

**WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, February 5, 2015
Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative M/H School-Media Room
6:30 p.m.**

School Board Present: Geoff Brock, *Harry Dailey, Matt Ballou, Jim Button, Mary Guild, Fran Bujak, Joyce Fisk, Carol LeBlanc, and Alex LoVerme*

Budget Committee Present: Don Davidson, Dawn Tuomala, Cary Hughes, Lisa Post, Ellen Pomer, Leslie Browne, Kelly Eshback and Karen Grybko

Superintendent Christine Tyrie, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Principals Brian Bagley and Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina Fowler

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brock called the Board meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Chairman Davidson called the Budget Committee to order at 7:00pm.

II. PRESENTATION OF 2015/16 BUDGET/ WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Davidson reviewed with the group that Superintendent Tyrie will give an overview of the budget, (Article #4), and then the rest articles will be discussed one at a time. Handouts were available as well as PowerPoint presentation. Copies can be found with these minutes.

Warrant Article #4-Operating Budget-School

Superintendent Tyrie reviewed that consolidations savings were realized through 4.64 staff positions and SAU rent savings for a total of \$346,635. The new bond payment in the proposed budget is \$331,690. Budget drivers which bring up the bottom line are largely due to NH Retirement, health insurance and Workers Compensation which totals \$145,000. We are in year two of three of the teachers Collective Bargaining Agreement which includes a 2% increase at \$75,000 and there is a 2% increase for professional and support staff salaries (non-teaching) as well at \$25,000. There is a \$100,000 increase in special education salaries/and or tuitions. She noted nearly half of the budget drivers have been absorbed without increases to the bottom line by a rigorous process by administration Board and Budget Committee. There is an increase in the regular education budget of \$68,900 (0.79%) and special education of \$87,641 (3.79%). Overall the increase to the operating budget is 1.40%, \$156,541. She noted that comparisons to other districts were difficult due to finding another district that matches our size but what comparisons she did find showed that we were in the range of where we should be. She reviewed a budget by category pie chart which showed salaries and benefits being 71.4 % of the budget and discretionary and non-discretionary pie chart which showed 8.3% of the budget being classified as "discretionary" which includes all supplies and curricular materials used by teachers and students. She noted there is no tax impact on the tax rate due to the bond since it is offset with the consolidation savings.

In response to a question asked by Ms. Sally Curran, Lyndeborough resident, as to why a large increase in English as a Second Language, Superintendent Tyrie responded that this has not been needed in previous years and has only been minimally budgeted for and is now needed. There are multiple students which require this need and it is staffed with a .5 FTE teacher.

In response to a question from Mr. Dave Roemer, Lyndeborough resident, questioning the addition of a CIA coordinator position and why this was not added as a Warrant Article. Superintendent explained that this position is needed to catch up the high school with competencies and Smarter Balanced where a great deal of work is needed. This is currently being done by a teacher and it

represents the expansion of what she is doing. She does not see it continuing as a full time position in the future therefore did not feel it should be represented on a Warrant Article.

In response to a question from Mr. Roemer, Lyndeborough resident, regarding enrollment, Superintendent Tyrie responded, October 1 enrollment is 594 and it has leveled out somewhat although better than NESDEC predictions.

Warrant Article #5-Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Davidson read the article.

In response to a question from Wilton resident, Mr. Joe Torey, asking what % increase is in the support staff CBA, Superintendent Tyrie responded, 2%.

Warrant Article #6-Special Meeting for Defeated/Amended Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Davidson read the article.

No questions were asked.

Warrant Article #7-Appropriating Interest Earned on Bond

Mr. Davidson read the article.

In response to a question from Mr. Roemer of Lyndeborough, asking what this means, Mr. Davidson responded, we received a bond and it has been earning interest, this allows us to take the interest we earned and put it back into the fund balance.

Ms. Curran of Lyndeborough questioned why it would not be used to reduce the bond and Mr. Davidson responded that this is what it does; it goes back in to reduce the bond.

In response to Mr. Roemer, Mr. Davidson confirmed it is not raised out of taxation, it is interest earned.

Warrant Article #8-Extended Day Kindergarten Program

Mr. Davidson read the article.

Reporter Ashley Saari, Monadnock Ledger asked if both schools have half day Kindergarten in which the response was yes by Mr. Davidson.

In response to a question from Ms. Curran of Lyndeborough asking what the hours would be Superintendent Tyrie responded that if you had an am Kindergarten session you have a pm extended day for example. The exact times are not determined at this time.

Mr. Brock added that the concept is that essentially parents would have a full day placement for the child at school with parents paying for the extended day K placement.

