



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

DECEMBER 7, 2020 6:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved December 21, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan Pinette, Vice-Chair Brian Goode, Select Board Rep Larry Miller, George Chauncey, Frank Ferraro

VIA ZOOM: Rick Stanton, School Board Rep Tom von Jess, Tamara Le, Margaret Delano

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

VIA ZOOM: School Business Administrator Matt Ferreira

AGENDA

Chairman Jonathan Pinette welcomed everyone to the December 7, 2020 North Hampton Municipal Budget Committee Meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll-Call Attendance: George Chauncey-present, Larry Miller-present, Jonathan Pinette-present, Brian Goode-present, Frank Ferraro-present, Tamara Le-present, Tom von Jess-present, Rick Stanton-present, Margaret Delano-present

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of November 16, 2020

Motion: To approve the Budget Committee Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2020 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Larry Miller

Seconded: Mr. Chauncey

Roll Call Vote: George Chauncey-aye, Larry Miller-aye, Jonathan Pinette-aye, Brian Goode-aye, Frank Ferraro-aye, Tamara Le-aye, Rick Stanton-aye, Tom von Jess-aye, Margaret Delano-aye,

Motion approved by a vote of 9-0

Second Review of School District Proposed Operating Budget FY2021-2022

School Business Administrator Matt Ferreira answered specific Budget Committee questions and said the lifespan of the Nurses' Equipment is about 4-5 years; Smart Boards are outlined in Tech Purchase Accounts and are part of a 2-year Technology Plan to outfit each classroom as an essential learning tool for classroom equity; otherwise spend \$2,500-\$3,000 on projectors which have reached the end of their lifespan. He said priorities are to maintain stable staffing patterns for projected enrollment, increase use of systemic phonics instruction K-3, long-term planning for Technology needs and replacement cycles; full curriculum review of Foreign Language program and looking at Grant funding and Expendable Trust Funds. Overall they are proposing a Budget decrease of \$24,165 (0.26%) from the current Budget Year; most recent Budget figure is \$9,297,161.

School Business Administrator Ferreira raised one risk factor that affects both the Town and the School District but does not necessarily affect this year's Budget. He said new legislation is being proposed for Adequacy Funding and how the State uses SWEPT (Statewide Education Property Tax) funds. North Hampton has fully funded the Adequacy Aid for the past 3 years via local SWEPT Funds (\$300,000); proposed legislation states excess amounts for FY2022 will be returned to the State and dispersed to other towns. There is a very real risk for North Hampton to see a \$300,000 tax loss in that revenue with broad support in congress; only 18% of towns will be giving away money like North Hampton and other towns will be receiving additional funds.

Mr. von Jess said the plan put forth by the School District shows an overall reduction despite significant increases in retirement obligations and increase in contractual obligations; the fixed cost to maintain the School remains the same for Building & Maintenance. He said they adjusted staffing and feel Smart Board technology is a need as part of the ongoing plan. He said he would accept approval by the Budget Committee of the North Hampton School District Budget for FY2022.

Questions: Mr. Ferraro asked about dollar amounts under 7-8th grade field trips; \$20,000 for FY2020, \$51,000 for FY2021, and an increase of 10% to \$56,000 for FY2022, and asked for a line-item reduction there of \$5,000. Mr. von Jess said they were looking to fully bring back 6th through 8th grade trips which are completely integrated into the curriculum and said they were cutting the Budget overall. Mr. Ferraro said they were cutting the Budget by eliminating a teacher.

Mr. Ferraro said the link for the School Board agenda software is just a website, and they should simply use the School website for uploading documents instead of duplication costing \$2,600. Mr. von Jess said it is not a duplication and is part of an SAU-wide effort to make sure all School Boards across the SAU have the same tool; it saves posted documents, creates minutes, allows faced-to-face voting, and publishes real time to the community. Mr. Ferraro said it was an unfunded SAU mandate which the School should not have to cover. School Business Administrator Ferreira said this is Board Management Software which is not the same and is not unfunded as the School Board approved it.

Mr. Ferraro said Smart Boards are a want and not a need and asked that they defer the \$35,000 for a year plus the \$2,200 training plus software required. Mr. von Jess said students need this technology today to succeed and science, engineering, art, and math are critical components. Mr. Stanton said he felt Smart Boards were essential technology and said he has seen how it improves student education and he supports them wholeheartedly.

Mr. Ferraro said toward the back of the School Budget Book under Facilities/Projects/Lon-term Maintenance it says the playground is deferred until next year as Homeland Security upgrades funded by Building Maintenance Trust in FY2022 and assumed they would need a Warrant for that. School Business Administrator Ferreira said they do not; Selectman Miller said it is already there and they are agents to expend. School Business Administrator Ferreira said they do the project and submit the request to the Trustees.

Vice-Chair Goode thanked Mr. Ferreira and the School Board on this year's budget and keeping the Warrant Articles for Expendable Trust Funds the same. He referred back to school trips and said spending \$56,000 on outside trips seems excessive and they should look at that line item for the bottom line. He said another area is Technology adding 12 more 2-way radios and asked how many they have now. School Business Administrator Ferreria said they are trying to get them in every classroom plus and one in the hands of every staff member from a safety perspective because of very poor cellphone reception in the School. Mr. Ferraro said he accepts the additional trips being added and proposed a reduction to the bottom line of \$41,209.

Motion: To reduce the bottom line of the School District FY2022 Budget by \$41,209: \$2,609 for Agenda Software, \$35,000 for Smart Boards, \$2,200 for Smart Board training, and \$14,000 for Smart Board Software for a Budget total of \$9,255,952.

Motioned: Mr. Ferraro

Seconded: Vice-Chair Goode

Roll-Call Vote: George Chauncey-yes, Larry Miller-no, Jonathan Pinette-no, Frank Ferraro-yes, Brian Goode-yes, Rick Stanton-no, Tom von Jess-no, Margaret Delano-no, Tamara Le-no

Motion failed by a vote of 6-3

Motion: To approve the North Hampton School District Operating Budget of \$9,297,161 for FY2021-2022.

Motioned: Selectman Miller

Seconded: Mr. Stanton

Roll-Call Vote: George Chauncy-no, Larry Miller-yes, Jonathan Pinette-yes, Brian Goode-no, Frank Ferraro-no, Rick Stanton-yes, Tom von Jess-yes, Margaret Delano-yes, Tamara Le-yes

Motion approved by a vote of 6-3

Mr. Stanton asked about approving the School Default Budget and Chairman Pinette said it is already there if this does not pass and the expense to the School will increase by \$33,584.

ANY OTHER ITEM THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

NEXT MEETING: December 21, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn the Budget Committee Meeting of December 7, 2020.

Motioned: Mr. Ferraro

Seconded: Vice-Chair Goode

Municipal Budget Committee Meeting
December 7, 2020

Roll-Call Vote: George Chauncey-aye, Rick Stanton-aye, Brian Goode-aye, Jonathan Pinette-aye, Frank Ferraro-aye, Tom von Jess-aye, Tamara Le-aye, Margaret Delano-aye
Motion approved by a vote of 9-0

Chairman Pinette adjourned the Municipal Budget Committee Meeting at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary