

Date Approved/Released: 5/4/17

Date Approved/Hold: _____

School Committee Chair: Larry Murphy

JOINT MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017
TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

1. **Call to order:** 6:30P M.

Present: Janet Corbosiero, Dawn Fronte, Felicia Nurmsen, Larry Murphy, Steven Haddad, Superintendent, Richard Ikonen, School Business Manager

Board of Selectmen: Barbara Anderson, Michael Barbaro, Audrey LaBrie, Austin Cyganiewicz, Amy Salter

Keith Hickey, Town Manager, William Schlosstein, Town Accountant

J. Corbosiero called the School Committee meeting to order. B. Anderson called the Board of Selectman (BOS) to order.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Video/Audio recording disclosure

B. Anderson noted the purpose of the meeting was for further discussions on the FY'18 School Budget.

3. **New Business:**

K. Hickey provided the boards with revised budgets and budget figures with regards to the changes in the budget based on the latest cherry sheets from the House. He noted the town received \$96,346 from the DOR as part of the Veterans Benefit reimbursement that was not included in the original budget figures; that revenue was applied to the property tax levy surplus. If the BOS approves applying \$62,233 of those funds to allow for additional capital purchases in May, a balance of \$112,863 would remain in the property tax levy surplus. Not anticipating a significant increase in the final budget figures, he proposed that some or all of it could be provided to the School Department to increase their FY18 budget. He advised cautioned, noting the final state figures have not been determined and that this is the town's cushion for FY18. He noted this would be in addition to the \$323,000 the district already receives from previous overrides.

J. Corbosiero commented 'What a breath of fresh air to hear that there is money' and thanked them for thinking of the school district.

Article 3- Again requests the approximately \$55,000 for the School Departments Old Bills-that would be appropriated from Free Cash; it does not have any impact on the FY18 budget. There would be approximately \$62,000 left in Free Cash after Town Meeting in the fall. K. Hickey recommended allocating \$50,000-\$75,000 to the school district and keeping the remainder of \$50,000-\$60,00 in there. The approximately \$55,000 for the School Departments Old Bills is not included in the districts FY18 budget. According to town bylaw it must be approved at Town

Meeting. K. Hickey explained the repayment process; National Grid has not agreed to lower the past due amount. K. Hickey hopes the issue will be resolved in May so the town can move forward. S. Haddad will look into a National Grid foundation for relief of debt.

M. Barbaro suggested the available funds be 'split right down the middle'. He added '.. helping the district...is a good first step toward working together'. He stressed this is a one-time payment. M. Barbaro moved split the \$112,000 in half; \$56,413. J. Corbosiero stated this would not reduce the amount of the override request because it would reduce the stated amount for years to come. She added the override amount is needed to keep the school district going forward. So students not leave and others would come in. F. Nurmsen noted the Overdue Bills amount of \$55,000 could still potentially be the responsibility of the district...so it is premature to say yes or no at this meeting.

M. Barbaro noted any funds allocated to the district would be needed to pay towards unemployment if the overrides do not pass; he reviewed the figures. K. Hickey noted the town 'could live without it but we could use it'. He added the question should be decided before School Committee Public Hearing so district knows exactly where it stands but added the BOS does not have to decide tonight. He explained the funding options at the upcoming Town Meetings.

J. Corbosiero noted it was hard to answer without the committee able to discuss it. M. Barbaro further explained the ramifications to the districts' budget through increased unemployment costs if the projected layoffs occur. Laid-off employees must be notified by June 15th. Discussion included several possible scenarios.

M. Barbaro stated the district laid-off 100 staff while he served on the School Committee, adding teachers and staff were not replaced after retirement and many programs cut. He explained the number voted on in the Spring can be reduced in the Fall if the Senate/House numbers come in lower than expected, the final number will not be known until November. Discussion included voting to give the school district a % rather than a number based on state numbers; S. Haddad stated he would need a number to use in the budget.

M. Barbaro moved to fund the School District an additional \$56,431 based on projected revenues at this time. Second by A. LaBrie Approved 5-0-0.

Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22nd; a town-wide clean-up is planned. Security cameras recently captured vandalism at the GAR Park bandstand by two very drunk people; police still hope to identify them.

4. Committee/Board Member Comments:

The School Committee FY18 Budget Public Hearing is on April 20th at 6:00 PM at Town Hall. The committee will have their final numbers for that meeting and will vote on the budget. The committee is also scheduled to meet on April 27th. It was noted again that the budget figures can and will be amended on Town Meeting floor.

The Board of Selectmen will vote on the warrant articles April 24th; questions should be sent to K. Hickey or W. Schlosstein.

The Finance Committee Public Hearing is on April 25th at 7:00 PM at Town Hall. It hopes to vote on and finalize the warrant articles that night; the meeting is also posted for April 26th if a continuance is needed.

5. **Public Comments:** None

6. **Adjournment:** 7:20 PM A. LaBrie moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen.
Second by M. Barbaro. Approved 5-0-0.

D. Fronte moved for the School Committee to adjourn.
Second by F. Nurmsen. Approved 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted: Barrie E. Martins, School Committee Recording Secretary