

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 7:30pm in the Town Hall.

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

Excused:

Absent:

Members of the School Board, Superintendent Crisafulli and Business Manager O'Connor attended for review of the School District budget proposal.

Purchase of a van for use in transporting SPED students and those taking vo-tech classes outside the district was discussed. The unit proposed is an eight passenger van. A twelve passenger vehicle is larger than presently needed and any larger would be unsafe. The eight passenger unit will fit in the storage facility as well. A price of about \$18,000 has been obtained through the State bid process. Some additional preparation would be needed, so an article for \$20,000 is presented. The anticipated savings is about \$40,000 as the transportation costs will be reduced by some \$70,000. The \$70,000 is still included in the operating budget as a requirement from DRA. This will be the first warrant article and if it passes the operating budget amount will; be reduced by \$40,000.

Ms. Almann voiced concern with the continual growth of the District budget and that some taxpayers may not be able to afford their tax bills. She felt the Town had done a good job at holding the line, but the School District had not done their part. She was proposing a \$114,000 reduction in the bottom line based on the Town budget level. Several members agreed with the concern, but did not feel the increase was excessive given contractual obligations, etc. Dr. Crisafulli commented that the number presented was reduced from the original administration request and any further reductions would negatively impact the district. Mr. O'Connor presented information indicating that Hinsdale's per pupil cost is not excessive compared to other districts. The tax rate is driven by the lack of businesses in town which means the tax base is primarily residential. Ms. Kennedy commented that the teachers' contract leaves little room to implement change, so much of the budget cannot be changed without reducing people. Mr. Schill commented that the School District must be willing to work with the Town to keep costs under control and perhaps as part of the next budget process some economies such as tuitioning in students may be implemented. Mr. Major moved to Recommend the operating budget at \$12,111,309. Mr. Rideout seconded and the motion carried with Ms. Almann, Mr. Klein and Mr. Schill voting No.

Mr. Hartnett moved to Recommend the bus article. Mr. Carrier seconded. The motion carried with Ms. Almann voting No.

Article three is to approve increased costs for the support staff collective bargaining unit. The total over three years is \$59,087. This represents 1.7%, 2.0% and 1.7% over the three year contract. Mr. Zavorotny moved and Mr. major seconded to Recommend the article. The motion passed with Ms. Almann voting No and Mr. Conroy, Mr. Klein and Mr. Schill abstaining.

Addition of \$50,000 to the SPED fund to come from unexpended balance. Mr. Major moved to Recommend. Mr. Rideout seconded. The motion carried with Ms. Almann voting No and Mr. Schill abstaining.

Mr. Major moved to accept minutes for meetings 602, 603,604 and 605 as printed. Ms. Almann seconded and passage was unanimous.

The next meeting is the Public Hearing scheduled for February 8, 2012 at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter W. Zavorotny
Recording Secretary