

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 6:30 PM

TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM

Approved October 25, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joe Lamattina, Vice-Chairman Michael LaBranche, Brian Hickey, Roger Cady, Christopher Wolfe, Ned Carpenter, Richard Lesavoy, School Board Rep Gary Swanson, Town Council Rep Brian Ward, Eric Wigode.

ALSO PRESENT: School Superintendent Dr. Susan Givens.

AGENDA

Chairman Lamattina welcomed everyone to the Newmarket Budget Committee Meeting of August 30, 2021 and called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Because of technical issues with the "Channel 13" recording of the Budget Committee meeting, Mr. Labranche motioned to review the Meeting Minutes of August 30, 2001 while the "Channel 13 issues were being address". Second by Ned Carpenter. All voted in favor.

REVIEW OF AUGUST 30, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. LaBranche motioned to accept the minutes of August 30, second by Mr. Swanson.

There was then discussion about amendments to the minutes.

Minor typo corrections were made to lines 5, 69, 118, 128, 132, 133, 139.

There was discussion about the amount of \$223,000.83 on line 191. Mr. Lamattina questioned whether that amount was correct, no one knew, line was left as is.

Motion was made by Mr. Lamattina to accept the revised minutes, second by Mr. LaBranche. All voted in favor.

Mr. Lamattina will send corrections to Patricia Denmark.

SCHOOL – UNANTICIPATED ADEQUACTY AID.

School Superintendent DR. Givens informed The Budget Committee that the SAU will receive \$498,255 in "Unanticipated Adequacy Aid" from The State Education Department. In order for the school to utilize these funds during the current 2021-2022 Budget Cycle the school must hold a special town meeting where the voters can approve or disapprove the proposed article for utilization of these funds.

Superintendent Givens then read the proposed article.

"To see if district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$498,255 to be added to the School Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. This sum is to come from additional adequacy funds in the amount of up to \$498,255 the district has been informed it will receive during 2021-2022. No amount to be raised from taxation".

Dr. Givens then explained the School Board would like to utilize these funds for infrastructure improvements at the Elementary School, specifically Electrical Infrastructure, Ventilation and Window Replacement that were not part of the recent renovations. Dr. Givens stated the COVID Pandemic has shown the school to be deficient in meeting the electrical needs to support today's technology that is required by teachers and students. The Elementary school is also deficient in circulating air in parts of the school. They would like to replace the current windows that do not fully open but instead open on an angle. New windows will allow for better air circulation and give them the ability to insert window air conditioners where needed. There are other HVAC improvements required to improve outside air circulation.

Dr. Givens stated the current plan is to hold the Special Town Meeting on Saturday, October 30, 2021 for approval of the article.

Mr. Wigode asked "What is the current balance in the School Improvement Capital Reserve Fund". Dr. Givens responded approximately \$538,103.58.

Mr. Wigode asked what happens if the vote fails? Response, the money goes to reduce taxes.

Mr. LaBranche asked why are these infrastructure improvements not in the Capital Improvement Plan? Response: They are, this money allows us to address these needs now without additional taxpayer money.

Mr. LaBranche asked about the \$450,000 that is being returned to the General Fund, why not use that. Response: Excess funds not utilized have to go back to the taxpayers.

Chairman Lamattina stated that the request to utilize these funds is being done under RSA 197:3-a. RSA 197:3-a states *"after consultation with The Budget Committee"*. Mr. Lamattina stated he felt the term *"after consultation"* is ambiguous as to what that actually entails, therefore he would like the Budget Committee to go on record as to whether it does or does not support the article presented by The Superintendent on behalf of the School Committee. This would be a "Non Binding" vote and by "Non Binding" that means it carries no weight, the School Committee can choose to use it or not, but it does put the Budget Committee on record as to where it stands on the article to expend money that could go back to the taxpayers to reduce taxes.

Mr. Lamattina made the motion *"The Budget Committee recommends the appropriation of \$498,255 in Unanticipated Educational Aid to be added to the previously established School Improvement Capital Reserve Fund as proposed by Newmarket School Superintendent Dr. Givens on behalf of the Newmarket School Board"*. A vote of YES is in support of the proposed article, a vote of No is against support of the article.

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There was discussion by Mr. Swanson that this vote was unnecessary. Mr. Lamattina stated true, but he did want the Budget Committee to go on record as to whether it does or does not support the recommendation. There was further discussion about the merit of the vote. Upon completion of discussion, Mr. Cady seconded Mr. Lamattinas motion.

The committee voted unanimously in support of the article as proposed by Dr. Givens on behalf of the School Board.

CALENDAR REVIEW

Mr. Lamattina reviewed the latest Budget Committee Calendar changes.

Wednesday, Nov. 24 - School Budget will be made available to the Budget Committee. Was previously November 15th.

Monday, Dec. 6th 6:30pm – This will be the working session to review the School 2022-2023 Budget with the School Administration Staff. Was (tentatively) Saturday Dec. 11th.

Monday, Jan. 10, 2022 6:30pm – This will be the school public hearing. Was (tentatively) Saturday Jan. 8th.

Chairman Lamattina stated he still needs to finalize dates with the town side, tentative dates are identified by the RED dates on the calendar.

CIP STATUS.

Chairman Lamattina asked Mr. Cady about the current CIP Process Status. Mr. Cady stated the CIP Committee has completed their meetings and the CIP has been sent to the Town Manager. We should have something for next months meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Lamattina opened the meeting Public Comment at 7:24 pm.

As there were no comments, Chairman Lamattina closed Public Comment at 7:24 pm.

NOTE TO TOWN MANAGER – GRANT INFORMATION

Chairman Lamattina recapped there were two items the Budget Committee wanted to bring up with the Town Manager related to Town Financial Reporting. 1.) Executive Summary and 2.) Grant Reporting.

Executive Summary - Mr. Cady had a discussion with Town Financial Director Bill Tappan. Mr. Tappen felt the Executive Summary was beneficial and would undertake that. Mr. Cady felt a formal request to the Town Manager was unnecessary at this time.

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Grant Reporting – Mr. Lamattina stated he was unable to connect with the Town Manager about the reluctance of the Financial Director to share information about Grants with the Budget Committee. Mr. Lamattina asked if the committee approved of the wording and sending the draft Mr. Cady created.

The group voted unanimous on the wording and sending of the draft.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

Next Meeting October 25, 6:30PM.

Mr. Cady made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Swanson. All voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned 7:34pm.