



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 18, 2023 6:30 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rick Stanton, Larry Miller, Sean Dionne, Lisa Gallagher, Select Board Rep James Sununu, School Board Rep Lisa Gagalis

ABSENT: Vice-Chairman Tom von Jess, Little Boar's Head Rep Brian Goode

ALSO PRESENT: School Finance & Operations Director Matt Ferreira, School Superintendent Meredith Nadeau

Chairman Rick Stanton welcomed everyone to the North Hampton Municipal Budget Committee Meeting of December 18, 2023 and called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He said next week will be Christmas and he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chairman Stanton said Chuck Gallant was a member of the Budget Committee for many years and also on the CIP Committee; he was an expert in knowing medical programs and health plans and was a Fire Lieutenant in Rye, NH. He passed away suddenly last week and sympathies go out to the Gallant family.

OLD BUSINESS: Review and approval of any Draft Minutes of 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

Second Review of North Hampton School FY2025 Budget

School Finance & Operations Director Matt Ferreira said projections conducted by NESDEC were emailed to Committee members, and said he had some additional information on the over-seeding and aerating plan with the School looking to do this every 5-10 years allowing discontinuation of Acelepryn application to lawns as grub killer and using an all-organic maintenance program; also looking to push out clover in the fields as part of preventative grounds maintenance and purchase a large brush hog for trails; PA System is also 20 years out of date

Director Ferreira said accuracy of incoming class predictions have diverged since Covid, which he addressed with the School Board. He said currently 5 school-age kids are attending private schools, 15 are

being home schooled, and compared figures locally; have 16 incoming KG students based on siblings and a few first graders coming from private KG. A chart was provided with 5-year history for withdrawals from Expendable Trusts: 2018 \$75,000 from Special Education; July 2018 \$150,000 from Energy Improvements (oil to natural gas convergence); Marc 2019 \$10,681 from Building Maintenance; May 2021 \$27,157 from Building Maintenance; June 2022 \$7,600 from Tech; October 2023 \$89,925 from Building Maintenance to replace Glycol.

Director Ferreira provided breakdown of costs for CESPAs proposed CBA Warrant Article: years 1 and 2 salary higher due to larger COLA adjustment; years 3 and 4 shows benefits increase. Met with School Board and stressed the importance of preventative maintenance; additionally addressed demographics and enrollment projections going forward. He addressed the question about creation of the Curriculum Coordinator from 2 part-time positions; RTI program was developed to provide extra support for students in reading and math ultimately reducing special education referrals.

Director Ferreira said the Board agreed to reduce the Building Maintenance Exp Trust target from \$200,000 to \$150,000 and also voted to reduce the staff by 1 FTE teacher resulting in a reduction of \$118,248 for a Total FY2025 Operating Budget of \$10,125,584 or 0.96% increase. Chairman Stanton asked how much Health Care went up in total dollars; Director Ferreira said the percent increase was 23.7% and actual dollar amount \$109,022, only 13.18% due to underbudgeting health care by \$150,000. He said the SRO for \$90,000 is also in the budget.

Selectman Sununu asked about high deductible health care plans for the School; Director Ferreira said those plans are becoming more expensive and he would rather see switching to the low-cost plans for which the School pays 96%. Mr. Dionne referred to the Budget Summary on page 3, line 97, and asked why "expended" for 2021 and 2022 was higher than "budgeted"; Director Ferreira said it is due to staffing changes and turnover.

Motion: Ms. Gagalís made a motion to approve the North Hampton School Operating Budget for the FY2024-2025 school year in the amount of \$10,125,584 as proposed; **Seconded:** Selectman Sununu; **Vote:** Motion approved 6-0, unanimous.

ANY OTHER ITEM THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Chairman Stanton said the next Budget Committee Meeting will be the Public Hearing on January 11, 2024 for review of Town and School. Selectman Sununu asked if they would be doing the School Warrant Articles and Chairman Stanton said they would be done at next meeting. Selectman Sununu said a vote can also be updated until Deliberative to have a full vote of the Budget Committee. Ms. Gallagher asked if the Town of Newcastle would be paying Mr. Tully for his services; Selectman Sununu said they are not contracting with Newcastle and Mr. Tully will be working extra hours.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Next Budget Committee Meeting: January 11, 2024: Public Hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Sununu made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Gallagher; Chairman Stanton adjourned the Municipal Budget Committee Meeting at 7:12 pm.

- 84 Respectfully submitted,
85 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary

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