

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 13, 2016

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: N. DeWolfe, D. Ruell, C. Cilley, J. Lyford, B. Hoerter, S. Coleman, H. Lamos, W. Durack, S. Downing (6:43pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: M. Ormond, T. Temperino, S. Bartlett, A. Cilley, M. Badger T. Randall (6:54pm) P. Tucker (6:54pm)

The school budget public hearing started at 6:30pm in the Ashland elementary café.

Ruell made the presentation on the school budget.

Seeing that the school budget was not new to anyone that was present, Ruell did not go line by line.

M. Badger asked the school representatives if there are any other changes above the ones mentioned in the agreement. The answer was no.

Changes that the budget committee made before this hearing were:

1. Special education: decrease school board figure for tuition to private schools from \$40,000. to \$20,000.
2. Technology: decrease electronic information access from \$9,080. to \$7,480.
3. Operation of plant: decrease fuel oil from \$50,394. to \$37,387.

Warrant articles that pertain to the budget committee are articles 2, 3, and 7.

The public hearing was closed at 6:45pm.

The budget committee started their regular meeting at 6:45pm.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Lamos to recommend the bottom line for the school budget of \$3,220,637. 9 ayes, 0 nays.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Hoerter to recommend warrant article 2—salaries of district officers--as written. 9 ayes, 0 nays.

Hoerter made the motion, 2nd by Lyford to recommend warrant article 3—collective bargaining agreement—as written. 9 ayes, 0 nays.

Hoerter made the motion, 2nd by Durack to recommend warrant article 7—to raise and appropriate up to \$75,000. to be placed in the previously established school safety, security and facilities maintenance trust fund—as written. 9 ayes, 0 nays.

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WARRANT ARTICLES

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Durack to recommend article 15—to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000. to be added to the town building maintenance and repair fund. 5 ayed, 4 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2nd by DeWolfe to recommend article 29—to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,107. for Tri-County Community Action, fuel assistance program. 8 ayed, 1 nayed.

Durack made the motion, 2nd by Ruell to recommend article 30—to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500. for Genesis Behavioral Health. 6 ayed, 3 nayed.

TOWN BUDGET

Financial: DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Lyford to change selectman revised for treasurer salary from \$6,010. to \$4,588. The difference will be paid by the utilities depts. FICA is revised from \$4,084. to \$3,996. Medicare is revised from \$955. to \$935. 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

General Government and Park & Rec.: Durack made the motion, 2nd by Lamos to have \$1.00 left in the cleaning salary line to keep the line open for the future (if needed). 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

Downing made an amended motion, 2nd by Hoerter to have the 3% and 5% raises already voted on at a previous meeting for the four non—union employees changed to a 50 cents an hour raise. After some discussion, 2 ayed, 6 nayed, 1 abstained. The 4 non-union employees are: police lt., town clerk/tax collector, public works director, and finance officer.

Coleman made an amended motion, 2nd by Hoerter to have the non-union employees who pay towards their health insurance receive another 25 cent pre-tax in their salary (town clerk/tax collector) and have no increase for the finance officer at all. Police Lt. and public works director do the buy out. 4 ayed, 5 nayed.

Lyford made an amended motion, 2nd by Downing to eliminate any raises for the financial officer because she is part time. 4 ayed, 4 nayed, 1 abstained. Motion failed.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Durack to increase town clerk/tax collector salary from 3% to 5%. 7 ayed, 0 nayed, 2 abstained.

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Lyford made the motion, 2nd by Coleman to eliminate the 5% raise for the financial officer because she is part time. Her salary will be \$36,400. 4 ayed, 3 nayed, 2 abstained.

MEETINGS

Ruell made the motion, 2nd by Hoerter to hold a budget committee meeting immediately after the town deliberative session on January 30, on the warrant article changes if any. And a budget committee meeting immediately after the school deliberative session on February 2. 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

MINUTES

December 15:

Pg. 1-change in Reg. Ed. that there are 16 regular teachers not 15 and 1 special ed. teacher not 2.

Pg. 1- in Reg. Ed. add replace older iPads to iPad replacement

Pg. 3—legal services-the figure should be left \$8,000. for super and school board.

Lyford made the motion, 2nd by Hoerter to accept the minutes of December 15 with changes. 8 ayed, 0 nayed, 1 abstained.

December 17:

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Lyford to accept the minutes of December 17 as written. 8 ayed, 0 nayed, 1 abstained.

December 28:

Pg. 1- change the word accept to appoint Walter Durack to the budget committee.

Pg. 3- Care of grounds: the figure should read \$17,500. not \$17,000.

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Lyford to accept the minutes of December 28 with changes. 8 ayed, 0 nayed, 1 abstained.

December 29:

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Durack to accept the minutes of December 29 as written. 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

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December 30:

Pg. 3- change the word by to be up in 2016.

Lyford made the motion, 2nd by DeWolfe to accept the minutes of December 30 with changes. 9 ayed, 0 nayed.

January 6:

DeWolfe made the motion, 2nd by Lamos to accept the minutes of January 6 as written. 8 ayed, 0 nayed, 1 abstained.

Coleman asked Ruell if all of the \$125,000. that was appropriated last year was put into the road improvements capital reserve fund. After some discussion, DeWolfe stated that the town trustees will have their report in the annual report.

Coleman made the motion, 2nd by Downing to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. All ayed.

Submitted by:

Christine Cilley