

TOWN COUNCIL & BOARD OF EDUCATION

BUDGET MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MARCH 15, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.

Council Members Present: Bill Eccles, Dave Skoczulek, John Reagan, Paul Reynolds, Tammy Nuccio and Brenda Falusi.

BOE Members Present: Colleen Yudichak, Karen Moran and Michelle Harrold.

Others Present: Steven Werbner, Town Manager, Walter Willett, Superintendent.

Members Absent: Council-Christine Vincent, Board of Education-Sam Adlerstein, Robert Pagoni, Jane Pasini, Christina Plourd, Jeff Schroeder and Susan Seaver.

1) **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

2) **Discussion with Board of Education regarding their Proposed Budget:**

Bill Eccles supports overall BOE budget but is concerned about the Health Insurance portion of the budget.

Brenda Falusi supports plans of the BOE and the forward looking budget.

Dave Skoczulek is in support of the BOE budget.

Discussion of the BOE business academy was outlined by the Superintendent which is just one area of interest for students.

Tammy Nuccio asked which line item the reduction from the proposed to the adopted BOE budget came from.

A question was asked about the LEEP program. Parent feedback is good.

A question on the Open CHOICE Program – 10 seats total (5 additional). The BOE received \$42,000 from this program this year, about \$8,000 per child. There is a lot of training associated with this program.

3) **General Discussion of Town's Budget**

There was a discussion on the 17/18 Budget versus the monthly expenditure report as well as the large amount of unspent funds.

There was a discussion of certain items in the school bond package that perhaps could be paid for out of General Fund dollars.

There was a discussion of how the BOE achieved the large savings in the prior fiscal year.

Bill Eccles requested that some of the things we need which are not really bondable items should be purchased with efficiencies achieved rather than pre-purchasing operating expense items.

Bill Eccles raised the question about what to do about future holdbacks. Michelle Harrold is concerned the holdback could be so great that it would be hard to agree upfront on a percentage split. If this happens again, there should be discussion. Dave Skoczulek suggested that perhaps in the future the two Chief Executives should come up with a plan and then present it to the two Boards.

Paul Reynolds also raised a concern that if there are holdbacks we can't continue to use the Fund Balance or raise taxes and we need to agree to come together to make the necessary adjustments.

Brenda Falusi has seen the BOE come to the table and look for efficiencies. We should have this discussion as part of the working agreement discussion.

Colleen Yudichak said that the BOE is always willing to work with the Town Council and needs to continue to communicate.

Karen Moran said when we discuss we should speak to all of the components of the budget including Fund Balance, Debt Service, Capital Budget, etc.

Paul Reynolds asked about the financing of the Utility Fund.

4) **Public Comment**

Jon Crickmore, Kenny Trice and Katie Murray all spoke.

5) **Adjournment:** Paul Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 PM. Motion was unanimously approved.