Hartland School Board Annual Informational Budget Meeting

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.
DRAFT Minutes
Meeting Video Link: Click HERE

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Matt Dunne, Moderator.

Budget to be voted on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

Reading of the articles by Matt Dunne:

Article 1 To elect the Town School District officers for the ensuing year. (By Australian ballot)

Article 2 To act on the reports of the School District officers for the past year. (By Australian ballot)

Article 3 To vote for the School District to pay taxes to the Town Treasurer, such taxes to be collected on the same schedule voted at the Town Meeting. (By Australian ballot)

Article 4 Shall the voters of the Town of Hartland approve the use of Capital Reserve funds in the total amount of $54,600.00 for improvements to the Food Service line in an amount not to exceed $25,000.00 and improvements to the water lines in several classrooms in an amount not to exceed $29,600,00. (By Australian ballot)

Explanation for the need of article 4 from Nicki Buck - Plumbing updates needed since the building is over 50 years old. The plumbing goes through the concrete floor and repairs are needed. We would like to move the sinks to a more easily accessed area in the classroom so it is easier to repair in the future. The food service line is also 50 years old and needs to be updated to offer the quality of food that we want to serve and safety standards.

Article 5 To vote that the School District is authorized to borrow money from the Capital Reserve Fund or a commercial lender in anticipation of taxes to meet the requirements of the School District for the ensuing year and to authorize the execution and delivery of notes or orders to the School District. (By Australian ballot)

Article 6 Shall the voters of the Hartland School District approve the school board to expend $9,581,349.00, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of $20,628.62 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4.33% higher than the spending for the current year. (By Australian ballot)

Article 7 To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Budget presentation by Nicole Buck and Christine Bourne - Insert link

Questions

Jim Rielly - How many elementary and HS students are there?
Answer - HS 148, Elem 243

Chuck Fenton - Considering the rapid growing rate of our free/reduced rate. How is the school interacting with the town government to understand that rate of growth?
Answer - Nicole Buck - Mount Ascutney Hospital & Health Center has been holding meetings on these topics. In the town budget, an Ordinance Officer is being proposed to help assure quality living situations. Christine Bourne is on a committee that is working on understanding what social services

are available to all in the town and she meets with the town officials regularly to help address the needs of the families.

Chuck Fenton - What is the difference between the residential vs. our non-residential rate? It seems to be growing and favoring the non-residential rate. Why is that?
Answer - Ed Connors – the non-homestead tax rate is only affected by what the legislature decides but the residential rate is dictated by rates we have a little more control over around costs such as high school choice and perhaps our free/reduced rates.
Stacey Bradley affirmed what Ed Connors and David Baker stated was correct regarding the tax rates. She was recently able to visit the school and is very appreciative of the work the school is doing.

THANK YOU SCOTT RICHARDSON FOR ALL YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!

Meeting called to closed by Matt Dunne @ 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Roy
Clerk, Hartland School Board