

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, John Hartnett, Morris Klein, James MacDonell, Lewis Major (arrived 7pm), Tina McCosker, Peter Zavorotny. Excused: Selectmen's Rep Jay Ebbighausen. Absent: Michael Carrier, Joe Conroy.

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

He said the committee needed to approve minutes from meeting 636. MacDonell made a motion to approve the minute as printed, was seconded by Ms. Almann, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Zavorotny said there were two sets of year-to-date expenses for the committee to discuss and asked Ms. McCosker to update the committee on the school's. She said the year ended with \$39,000 more than anticipated due to Medicaid being lower; however, this was offset by catastrophic aid being higher. The preschool children did not have to move which meant \$100,000 didn't have to be spent. The school looks to return something over \$600,000 to the town to offset taxes. Mr. Bellville noted that last year roughly \$300,000 came back to the town and pointed out that this money "does nothing to get the tax rate down." He complimented the school board, saying they "did a good job" controlling expenses.

Mr. MacDonell observed that eventually the existing fire escape needs to be replaced.

Mr. Zavorotny said the search is starting for a new school superintendent. He wondered if there was interest in the position being part time. The Department of Education is helping in the search; the cost for doing so is \$8,000 while \$5,000 was budgeted.

Mr. Hartnett said that before the search begins perhaps it would be wise to look at combining two jobs. He said that while there was talk about selling services to other towns he doesn't think anything has happened. Mr. Zavorotny asked what the impact of having no superintendent will be on the budgeting process. "None," replied Ms. McCosker. Tom O'Connor remains Business Manager. Patti Bassett, is the interim superintendent. A nine member search committee composed of the two principals, teachers from both schools, a paralegal, and Hinsdale residents is being organized. The plan is to have a new superintendent hired by July 1, 2015.

Mr. Hartnett asked if the schools have seen a fall off in use of traditional supplies. He commented on the \$142,000 expense in software that is over budget. Mr. McDonell spoke up, noting that the schools underwent server consolidation; this was "a huge undertaking." Ms. McCosker said that tablets are increasingly being used. Mr. McDonell said that "books are getting more and more expensive."

He asked about enrollment. Ms. McCosker said it was "basically flat." Mr. McDonell asked about preschool. Ms. McCosker said the school board would have numbers the last week in September.

Seeing no more discussion on the school, Mr. Zavorotny began discussing the town's numbers.

He said the budget news from the town "is also pretty good." A couple of hundred thousand is coming back from the town to off set taxes.

Mr. McDonell said two police cruisers were retired. The maintenance account is lower because there is no maintenance for 125,000 miles on the new cruisers. Mr. Bellville said he believes the police department needs a new cruiser. The old Expedition is mainly used by the chief while the officers use the other three cruisers. The dump truck was retired. The new parks person uses the pickup; it was an even swap with the Auto Barn.

Mr. Zavorotny noted the town came in under budget. "All in all, it looks pretty good."

He told the committee that the selectmen requested a joint meeting on Sept. 29. He asked the committee about their expectations.

Discussion took place as to the advisability of the school board, the selectmen, and the budget committee meeting jointly. The committee eventually agreed that Mr. Zavorotny will inform the selectmen that committee members will meet with the selectmen on Sept. 29 and that potentially, the budget committee will meet jointly with the selectmen and the school board on Oct. 8.

Mr. McDonell briefed the committee on the fallout from the peeping Tom incident. The police chief is using money budgeted for a part time person to help with media relations. So far this year there are 480 cases. Last year there was a total of 600. The department needs an officer dedicated to investigations; last year the town lost its detective. This position remains unfilled.

Mr. Hartnett noted that accreditation is coming up. Ms. McCosker said the committee will be in Hinsdale on Nov. 2

With nothing more to be discussed, Mr. Zavorotny asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bellville made such a motion, was seconded by Mr. McDonell, and the meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann
Secretary