Ms. Curran expressed she doesn't feel it is a good plan as she feels the district is on the hook and if it were Kindergarten and mandatory, it would be different.

Mr. Brock responded that it is cheaper than full day Kindergarten and by providing this service we believe more children will be able to attend Kindergarten and if our estimates are right it may not cost the district anything. Saving money and providing a better education.

Ms. Curran questioned if there was any commitment from parents and Mr. Brock indicated we do not, just as we do not know how many 4th grade students or 1st grade students we will have.

Superintendent Tyrie added this would not be offered to all parents, we are bound by space and are looking for 20 students for the program. We are not counting on all parents signing up. If we get too many we will look at adjusting the program the year after. Ms. Curran noted her disagreement in the plan.

Warrant Article #9-Equipment Purchase

Mr. Davidson read the article.

Mr. Brock explained that it has been presented over the last three years a district of this size should have a vehicle to do its moving and running around and the way we handle it now is to pay people to use their own vehicle. It may be more feasible with insurance and liability to purchase our own. We are going to put a plow on it but the real reason for the need is to do the work of the district.

Warrant Article #10-Use of Building/Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and Taxation

Mr. Davidson read the article and noted this changed just prior to the public hearing from \$190,000 to \$150,000. He explained that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was put together by the Facilities Committee and was reviewed at the joint session prior to the public hearing. The capital expenditures, including the roof were “laid” out so that we didn’t have any significant increases to taxation. There is a plan for this and it has been thought through he noted.

In response to a question from Ms. Curran of Lyndeborough, Mr. Davidson responded that the balance of the current capital reserve is approximately \$252,000. The roof effort is over \$500,000, \$250,000 has been allocated and the remaining will be a warrant next year.

In response to a question from Mr. Torey of Wilton, Superintendent Tyrie responded it will be available for the public.

Warrant Article #11-Use of Technology Capital Reserve Fund and Taxation

Mr. Davidson read the article.

Mr. Davidson reviewed with the group that three weeks ago the Budget Committee was presented with the latest revision of the budget and we asked if there were any opportunities to scrub it a little more and in essence they cut \$65,000 out of technology. The decision was made to bring it before the town. This is not for the full \$65,000 but we can continue to pursue advancements throughout the school he added.

In response to a question from Ms. Curran of Lyndeborough asking what was the \$65,000 going to be used for, Superintendent Tyrie responded it was for hardware and software and we felt we needed to go a bit slower until we were able to fix the network then we could add it back in the future.

Ms. Curran noted she feels this should be a capital expense.

Superintendent Tyrie and Mr. Brock disagree in this case as materials (software) and training teachers would not be a capital expense.

In response to a question from Ms. Curran, Superintendent Tyrie responded that about \$22,000 is in the current technology capital reserve.

Warrant Article #12-Acceptance of Unanticipated Sources of Funds

Mr. Davidson read the article.

Mr. Davidson explained that in essence it authorizes the School Board to accept grants, contributions and use those as specified without having to wait for a district meeting to get permission to accept that money.

In response to a question from Mr. Roemer, Mr. Brock responded the School Board is only authorized to expend what is in the budget at the district meeting.

In response to a question from Ledger reporter, Ashley Saari asking if the RSA requires a special meeting, Ms. Tucker responded yes, and it typically happens in the spring.

Warrant Article #13-Hearing of Reports and Warrant Article #14- Other Transact Any Other Business

Mr. Davidson noted these are to hear reports or transact any other business.

Mr. Roemer commented that he noticed the decision was made to raise the funds through taxation rather than through fund balance and is it the Boards thought to return all the money to the town and not go on a "spending spree".

Mr. Brock responded it is, although he believes it will harder to pass the articles this way but the Board feels this is more honest.

Mr. Button added if you look at the CIP you will see the items need to be funded and you can pretend to fund them out of the fund balance but these two Boards decided that it needs to be funded and the best way is out of taxation.

Ms. Saari asked if all the articles are passed what is the increase to the tax rate, Mr. Roemer of Lyndeborough answered 3.885%.

Mr. Davidson added there are two pieces to this, how much you spend and how much you take in. He pointed out the revenue and expenditure handouts and noted a slight increase in revenue (not 3.88 however) and that the impact is a result of both sides of the equation.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No additional comments to report.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business to discuss.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION was made by Mr. Dailey and SECONDED by Mr. Ballou to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:44pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Mr. Hughes and SECONDED by Ms. Pomer to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting at 7:44pm.

Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.

A moment of silence was held for passing member Vice Chairman, Mark Altner.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristina Fowler*