

**TIMBERLANE REGIONAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow, Sandown**  
**New Hampshire**

Regular Meeting  
December 23, 2014  
7:00 PM

SAU 55 Office  
30 Greenough Road  
Plaistow, NH

**Call to Order (00:00:09)**

Chairman Grosky called the meeting of the Timberlane Regional Budget Committee to order at 7:05 PM. Roll call was taken.

**Board Members Present (00:00:18)**

Mr. Spero, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Horns, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Geary, Mr. Cantone, Ms. Gorman (7:10 pm), Mr. Green and Mr. Blair, School Board Representative.

**Administrators Present**

Mr. George Stokinger, Business Administrator  
Dr. Earl Metzler, Superintendent of Schools

**Pledge of Allegiance (00:00:49)**

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes (00:01:09)**

**Mrs. O'Neil motioned to approve the minutes of December 11, 2014 and was seconded by Mr. Heffernan. Corrections were made and by consensus, the minutes were approved.**

**Correspondences (00:03:18)**

Mr. Stokinger reported a few correspondences were received. The Budget Committee correspondence folder was sent around for all committee members to review.

**Delegations and Individuals (00:03:28)**

Mr. Broad, TTA Union Representative, was present to report his concerns about the possibility of drastic cuts made by the Budget Committee in the 2015-2016 proposed budget.

**Administrative Report (00:06:00)**

None

**Report of Committees**

**Budget Committee Members (00:06:49)**

Mrs. O'Neil reported the Danville Budget Committee members, School Board members and State Reps were asked to attend the Selectmen's meeting in Danville this week.

**School Board Representative**

Mr. Blair reported the TSSU two year contract has been ratified by the School Board and the TSSU union and will be on the ballot in March.

**Unfinished Business (00:07:48)**

None

**New Business**

**2015-2016 Budget (00:07:55)**

Mr. Stokinger reported on the proposed Budget for \$68,078,927 with changes made since the last meeting of the Budget Committee. He stated that 4.40 FTE positions were re-instated in the proposed budget as well as benefits associated with them. Additional items added back into the proposed budget were the Sandown North Sprinkler System (\$265,000) and playground expansion (\$90,000). **Ms. Gorman motioned the Budget Committee move forward with the first draft of the proposed budget with cuts made per the Budget Committee at the last meeting and not with Draft 3, as presented. Her motion was seconded by Mr. Green.** Discussion was made regarding the Budget Committee leaving Sandown Central funding in the proposed budget and the School District administration not making those same changes. Mrs. O'Neil stated the budget is a bottom line budget and the

School Board and administration can spend the funds however they see fit. She continued, ultimately it doesn't really make a difference where we make the cuts/additions to the proposed budget. Discussion continued. **Mr. Heffernan motioned to move the question and was seconded by Mrs. O'Neil. Vote on moving the Question: Unanimous. Vote on the original motion made by Ms. Gorman. Vote: two in favor; Ms. Gorman, Mr. Green, eight opposed; Mr. Spero, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Horns, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Geary, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Blair. The motion failed.**

**Mr. Heffernan motioned and was seconded by Mr. Spero to move forward with Draft 3 as presented at \$68,078,927.27 for discussion. Mr. Green motioned and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to amend the motion to \$64,940,900 as the bottom line budget.** Mr. Green explained his reasons for this amendment. Part of Mr. Greens cuts involved \$18,000 he believed was included to pay the PR consultant for 2015-2016. Mr. Grosky stated his wife has that PR contract and he would be recusing himself from the discussion and vote. Dr. Metzler reported there are no funds in the 2015-2016 budget for the PR consultant. The account number used in the current budget to pay for the PR consultant is 2319.890 School Board miscellaneous. No decision has been made regarding the PR consultant for 2015-2016. Mr. Grosky stated, in light of that information, he would not recuse himself from the conversation or vote. **Vote on Mr. Greens amendment; 2 in favor; Ms. Gorman and Mr. Green, 8 opposed; Mr. Spero, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Horns, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Geary, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Blair. The amendment failed. The budget is still at the \$68,078,927.27 amount.**

Mr. Grosky brought up for discussion the Sandown North sprinkler system installation for \$265,000. He questioned why the lack of a sprinkler system was not brought forward during the fall tours or from the facilities committee recommendations. Discussion was made regarding what the sprinklers would protect i.e. property versus people. Mr. Grosky also questioned why the sprinkler installation would not be a separate warrant article? Discussion continued.

