

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

MEETING MINUTES

**2018-2019 Budget Season
January 11, 2018
9:00pm**

**Timberlane Performing Arts Center
40 Greenough Road
Plaistow, NH**

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 pm

Timberlane Regional School District Chair, Mr. David Gerns, called this January 11, 2018 special meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 9:00pm. This special meeting was called after the Public Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Budget Committee members present: Alan David, Eileen Dube, Lee Dube (vice-chair), David Gerns (chair), Dan Guide (School Board Rep), Julie Hammond, John Hughes, Michael Mascola, Shawn O'Neil, Jim Paul.

Administrators Present:

Dr. Earl Metzler, II, Superintendent of Schools and Geoffrey Dowd, BA/CFO

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2017

MOTION: Motion by Dan Guide to accept the minutes of December 13, 2017 as presented, Second by Michael Mascola. Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0)

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Action on Budget:

MOTION by Dan Guide to accept the Revenue Budget as revised at the Public Hearing, Second by Lee Dube. Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0)

Discussion ensued on the proposed operating budget. Mr. Mascola stated that he felt there was not enough information heard at the public hearing to warrant making a change to the budget. Dan Guide informed the Committee that the School Board had decided against sending the Fiber

Optic project to warrant, and was recommending that the Budget Committee add the funds for the project back into the proposed budget,

MOTION by Dan Guide to add \$220,000.00 to the proposed budget for the fiber optic project. Second by Julie Hammond.

Discussion: Mr. Mascola asked what assurance the Committee had that the funds would be spent on the project. Dr. Metzler and Mr. Guide both stated that the administration and the School Board were committed and the funds would be spent on that project. Mr. O'Neil stated that in the spirit of a flat line budget, the funds could be moved in the proposed budget without affecting the bottom line.

Chairman Gerns called for a vote on the motion. In favor of the motion – Eileen Dube, David Gerns, Dan Guide. Opposed – Jim Paul, Michael Mascola, Shawn O'Neil, Lee Dube, Alan David, John Hughes. Abstention – Julie Hammond (3-6-1) MOTION FAILED

MOTION by Lee Dube to add a line item in the budget for Fiber Optic Project in the amount of \$1.00. Second by Dan Guide.

Mr. Dube explained that if the line is in the budget, then if funds can be found in the budget for the project they can be moved into that line, or grant funds may be received. Mr. O'Neil concurred. Mr. Dowd explained that the district was going to receive a discount on the project, which the vendor would recoup from a federal agency. Mr. Mascola asked why a line item in the budget was needed. Mr. Dube stated that a line item calls out the purpose. Mr. Paul stated that it would signal intention with greater transparency. Mr. O'Neil stated that there may already be a line available with a \$1.00 budget that can be used. Dr. Metzler stated that the fiber optic project is a priority and a goal, and that the support of the project is appreciated even if it is conceptual support.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Dube.

Mr. Dowd stated that his concern was that the fiber project would be a capital expense and that if funds were transferred into a line they would have to be transferred from another capital line. Further discussion ensued.

MOTION by Mr. Dube that the Budget Committee support the installation of fiber optics without impact to the proposed budget, and further that the Committee suggest to the School Board that funds be allocated for the project from within the proposed 2018-19 operating budget. Second by Mr. Paul. Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0)

Discussion ensued on the legality of the Budget Committee taking a recommendation action on warrant articles before the School Board has created the warrant. After discussion, it was decided that the Budget Committee would meet to make its recommendations on January 18th during a recess of the School Board meeting, thus allowing their meeting to be Livestreamed. Dr. Metzler will coordinate with the School Board Chair.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS:

None

MOTION by Mr. Dube to adjourn, Second by Mr. O'Neil. Motion passed unanimously (10-0-0)

Meeting adjourned 9:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lorna Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lorna Walker
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Budget Committee March 29, 2018.