

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY
OCTOBER 30, 2014**

Board Members Present: R. Horton, K. Bazan, E. Jackson, T Croteau arrived at 5:51 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 5:48 pm. by: Chair, R. Horton for a budget work session.

J. Lewis advised he spoke with Jeremy Miller. There is a possibility of making the Cheer Team a school function. The cost is \$18,000, but we are down one coach so the cost would be \$12,000. If we could do some of the cost, J. Miller would flip the rest and then it would be a school activity.

R. Horton advised need to look at it; there are some other programs we need to fund.

E. Jackson feels it is something to keep in mind, but they need to look at academics first.

J. Lewis advised if we want to get the Sports program up and running, we need to be in the league. The league is growing; may not be able to let us in. Other schools are forming their own league.

J. Lewis explained baseball is a big issue; not a lot of kids are participating. Need to promote baseball.

T. Croteau advised it is his understanding that next year if your town has a team, you can no longer be on the Cal Ripken team in other towns.

J. Lewis advised the town demands sports.

L. Schmidt gave the Board line-by-line proposed expenditures. Next time she will have the budget we are in now, with year-to date figures and proposed figures.

R. Horton asked if they will have a breakdown of books and printed materials and areas of focus.

L. Schmidt – Yes.

T. Croteau advised Jason Koerber repairs instruments in Keene. Rob could check with him.

T. Croteau asked if staff knows there is money for field trips.

E. Jackson advised they need to submit a request.

E. Jackson advised they will have trouble with the field trip line if it is not used. If they are going to keep it in the budget, they need a plan. Need to ask staff what they have planned for field trips.

L. Schmidt advised \$8,000 was earmarked for Science field trips; teachers understood it had to be used for that.

R. Horton feels they need to let the staff know what is available for funds, how the budget is going, etc.

J. Lewis - Is there a goal for a bottom line from the Board?

E. Jackson advised the Town seems to be coming in lower this year. We should be flat.

R. Horton – At least flat; enrollment seems to be heading in the other direction.

J. Lewis advised they have also kept kids here and saved money. Feels we have pretty talented folks here to do that.

J. Lewis contacted Gilsum; they are interested in speaking with us. They will call us.

T. Croteau advised in the 2011/2012 the difference between actual and budgeted was \$500,000, the next year 2012/2013 was \$900,000 and last year was \$76,000.

L. Schmidt reviewed revenues. Advised revenues from Grants are up, NH retirement is up and the insurance refund is in there.

L. Schmidt advised need to look at prior years; there is nothing there. She needs to fix that.

R. Horton advised within two years the tax rate changed \$2.00 per thousand. It would have been more. The amount raised from taxation is what we need to be concerned about.

L. Schmidt advised she needs to transfer to Grants and Food Service.

T. Croteau – Then there won't be such a spread.

T. Croteau shows where we've been going - \$100,000 to \$300,000 difference.

J. Lewis wanted to know what would make the Board excited with regard to the budget.

E. Jackson wants to make sure they use merit increases and budget for them.

J. Lewis – Should be capped at 2%; could be lower. Has a plan in place.

The Board agreed to put it under the Merit Line for the SAU.

L. Schmidt advised will call it Administration Merit Raises.

R. Horton – That line will need to have money spent, otherwise it will be cut come budget time.

J. Lewis – Maybe someone needs to take care of outside - mowing, plowing, hedge trimming, etc.

E. Jackson – Wouldn't have to be just outside. It would need to come to the Board first and then need quotes. Don Chamberlain would oversee a school employee rather than an outside contractor.

J. Lewis explained sometimes D. Chamberlain takes his truck to do things for the school, deliver pumpkins to Pumpkin Festival, go to Aubuchon's, etc.

R. Horton advised this building will need lots of repairs over the next 10 years. Don and his crew do a fantastic job. Need to start working on that.

J. Lewis advised he and L. Schmidt have told Don Chamberlain to put in for mileage.

The Board advised he should.

R. Horton advised they would be looking at a substantial increase to the budget by adding one position.

R. Horton advised there are still two old faucets in the bathroom by the gym.

J. Lewis advised kids destroyed the sensor faucets. In the Middle School they are fine.

R. Horton advised he has gone in the bathroom and found the faucets running.

T. Croteau asked about putting something around the bottom of the sink like they have in the jails.

E. Jackson advised one of the sinks looks like it was smashed and puttied over. It looks like it is loose, too.

Sue Rice advised the kids sit on them.

