

**MINUTES
SCARBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY – JUNE 24, 2015
SPECIAL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

Item 1. Call to Order. Council Chair Holbrook called the regular meeting of the Scarborough Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 3. Roll Call. The roll was called by Yolande P. Justice, Town Clerk. Thomas J. Hall, Town Manager was also present.

Shawn A. Babine

Katherine A. St. Clair [Absent]

William J. Donovan

Edward NMI Blaise, III

Jean-Marie Caterina, Council Vice Chair

Pete F. Hayes

Jessica L. Holbrook, Council Chair

Order No. 15-048, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing and second reading on the proposed FY2016 School Budget. Council Chair Holbrook opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke on this Order:

- Chris Ciazio, Chair of the School Finance Committee, gave an update on the meetings that had been held over the past week with School Administrators. He asked that no further reductions be mandated this evening. He then commented on what recommended reductions would need to be made by the School Board in order to comply with any reduction and went on to list those programs that would be eliminated.
- David Green of Beech Ridge Road stated that the School Board has more money this year than last and felt that it was poor management. He stated that he cannot afford his taxes going up anymore. The School has more than enough money.
- Mike Turek of Bayberry Lane stated that he believed that the Council had already made its mind up. He noted that the Town's budget came in at a level increase and asked why the School Budget was still so high. He then asked that no further money be added back into the School Budget.
- Roger Delaware of Manson Libby Road spoke on the overall budget and noted that the pay of all administrators should be reviewed. The School Department should make a decision to hire a money controller that can oversee how the money is spent.
- Amy Colton of Hope Lane stated that this budget would have a great impact on the students. As a taxpayer, she asked the Town Council to put forth a budget that would support schools.
- Betsy Gleysteen of Longmeadow Road was very frustrated with the notices that had been sent regarding what programs could possibly be cut. She still felt that the Laptop program should have gone out to referendum and asked the Town Council to reconsider the vote on the laptop and put it out to referendum.
- Debra Fusch-Ertman of Fairway Drive commented on the proposed cut in the FY2016 School Budget. She noted that other communities passed their budget and was embarrassed by the fact that Scarborough had not. She felt that the half-million cut was way too high. A town that does not provide a quality education for its student is one that is not appealing to potential homeowners.

- Larry Hartwell of Puritan Drive spoke on the increases that have happened over the past three years. He noted that the other communities whose budget passed was not over 6 percent. He felt that if the school could reviewed the numerous positions, they could find the \$180,000 they say they need.
- Amy Chamberlain of Ryefield Drive thanked the School Board and Town Council for their work. She was a very disappointed taxpayer and felt that the School Budget is key for our children...we need to look at it as a whole. She did not agree with the proposed cuts. We have more people who vote for dogs than education. Children need to come first – not dogs.
- Liam Somers of Holmes Road spoke on the proposed budget...here we are, year three – you are elected to provide leadership and question whether this had happened. What has been done to provide a workable solution? The Board is charged with a providing a good budget....have you heard the taxpayers? An annual increase of \$275 is a heavy burden to ask the taxpayer to pay.
- Wallace Fengler of Holmes Road stated that he still needs to work to pay his taxes. He does get the annually increase that the school budget does. The School Board represent only children and he, as a taxpayer, needs the town council to represent him. He never remembers conflict like this when his wife was teaching in the systems.
- Carol Rico of Hawthorn Circle spoke on the proposed budget. She had a son who graduated this year and thanked the Lacrosse Team for helping him push himself to be the best he could be. Sports motivates the students. She then commented on her middle school student who loves the theater. She is a broker and the majority of the sales are in surrounding communities – buyers want a good school system.
- Donna Beeley, Chair of the School Board spoke on why the proposed budget was brought forward. She spoke for those who could not afford to pay to taxes adding there should be state and local programs. The potential reductions have an effect on our students and the Board is very aware of the stress of our neighbors.
- Jeff Ertman of Fairway Drive thanked the Board and Council for working together. He thanked Councilors Babine and Donovan for their letters regarding the process. Schools are a responsibility of the community as a whole. Support should be at all levels of living. He understands that a cut needs to be made because of the vote; but a cut of \$2 million is not acceptable. He urged the council to support the budget and effort of both sides.
- Mark DeMauro of Pleasant Hill Road spoke on the process of the budget. He served on two school districts and we went through the same thing. He asked the Council not to reduce the school budget any further.
- Stacy Newman of Windsor Pines Drive spoke in support of the School Budget. She did not support the \$500,000 cut that happened at the last meeting.

