

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

Present: Almann, Carrier, Hartnett, Kennedy, Klein, Major, Schill, Zavorotny.

Excused: Shaw, Mr. Ebbighausen did not attend.

Absent: Smith

This was a joint meeting with the School Board and administration to discuss the 2011-2012 budget proposal.

Dr. Crisafulli reviewed the proposal and the philosophy behind it. The original requests reflected an increase of some \$800,000 over the current period. This has been reduced to just over \$565,000. It reflects a reduction of 2.2 FTE,s and four retirements. Also, some SPED costs are reduced through bringing out of district placements back into the district by adding life skill classes. Most of the increase can be traced back to a healthcare cost increase of 11% and an increase of 11% in the mandated retirement fund amount. Some costs such as SPED coordination and technology maintenance will be shared with Winchester. These shared costs will be reflected as income to Hinsdale which will offset some of the budget lines. Income amounts are an unknown as the state is not supplying that information and reductions have been expected due to economic problems at the state level.

The budget committee members commented on the goal to avoid an increase in the tax rate. This might be possible even with the increased spending, but that will depend upon income amounts and the town assessment. There is still major concern on the part of budget committee members relative to recent increases not being sustainable unless economic conditions improve.

Ms. Schill requested all backup information associated with the proposal. Mr. O'Connor indicated he would supply that. Ms. Schill also commented on the teacher/student ratio being quite low in comparison to some other districts. Dr. Crisafulli noted that this is somewhat driven by required courses and, while that is the case, position adjustments are made as class sizes change.

Mr. Hartnett commented that we need to be careful to not start cutting corners which might endanger accreditation or halt progress made on test scores in recent years. Mr. Major also noted that the campus needs to be maintained.

There are no warrant articles planned at this time as reserves are adequate and there is currently no contract negotiation in progress.

The next meeting was scheduled for December 29, 2010 at 6:30 in the Town Hall. Agenda will be additional review of Town budget requests.

Additional meetings were scheduled with the School Board for January 19, 2011 and January 26, 2011 if necessary. Both are at 6:30pm in the High School Library.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny  
Recording Secretary