommendations of better tracking of inventory/capital assets were reviewed. It was noted that an inventory will be conducted and the combining of financial systems, will work toward that end.

3. Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Walter, seconded by Mr. Lyman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Tape: None

Respectfully submitted,

Emmett Lyman, Secretary