R. Horton feels this is an opportunity to look at new sinks.

R. Horton feels we have committed to sensor faucets, should go with them.

J. Lewis agrees; have committed to them. Advised the faucets were broken and they were waiting to replace them. They are pricey.

R. Horton – If the people who installed the faucets are experts, they should be able to know what to do with them.

K. Bazan advised this building was discussed as an emergency shelter location.

J. Lewis advised yes; we need a generator.

K. Bazan – Need showers that are functional. Need a grant writer. Feels it is well worth the cost for the School and the Town.

E. Jackson advised Jack said there is money out there for Emergency Shelter grants.

L. Schmidt will reach out to Jack.

The Board and J. Lewis agree they need showers with separate stalls.

E Jackson advised the YMCA is redoing their showers; should contact them.

J. Lewis thinks the generator and showers are imperative.

Sue Rice asked about getting better quality cameras.

J. Lewis – We should; the magnification is not the best.

E. Jackson advised two TD Bank branches have closed. Their cameras work well. She can check on it.

J. Lewis advised there could be a grant.

J. Lewis talked about enclosing this front area (outside the library). Could that be a grant also? It is not a budget item, but it is something we should do.

T. Croteau – Could look at putting it in the Capital Improvement with the parking lot.

E. Jackson thinks the parking lot should be separate.

E. Jackson thinks we need a maintenance plan for the building for repairs and maintenance.

E. Jackson left at 6:58 pm for the Budget Committee meeting.

T. Croteau – Keene issue – Withdrawal Committee information; is that a Warrant Article? If looking at doing it in two years, need to start doing things now.

R. Horton – First we need to have a lawyer look at the contract and get rid of the exclusivity. Maybe looking at working with Brattleboro and bring some students there.

T. Croteau asked what an \$11,000,000 bond would cost us.

R. Horton believes E. Jackson said \$600,000 a year.

T. Croteau – Need to figure out staff costs, oil, etc.

R. Horton – Need to decipher contract with Keene and make a plan. Maybe limit school of choice to Brattleboro and Keene.

R. Horton toured Brattleboro; felt it was more impressive than the tour with Keene.

J. Lewis and R. Horton feel they are not in a position to put on a Warrant Article for this.

R. Horton feels the Board should try to keep working on the budget fifteen minutes to half an hour each time so they are not waiting two weeks for a budget work session.

R. Horton asked if by the next meeting they will have a column with actuals and if room, start populating the numbers?

L. Schmidt – yes.

L. Schmidt advised one big item is transportation. Thinks service is at a minimum, satisfactory.

They should be able to tweak the runs. If they can work it out, might be in their best interest to continue with them. There are other vendors, though. Mr. Loeb is out of the country; won't have numbers for the 6th. It would be beneficial to have him meet with First Student.

R. Horton – The most frustrating thing about the bus is that we did not get quotes from other providers.

L. Schmidt – John Loeb did say if we work on it sooner we have a better chance of getting quotes.

R. Horton – Needs to happen right now in the budget season.

J. Lewis - That's why he is here.

L. Schmidt – The bus company increased the late bus run to \$90+.

R. Horton – First Student is minimally acceptable.

K. Bazan – Maybe there is an opportunity to go in with other districts and say this is enough.

R. Horton – Brattleboro mentioned maybe helping with transportation.

R. Horton asked L. Schmidt to reach out to smaller transportation companies. What would a 15 passenger van cost for a late bus?

R. Horton advised it has been good getting a handle on oil and electricity; transportation is frustrating.

T. Croteau MOVED to go into non-public session at 7:17 pm; under RSA91-A:3 (c) for Personnel; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: T. Croteau – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau MOVED to leave non-public session at 7:37 pm; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: T. Croteau – yes, R. Horton – yes, K. Bazan – yes, MOTION PASSED.

T. Croteau MOVED to seal the non-public minutes indefinitely; SECONDED by: K. Bazan, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

Sue Rice advised the Town has a lot more miles on their truck could they use a truck for one to two years and sell it to us?

R. Horton - When the Town is done with a truck it's done. Advised truck Warrant Articles are very hard to pass.

K. Bazan – They lease; would need to go on a Warrant Article every year.

Sue Rice feels we shouldn't have to invest in a whole separate infrastructure to do the school. Thinks the Town should plow. She thinks it is cheaper for the Town to invest a bit than for us to reinvent the wheel.

Jim Lewis advised Mr. Miner told him the drain is working; asked about loam and seed. Chaney Stevens did advise the Town will do it, but they haven't had the time.

K. Bazan MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 pm; SECONDED by: T. Croteau, VOTED: 3-0, MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins
School Board Secretary