



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

DECEMBER 20, 2021 6:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Rick Stanton, Vice-Chairman Brian Goode, Sean Dionne, Andrew Raucci, George Chauncey, Frank Ferraro, Charles Gallant, Select Board Rep James Sununu, School Board Rep Tom Von Jess

ALSO PRESENT: School Business Administrator Matt Ferreira

AGENDA

Chairman Rick Stanton welcomed everyone to the December 20, 2021 North Hampton Municipal Budget Committee Meeting and called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December 6, 2021 and November 29, 2021 meetings – Not addressed

NEW BUSINESS

SECOND REVIEW OF NORTH HAMPTON SCHOOL FY2023 OPERATING BUDGET

School Business Administrator Matt Ferreira said he would review questions asked at the previous Budget Committee meeting, then update the Committee on School Board action.

Questions asked previously:

Regarding the website for School Board meetings, a direct link was created from the North Hampton website to meeting agenda, minutes, and policy. Regarding the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund, wording specifying “unanticipated expenditures” cannot be used for expenditures we know of now that

occur next year; verified with Legal Counsel. Regarding the Greenhouse roof repair, the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust can be used by the School for those repairs.

Mr. Ferreira said scheduling for the outdoor tent included 14-23 class registrations weekly until the end of October; also used for various functions; the Greenhouse was also used for many projects by all grade levels. As part of the classroom Technology Plan and Infrastructure Plan, the School purchased and budgeted a Redcat Audio System to provide accommodations for all our students; currently have 22 Redcat systems in place and Tech Plan calls for 3 more for FY2024 and FY2025 to outfit all classrooms.

Mr. Ferreira discussed the Technology Integration Specialist, which is a certified teacher position teaching 14 classes in 45-minute blocks and providing training for teachers. The Phone System is primarily an IT system with 3 analog lines for elevator, fire, and security alarms. The School uses Consolidated Communications for internet with a backup through Comcast.

Mr. Ferreira said the School reached out to families in the spring receiving anecdotal data from parents regarding rationale for not returning students; another outreach is planned for January. Errors in the Principal's letter and Power Point presentation were both corrected and sent out. Information was also sent out about a non-monetary Fund Balance Retention Warrant Article which the Budget Committee will not be voting on.

Chairman Stanton asked why the Budget Committee would not be voting on that article, and Mr. Ferreira said though allowable through RSA, it is not done in North Hampton and cannot be adjusted at Deliberative; Mr. Ferraro countered that it can be amended. Mr. Ferreira said it is standard warrant article language from the Department of Revenue, and Legal Counsel will be available at Deliberative; estimated amount would be just under \$500,000 as a maximum threshold. He said the School Board would have a Public Hearing and vote on the amount up to 5%. Mr. Ferraro said there is also reference to RSA 32:11 in the document.

Mr. Ferreira said Budget Committee recommendations were brought forth to the School Board at their meeting last week and they voted to reduce the overall Budget by \$67,195 from 3 accounts: Renovation Account in Building Department reduced by \$7,195 with intent to use Building Maintenance Expendable Trust for greenhouse roof repairs; Town will allow the transfer of the \$10,000 tractor to the School should Town Warrant Article for a new tractor be approved; reduced Health Insurance Account by \$50,000 to use Health Care Expendable Trust if needed.

Mr. Ferreira said this brings the FY2023 School Operating Budget down to \$9,690,641 with overall increase of \$393,480 from prior year, leaving \$112,000 delta between Operating Budget and Default. He reminded Budget Committee members that they are seeing a significant increase of approximately \$395,000 for Special Education this coming year, comparable to the overall operating budget increase.

Vice-Chair Goode asked how many out-of-town students in Pre-K through eighth grade tuition into North Hampton. Mr. Ferreira said only one pre-school student with special needs is tuitioned into our program at a rate of \$18,000/student. The School is required to provide Special Education services from age 3 through 21.

Motion: Mr. Ferraro made a motion that the Budget Committee approve the North Hampton School FY2023 Operating Budget of \$9,690,641, which was seconded by Selectman Sununu.

All were in favor and the Motion was approved by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Ferreira said next year the School will be negotiating a CBA with the Teachers Union and the following year with Paraprofessionals.

ANY OTHER ITEM THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Next Budget Committee Meeting: Public Hearing January 18, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Stanton adjourned the Municipal Budget Committee Meeting at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary