

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

JANUARY 4, 2007

Present: Paula Wood
Cora Stockbridge
Fred Welch
Ivan Eaton
Peg Weare
Richard Maguire
Michele Knowles

6:00PM

Chairman Wood opened the meeting at 6:04PM.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Beach Rake-\$52,000

Mr. Welch read the article into the record. This would be a lease purchase with the first year's payment of \$26,100 and the next two years payments at \$13,050 with no interest.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend the article
Second: Peg Weare be placed on the ballot.
Opposed: Paula Wood

Mrs. Wood said she spoke to the beach district about purchasing the beach rake. Mr. Maguire said the committee was not in favor of this purchase and after a show of hands only 20% were in favor. Mrs. Wood commented if purchased by the article it would be paid for by taxes if purchased by the beach district it would be paid for by the building permit fees charged.

Motion passed.

Mr. Maguire asked if any thought had been given to utilizing an outside contractor. Mr. Starkey said he would contact Hampton to get some information. He said the current beach rake is operable so there is no need to contract out right now.

Bob Marcello came into the meeting at 6:10PM.

Mrs. Stockbridge commented the board has tried to be creative to find money for purchases without direct taxation.

Capitol Improvements Town Roads - \$25K

Mr. Welch read the article into the record. This would have no impact on the tax rate.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend the article
Second: Paula Wood be placed on the ballot.

Mr. Welch said there is \$125K in the fund and they try to keep at least \$100K in the fund. Mr. Starkey explained to Mrs. Weare how the money would be utilized.

Unanimous

Recycling Truck - \$52,650

Mr. Welch read the article into the record. The money would be transferred from the unexpended fund balance and would have no impact on the tax rate.

Mr. Starkey said he would like to keep the old truck and explained his reasoning.

MOTION: Paula Wood To recommend the article
Second: Cora E. Stockbridge be placed on the ballot.
Unanimous

Rubbish Truck - \$52,650

Mr. Welch read the article into the record. The money would be transferred from the unexpended fund balance and would have no impact on the tax rate.

Mr. Starkey said he would keep the old truck as a backup. He said the newest truck they have is a 2000.

MOTION: Bob Marcello To recommend the article
Second: Cora E. Stockbridge be placed on the ballot.
Unanimous

Library Books - \$50K

Mr. Welch read the article into the record.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend the article
Second: Paula Wood be placed on the ballot.
Mr. Maguire commented he does not believe the books should be a separate warrant article they should be included within the budget. Mrs. Stockbridge and Mrs. Wood agree.
Unanimous

Old South Meeting House - \$18,900

Mr. Welch read the article into the record.

Mr. Maguire asked if this would be the first of many repairs. Mr. Small explained the repairs that have been made. He said they would only ask for painting of the building next year. There was general discussion of the historical register.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend the article
Second: Paula Wood be placed on the ballot.
Unanimous

3/4-Ton Pick-Up Sewer Department - \$29K

Mr. Welch read the article into the record. There would be no tax impact.

MOTION: Paula Wood To recommend the article
Second: Ivan Eaton be placed on the ballot.
Unanimous

SCHOOL BUDGET

James Gaylord was present for the budget.

Mrs. Wood asked about the vacant position being filled at step 5. Mr. Gaylord said it is the way they present it in case they hire someone with a higher degree.

Mrs. Wood asked about the transportation. Ms. Mosca explained if a child is considered homeless they are still responsible to provide that child an education regardless of where they are located.

Mrs. Wood asked about the equipment. Ms. Mosca explained the need for these items.

The school clarified that the town does not pick up all of the trash. The town picks up the recyclables.

Mrs. Wood asked about the transportation for the children with behavior issues. Ms. Mosca said if the child is suspended from the bus it is still up to the school to educate the child.

Mrs. Wood asked what portion of the Hampton cost for the SAU would Seabrook have to pay if Hampton pulls out of the SAU. Mr. Gaylord said it would depend upon the cuts made. He estimates about \$150K and that would be in effect for the 2008-2009 budget. He said that North Hampton is also looking to establish a committee to study and perhaps pull out of the SAU for 2009-2010 budget.

Mrs. Wood passed out a sheet on the administration costs. Mrs. Knowles also had a handout on the figures across the district and Seabrook is the lowest.

Mrs. Knowles commented in 2004-2005 the town manager received a 10% increase. Mrs. Wood said she doesn't feel greater than 3% is fair when some employees in the town don't get an increase at all.

MOTION: Paula Wood To decrease each line listed to 3%.

Jason Janvrin arrived at 7:00PM.

Mrs. Wood explained her experience with a decrease and how the process works.

Mr. Maguire questioned if they had the authority to do this. He said the school could move the money around as they see fit, as it is a bottom line budget.

Mr. Gaylord spoke on behalf of this issue and the reason brought forward. Paula expressed her reasons for the 3%.

Mrs. Stockbridge asked about the answers to her questions from last week on the default figures. Mr. Gaylord explained if the money is not used it is not expended. He said the money comes back in as revenue. There was general discussion over the default budgeted amounts. Ms. Pietrowski said under the law the special education department has to show what is budgeted for.

The cost for the nurses and librarians are contractual obligations.

Mr. Marcello asked if another position had been added for custodian. He was told no it was a part-time position as lead custodian.

Mr. Janvrin discussed the dummy terminals and servers for the school to try and save money. Brian Belanger spoke to this and said they are not at that stage but they hope to be in the near future. Mr. Janvrin recommended they look into federal grant money. General discussion over the cost compared to an average home computer system.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move \$10,301,123
Second: Ivan Eaton with change in increases
Abstain: Richard Maguire & removals as proposed.
Motion denied 3-4.

MOTION: Michele Knowles To move \$10,315,814.
Second: Jason Janvrin
Abstain: Richard Maguire
Motion denied.

MOTION: Paula Wood To move \$10,305,123
Second: Ivan Eaton adding back the AOSS.

Abstain: Richard Maguire
Motion denied 3-4.

Mr. Janvrin questioned the procedure of the budget committee and if they need to put in a recommendation. It was clarified they do by statute need to make a recommendation.

MOTION: Jason Janvrin To move the bottom line
Second: Paula Wood figure minus 10% making
Abstain: Richard Maguire it \$9,284,251.
Motion denied.

Committee took a five-minute break at 7:40PM. Reconvened at 7:53PM.

Mr. Maguire said it is an average of 3.6% increase without contracts. He feels it is an unacceptable increase with all costs associated with articles. Mr. Gaylord clarified it is 3.85% increase with contracts. He said step increases are included as well as buyback of personal time.

Bill Sanders, SAU 21, arrived at 7:58PM.

Mr. Sanders said there would be no sign-ups for the JY Health Plan after July 1. The 4.46% increase includes the steps 11 & 12. He said the buyback of sick time was to give control of sick leave to the administrators. If an employee reaches retirement the payout would be \$40 per day on a maximum of 120 days. He clarified there are 69 employees within the contract. He said steps are given each year up to 10 and with a master up to 12. The administrator's health insurance is 100% covered with no co-pay.

Mrs. Wood commented the town budget is just about \$16 million and it is hard to see one budget with over \$10 million.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Maintenance & Modernization School Buildings - \$150K

Mrs. Stockbridge asked what portion of the roof is to be replaced. Ms. Mosca said it is the old middle school area. The costs are \$65K for the roof, \$60K for storage building, \$10K phone system, \$7500 pipe insulation and \$7500 science labs.

Mr. Janvrin talked about having a metal slanted roof with a storage area.

Mrs. Knowles talked about the C.I.P. and she will submit a copy of their plan to the planning board.

There was discussion on the impact fees and how it could be used for a C.I.P. plan and could include the schools plan as well.

MOTION: Jason Janvrin To recommend the article
Second: Paula Wood be placed on the ballot.
Opposed: Richard Maguire he feels this year this should be skipped.
Motion passed.

Asbestos Project - \$150K

Mr. Eaton asked how much of this project is left and how long to get rid of it. Mr. Gaylord explained why they are looking at a 5-year plan and the cost would be in excess of \$5 million.

The majority is in the walls and floor. There is no health hazard unless the tiles break.

MOTION: Ivan Eaton To recommend the article
Second: Jason Janvrin be placed on the ballot.
Opposed: Richard Maguire would have supported \$75K.
Motion denied.

Mobile Computer Lab - \$28K

This would be an additional lab. The NEWA test is done online for the entire student body.

Mrs. Wood suggests waiting until next year to ask for 20 additional laptops. Mrs. Knowles explained the reasons they are asking and also to keep the children up to the same levels as other districts. Mrs. Wood said if it is not an absolute need and should hold off.

MOTION: Jason Janvrin To not recommend the
Second: Paula Wood article be placed on the
Opposed: Michele Knowles ballot.

Expendable Trust Fund - \$20K

Mr. Gaylord explained the expendable fund and the transfer to be used in emergencies for special education children. Mrs. Wood asked why a change process instead of asking for emergency funding. Mr. Gaylord explained it would be like a rainy day fund so they do not have to wait for emergency funds. Mr. Sanders said as the money accumulates they would still submit a warrant article and at that time they could not recommend the article.

MOTION: Paula Wood To not recommend the
article.

Mr. Janvrin asked where the money goes if it is not spent. Mr. Sanders said it goes back to the taxpayers through the following years taxes.

Second: Jason Janvrin

Abstain: Ivan Eaton

Motion denied.

MOTION: Jason Janvrin To recommend the article

Second: Michele Knowles be placed on the ballot.

Abstain: Ivan Eaton

Motion passed.

Petition Article for Security System - \$25K

Edge-Velocity was discussed and why the school did not go with the product. Mrs. Knowles explained they could not come to terms with the contract.

The petition article was provided to the secretary of the school board. It needs 25 valid signatures certified by the supervisors of the checklist.

Collective Bargaining Agreement

MOTION: Richard Maguire To recommend the article

Second: Peg Weare 2 be placed on the

Opposed: Bob Marcello & Jason Janvrin ballot.

Motion passed.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move \$10,156,043 as
Second: Peg Weare operating budget using
default figure adding 3%
of \$10,711 and \$4000 for
AOSS.

After discussion motion withdrawn as figures not accurate.

MOTION: Richard Maguire To move \$10,156,043 as
Second: Ivan Eaton operating budget using
default figure adding 3%
of \$10,275 and \$4000 for
AOSS.

Mrs. Stockbridge is concerned with the default on technical equipment and if it was considered a one-time purchase. A default budget is contractual obligations and anything you know the cost of but does not include any one-time purchases. Mrs. Stockbridge does not believe the default figure was calculated correctly.

Mr. Maguire commented about the default figures and the questions he asked 3 weeks ago. Mr. Gaylord said no raises are included for the support staff, secretaries, custodians or food services in the default.

After discussion motion withdrawn to allow for re-calculation.

Next meeting will be 1/11 at 5:00PM for remaining articles, beach district budget and school budget.

Mrs. Stockbridge said they would need to re-visit the petition article.

<u>MOTION:</u>	Paula Wood	To adjourn the meeting
<u>Second:</u>	Michele Knowles	at 9:35PM.
Unanimous		

Meeting adjourned at 9:35PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____