

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the High School.

Present: Almann, Carrier, Conroy, Hartnett, Kennedy, Klein, Major, Rideout, Schill, Shaw, Zavorotny

Excused:

Absent:

This was a joint meeting with the School Board to discuss the 2012-2013 School District budget. SAU officers also attended for budget review.

Dr. Crisafulli covered the philosophy behind the budget, outlining the district goals as providing a basic education which will allow students to compete with those from other school systems. This is somewhat more difficult for Hinsdale as the tax base is smaller and several programs are required by law. Regular accreditation time is approaching and will be a costly process at \$30,000 for the inspecting team along with updating programs, etc.

Mr. Schill commented that he feels the district must look at possibilities of programs like tuitioning in students in to raise income to the District. Dr. Crisafulli indicated agreement with that outlook, but opportunities for that are limited.

Mr. Conroy noted that Hinsdale has one of the highest property tax rates in the state and we must do all we can to keep costs down.

Mr. Zavorotny indicated that a preliminary look at the projected tax rate shows an increase to the School District of just over \$.90 and a reduction in the town rate of about \$2.00. The reduction in the town rate is associated with the one-time spike due to moving to a fiscal year. The estimate may change depending upon appeals from both Vernon Dam and WalMart which will be moving through court review.

Included in the budget are two warrant articles: One for purchase of a van to transport SPED and vocational students. This would save about \$40,000. The second article is to add \$50,000 to the SPED reserve from unexpended balance.

Several Budget Committee members felt they need more time to review the budget as they had just received the information.

The committee is scheduled to meet with the Selectmen Monday, January 23 to discuss the Town budget. Mr. Schill noted that the Selectmen had completed work on the operating budgets except the Water Department. They have also looked closely at warrant articles to keep the budget flat.

With time running short, the committee decided multiple meetings need to be scheduled. To that end, it was decided to schedule another meeting for Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30. The late start is to accommodate some members with prior commitments.

Time for the Public Hearing was finalized for February 8, 2012 with the Town at 7:00 and the School District to follow immediately afterward.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:30 in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny
Recording Secretary