

Vice Chairman Major called the meeting to order at 6:30pm in the High School computer lab.

Present: Almann, Carrier, Ebbighausen, Hartnett, Kennedy(as noted later), Klein, Major, Schill, Smith(left as noted later), Zavorotny.

Excused: Shaw

Absent: None

Minutes for meeting 589 were accepted as printed.

Mr. Smith had asked that he be listed as excused rather than absent at meeting 588 as he was on official state business. It was agreed the change is appropriate. Mr. Zavorotny will note this on the minutes from meeting 588.

Mr. Smith outlined concerns about state funding both for the school district and town. Revenues are still not determined and there are varied estimates circulating. We should look to the conservative side.

Mr. Ebbighausen outlined the town budget status. The operating budget now stands at 1.29% below last year. The selectmen have decided to not request a police cruiser or backhoe. They do plan to include capital reserve articles for Monument Road and the Police Station. The Fire Department had asked to include some \$35,500 for Turnout Gear and Breathing Apparatus. A grant had replaced most of these ten years ago and it is now due for replacement again. The Selectmen are looking at some way to spread this out.

Mr. Smith left at this time to go to Winchester to discuss the state financial situation with officials in that town.

Another meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2011 at 6:30 in the Town Hall.

The meeting moved to the library and a joint meeting with the School Board at 7:08 p.m.

The proposal is now \$11,868,197. This is a reduction of some \$300,000 from the prior amount. Some additional reductions in personnel are driving the change. The resulting total is about \$280,000 over the current year. Presently, expectations are that state aid will be the same as the current year and the budget is based on that. Grants, etc. are still being pursued which might offset some costs. Mr. Zavorotny moved to tentatively approve the amount presented. Mr. Ebbighausen seconded and passage was unanimous.

Ms. Schill asked that if funding drops or other situations arise which will have an adverse affect on the tax rate that steps be taken to reduce actual spending. The School Board assured the Budget Committee that that would be done.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 27, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Agenda will be additional review of Town budget requests and proposed warrant articles.

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny
Recording Secretary