

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting 05/10/2022

Members Present In Person: Tracy Bigney, Cherie Faulkner, and Linda Graban

Also Present In Person: Kelly Theriault, Holly Whitmore, Ben Breadmore, and Ryan Carey

Also Present Remotely: Tracy Roberts and Katherine Morelli

Called to Order: 5:34pm

FY22 Financials:

Cost Center Summary: Cherie Faulkner asked how much legal was over and if there was enough budgeted for next fiscal year. Kelly Theriault, RSU 63 Business Manager advised legal is always a bit of a guess as the need changes year to year. The District may not use any one year and have a large need the next year. She reminded the committee this fiscal year had a much larger need year with negotiations, the purchase of the bus garage, and personnel matters.

April Financials FY22 Detail: Tracy Bigney asked why some benefit lines seemed unspent. Kelly Theriault stated it is usually one of two things. In our accounting system the account structures are not set up correctly and the object code has eight characters, rather than five. Benefit levels sometimes allocate to different lines than budgeted. Ms. Theriault provided example lines. She continued, the other reason could be for small items (i.e., unemployment compensation). The Purchase Order is done for the year, rather than allocate a percentage across 50+ lines every invoice, the accounts payable clerk spends down whole lines first.

Hot Lunch: No concerns or questions.

Policy DJB – Purchasing Procedures: Kelly Theriault advised this policy is recommended to be rescinded because it is a procedural item and does not need to be a policy. Tracy Bigney agreed this does not need to be a policy. Recommendation from Budget and Finance Committee will be to rescind at the May 16, 2022 Board Meeting. Policy Committee has also reviewed this policy and recommends to rescind.

FY23 Budget Adjustment(s): Small adjustment needed from negotiation committee. The change is an increase of \$47,000 (regular instruction increase of \$37,000 and special education increase of \$10,000) and will not impact the town assessments. We will add to the undesignated surplus for the offset. The bottom line of the budget will change. Kelly Theriault asked if the committee is okay with the proposed change. The committee agreed with the change. A new version 4 will be sent to the full Board on May 11th.

Revision Energy: Kelly Theriault shared the questions and responses from Revision Energy and responses from Aga Dixon from Drummond and Woodsum. Ms. Dixon will participate in the May 16, 2022 Board meeting to answer any further questions. Cherie Faulkner shared her concern for the twenty-year contract. Tracy Bigney asked if this information could be shared with the Board before the meeting on Monday. Mr. Breadmore stated the savings proposed for RSU 63 is significant. Mr. Breadmore stated these projects are a long process. Linda Graban stated Clifton is building a solar array and is permitted. Ryan Carey, Holden resident and Council Chair, works for the Town of Hampden as the Code Enforcer has worked with Revision on building this project. He shared his support for participating in this project and stated it is more typical for contracts like this to be a 30-year commitment or more. Cherie Faulkner felt our District was solicited and was suspicious of the intent. Kelly Theriault shared that Tina Meserve was a former Superintendent and more than likely felt comfortable reaching out knowing the energy cost for school districts and municipalities. Ms. Meserve contacted several area schools with this proposal. Tracy Bigney stated she was in favor of joining the array, but felt we should review the percentage the District commits to. Short discussion on consolidating schools and electric buses took place. Linda Graban gave Ms. Theriault the name of the Clifton solar project to look into and stated it is on the town website.

Other: Kelly Theriault shared the draft FY23 Warrant Articles. They will go to the Board for approval on May 16, 2022. Kelly Theriault also shared the Ballot and explained the questions, specifically question 2, budget validation process. This question is asked on the ballot every three years. Ms. Theriault pointed out the updated summary with the technology inclusion that will be shared with the public.

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, June 13, 2022 at 5:00pm

Adjourned: 6:18pm

APPROVED: June 27, 2022