There being no further comments either for or against, Council Chair Holbrook close the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Babine, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval of the FY2016 School Budget.

Motion by Councilor Donovan, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval to amend the main motion to require a reduction in expenditures in the School Budget of \$320,000 for a new gross Education Operating Budget of \$43,473,756 and to authorize the additional use of \$180,000 in School Fund Balance, resulting in a total reduction of the net budget of \$500,000 and the Town of Scarborough raises as the local share for the Education Operating Budget, the sum of \$38,294,379.

Vote on Amendment: 3 Yeas.

3 Nays [Council Chair Holbrook, Councilors Blaise and Hayes].

Tie Vote, Motion Fails.

Councilor Donovan asked for an amendment to which Council Chair Holbrook called for a brief recess so that Councilor Donovan could put his motion in writing. Meeting recessed at 8:11 p.m. Council Chair Holbrook reconvened the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Donovan, seconded by Councilor Babine, to move approval to amend the main motion to require a reduction in expenditures in the School Budget of \$417,000 for a new gross Education Operating Budget of \$43,376,756 and to authorize the additional use of \$83,000 in School Fund Balance, resulting in a total reduction of the net budget of \$500,000 and the Town of Scarborough raises as the local share for the Education Operating Budget, the sum of \$38,294,379.

Vote on Amendment: 3 Yeas.

3 Nays [Council Chair Holbrook, Councilors Blaise and Hayes].

Tie Vote, Motion Fails.

Vote on main motion:

Budget Order for Fiscal Year 2016 School Budget

WHEREAS, the Scarborough Town Council adopted FY2016 Operational and Capital Budgets for the Town and the School on May 20, 2015, with the passage of Order No. 15-026; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to State law, the School Budget must be validated by the voters and it failed at a Special Election held on June 9, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council must resubmit an adjusted School Budget to the Voters for validation no less than ten (10) days and no more than forty-five (45) days from June 9, 2015; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the Scarborough Town Council moves approval of the second reading, as amended on June 17th, to adopt the Fiscal Year 2016 School Budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the Scarborough Town Council hereby appropriates, for school purposes, the Education Operating Budget, the sum of **\$43,293,756** and the Town of Scarborough raises as the local share for the Education Operating Budget, the sum of **\$ 38,294,379.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that should it be known before the time of tax commitment that the State of Maine provides additional funds for K-12 education as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, in an amount greater than approved in this order, those funds will be used to reduce the amount of property taxes needed to support this budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Babine - Yea
Councilor Blaise - Nay
Councilor Hayes - Yea

Councilor Donovan - Nay
Council Vice Chair Caterina - Nay
Council Chair Holbrook – Yea

Motion fails due to tie vote.

Motion by Councilor Blaise, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval to reconsider Order No. 15-048.

Vote: 4 Yeas. 2 Nays [Councilors Donovan and Caterina]

Motion fails need vote of 5.

Council Chair Holbrook called for a brief recess. The meeting was reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Donovan, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval to reconsider Order No. 15-048.

Vote: 6 Yeas.

Order No. 15-048, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing and second reading on the proposed FY2016 School Budget. Motion by Councilor Babine, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval of the FY2016 School Budget.

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described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, in an amount greater than approved in this order, those funds will be used to reduce the amount of property taxes needed to support this budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Babine - Yea
Councilor Blaise - Yea
Councilor Hayes - Yea

Councilor Donovan - Nay
Council Vice Chair Caterina - Nay
Council Chair Holbrook – Yea

Item 4. Adjournment. Motion by Councilor Babine, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval to adjourn the special meeting of the Scarborough Town Council.

Vote: 6 Yeas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande P. Justice
Town Clerk