

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**2019-2020 Budget Season
December 17, 2018
7:10 PM**

**SAU 55
30 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH**

Call to Order

Chairman Mascola called this December 17, 2018 meeting of the Timberlane Regional School District Budget Committee to order at 7:10 PM with the roll call.

Roll Call 7:10 PM [00:00:18]

Present: Peter Bealo, Brian Boyle, Alan David, David Gerns, Cathleen Gorman, Julie Hammond, John Hughes, Michael Mascola, Todd McCormick, Phil Sherwood
Business Administrator – Geoff Dowd

Absent: none

Pledge of Allegiance 7:11 PM

Mr. David led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes 7:11 PM [00:01:10]

The minutes for the previous meeting were presented for 12/13/18. John Hughes pointed out that he abstained from 11/29/18 minutes vote. There was no vote due to a page missing from print out; vote will be held to next meeting and will include corrections.

Correspondence 7:14 PM [00:04:17]

There was no correspondence.

Delegations and Individuals

There were no delegations.

Administrative Report

There was no update as news will be shared as meeting proceeds.

Reports of Committees 7:15 PM [00:04:37] (Budget Committee Members, School Board Representative)

School Board Rep:

Mr. Boyle updated the committee and noted that the School Board met tonight to discuss the default budget and voted a number \$70,930,105 and will revisit on Thursday.

Ms. Gorman reminded of the request for information including breakout of teachers' salaries, group insurance, and utilities. She also requested the revenue document and as many budget documents as possible be released in Excel on SharePoint.

A copy of the technology budget was circulated.

Unfinished Business 7:19 PM [00:08:49]

Parking lot – nothing to update.

New Business:

Budget Reviews – Proposed Budget 7:19 PM [00:08:58]

Mr. Mascola reminded the committee of plans to review fuel, salaries and benefits, specifically for Group Insurance, and removing the \$250K from the report. Mr. Dowd reminded that the committee should be reviewing the same report documents from the previous meeting; it was unclear that the committee was looking for a new document for this meeting. Mr. Mascola suggested perhaps a brief summary or something showing a change.

Group Insurance Discussion 7:23 PM [00:13:02]

Mr. Sherwood arrived 7:25 PM.

Mr. Dowd reviewed group insurance line 2900.210 from the Budget-TRSD (page 16). Mr. Dowd explained numbers, exposure, and range. Discussion ensued with questions from all committee members to which Mr. Dowd clarified and answered questions regarding the expected spend. The committee discussed the logic and trends for calculations and actual numbers to reach the proposed number. The board is not looking to make a change to this number now.

Fuel/Energy 7:41 PM [00:30:41]

Mr. Dowd discussed rates for electricity and noted they are more favorable than last year. Mr. Bealo retrieved an average fuel prices for across NH 2014-2018. The committee reviewed lines under 2620 regarding fuel (page 14). Mr. Dowd explained and reviewed the natural gas and electricity lines. Mr. Dowd pointed out fuel oil for 17-18 spend was \$1.61/gallon, but has increased 60% in one year to now \$2.60/gallon range. \$181,200 is okay if it does not go up again.

7:53PM [00:43:23]

Motion to reduce the natural gas line by \$50K, the electricity by \$65K, and the fuel oil by \$60K (total \$175K), made by Ms. Hammond, second by Mr. Mascola. DISCUSSION: Julie reviewing trend and looking to trim the budget. Mr. David pointed out perhaps leaving the oil line alone. Board discussed surplus and energy futures being unstable as well as the high risk and what is considered “noise”. Discussion that the rationale is sound, but reviewing history, committee is comfortable making some reduction, but perhaps not with oil specifically.

8:03 PM [00:53:07]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to amend the original motion, made by Ms. Hammond, second by Mr. Sherwood. The motion passed (8-2-0).

There was further discussion after vote regarding the initial motion regarding the opposition. Chairman reminded of the original motion. The amended motion was meant to replace the original motion. Another vote was called.

8:09 PM [00:59:35]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to reduce the Function ONLY line 2620 by \$115K made by Ms. Hammond, second by Mr. Sherwood. The motion passed (8-2-0).

The committee confirmed so far, down to 71,755,605.62, without salaries, CIP or technology discussion.

Technology:

8:13 PM [01:03:26]

Motion to reduce the technology budget from \$349,725 to \$237,852 (reduction of about \$110K) by Mr. Gerns, second Mr. David. DISCUSSION on the new page (business services). The CIP request is for technology only. The committee has the original technology budget, expecting lowered numbers tonight, however Mr. Ken

Henderson had revised them already to the \$216,500, which matches the CIP. Mr. Henderson's CIP numbers are already reflected with the change. Mr. Gerns does not wish to cut the number further and withdrew his motion with permission from the second.

Salaries: 8:23 PM [01:11:22]

Ms. Gorman recapped that the school board was given a spreadsheet tonight and there Dr. Farrah asked for explanation on how line 1100.112 is operating at \$15,545,000, and also why the requested is \$15,838,000. Ms. Gorman further explained this is a contract year and questioned that this number should remain the same (about 293K difference). Mr. Dowd replied that there are some positions that were held off on filling for the year because it is a default budget year. There was discussion about whether positions should be posted. Mr. Dowd noted that if this is reduced, current positions that are posted will not be funded. Mr. Boyle explained that Dr. Farrah was reading from the general ledger; \$15,545,000 was the balance after the school board transfer. Discussion continued, and Mr. Dowd explained that with default budget, essentially a picture of budget is taken and rolled forward.

Ms. Gorman made a motion and there was discussion: Mr. Dowd and Ms. Gorman discussed positions and posting as well as what is being cut. There was further discussion on what is built in for increases and contractual obligations as well as default budget and moving funds to fill positions. The vote will be on contract and operational budget.

8:35 PM [01:25:25]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to reduce line 1100.112 by \$290K (bringing to \$15,548,000) made by Ms. Gorman, second Mr. David. The motion did not pass (3-7-0).

CIP

Chairman Mascola reminded that there is no change to technology or salaries. Mr. Bealo requested the committee move to CIP. Mr. Dowd clarified that the budget is roughly at \$71,933,700 (not \$71,755,000.). In this budget for CIP, there is \$500K factored (not for technology). Mr. Bealo made a motion and there was discussion about the tours and the 5-year plan as well as things the need to be fixed and perhaps setting up warrant articles for some items.

8:47 PM [01:37:35]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to increase CIP Facilities fixtures and grounds line 4600 by \$434,513 (total \$934,513, the same number as proposed by the School Board) made by Mr. Bealo, second Mr. McCormick. The motion did not pass (4-6-0).

Chairman Mascola recapped that the CIP total is \$500K right now. Discussion continued about warrant articles and projects that should be completed as such and further then questions about consequences and what happens if a warrant doesn't pass and taking risk to count on voters.

9:19 PM [02:08:52]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to level fund SAU budget in absence of a real number from the Board by Mr. Gerns, second by Mr. Bealo. The motion passed (9-1-0).

Revenue Sheet Review

Chairman Mascola recapped that the \$72M number is not far off from what was discussed tonight - \$71,933,700. The committee discussed the other local revenue, food service, federal projects and other gross budgeting. No other questions on income statement. Mr. Mascola also requested that Mr. Dowd please include the most recent proposed budget in Excel on SharePoint.

9:33 PM [02:22:50]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion for the committee to recommend an operating budget of \$71,933,700 made by Mr. Gerns, second by Mr. McCormick. The motion passed (7-3-0).

Future Agenda & Dates

Thursday, December 27, 2018, keeping open in event something may change. Send concerns/hot topics in advance.

Thursday, January 10, 2019 public hearing in PAC, to present the budget.

Adjournment 9:36 PM [02:26:15]

MOTION AND VOTE: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 pm, made by Mr. Gerns, second by Mr. Bealo. The motion passed unanimous (10-0-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah J. Vaira

Approved by the Budget Committee on December 27, 2018.

This meeting can be watched in its entirety at <https://vimeo.com/album/255893/video/307105851>