**Mr. Green motioned to amend and was seconded by Ms. Gorman, to remove \$389,298.85 to restore the votes taken at the last meeting regarding the removal of new vacant positions. The new budget amount would be \$67,689,628.42.** Discussion ensued regarding various positions and what duties the Principal of Sandown Central would hold, if his position remains in the budget and Sandown Central is closed. **Vote on Mr. Green's amendment; 3 in favor; Mr. Green, Mr. Horns and Ms. Gorman. 7 against; Mr. Spero, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Geary, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Blair. The amendment failed. The budget amount remains at \$68,078,927.27.**

Mr. Cantone and Ms. Gorman brought up for discussion the number of expense lines that were considerably over a 20% increase from the 2014 expenditures to the 2016 proposed budget. Mr. Cantone questioned if any of the line items were cut? They had not been. Dr. Metzler stated there was a freeze on expenditures in 2013-2014 to increase the surplus to reduce the tax rates.

**Mr. Horns motioned to amend and was seconded by Ms. Gorman, to reduce the budget by the \$90,000 for the Sandown North playground expansion.** Mr. Horns explained his reasons for making the motion. The new budget amount would be \$67,988,927.27. Dr. Metzler stated he received this request from parents. Mr. Hughes stated the Pollard PTA paid for some upgrades done to the Pollard playground. **Vote on Mr. Horns amendment; 5 in favor, Mr. Horns, Mr. Green, Ms. Gorman, Mr. Geary and Mr. Heffernan, 4 opposed, Mr. Grosky, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Spero, and Mr. Blair, 1 abstention; Mr. Cantone. The motion passed.** Dr. Metzler clarified that just because the Budget Committee has removed \$90,000 from the bottom line, it does not mean the expansion of the Sandown North playground will not happen.

Discussion was made regarding whether the School Board has decided to close Sandown Central or not. Mr. Grosky stated, from his viewing of the last School Board meeting, that it appeared to him the School Board was leaning towards that, however no official vote had been taken, other than to support the proposed budget that is reduced by the cost savings associated with closing Sandown Central.

**Mr. Grosky motioned to amend and was seconded by Ms. Gorman, to reduce the proposed budget by \$50,000 which reflects the technology specialist and accompanying benefits.** Mr. Grosky explained his reasons for this amendment. Discussion ensued. **Vote on Mr. Grosky's amendment; 5 in favor, Mr. Green, Mr. Grosky, Ms. Gorman, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Horns, 5 against; Mr. Geary, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Blair and Mr. Spero. The motion failed. The budget remains at \$67,988,927.27.**

**Mr. Geary motioned to amend and was seconded by Ms. Gorman to remove \$265,000 for the Sandown North sprinkler system installation from the proposed budget.** The new budget amount would be

\$67,723,927.27. Mr. Geary stated his reasons for making the amendment. Discussion ensued. Ms. Gorman stated the math program is still in the budget for both this year and next year which is enough to cover this expense. Dr. Metzler stated that if this amount is cut from the proposed budget, then it will be funded by surplus which will cause an increase in taxes. Mr. Grosky stated either way it is funded, it will still affect the tax rates. **Vote on Mr. Geary's amendment; 6 in favor Mr. Geary, Mr. Green, Mr. Grosky, Ms. Gorman, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Horns, 4 opposed; Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Blair and Mr. Spero. The motion passed. The new proposed budget amount is \$67,723,927.27.**

**Mr. Geary motioned to move Mr. Heffernan's original motion to approve the budget and send it to Public Hearing. Mr. Spero seconded the motion. Vote on motion to move the question; 7 in favor; Mr. Geary, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Grosky, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Blair, Mr. Spero and Mr. Horns, 3 against; Mr. Green, Ms. Gorman and Mr. Cantone. Vote on the original motion, reduced to \$67,723,927.27, 8 in favor; Mr. Geary, Mrs. O'Neil, Mr. Grosky, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Blair, Mr. Spero, Mr. Cantone and Mr. Horns, 2 opposed; Mr. Green and Ms. Gorman. The motion passed with a bottom line budget of \$67,723,927.27 to be moved to the Public Hearing.**

**Other Business (02:19:36)**

None

**Future Agenda and Dates (02:19:53)**

Thursday January 15, 2015 Public Hearing, 7:00 pm at PAC

Thursday January 22, 2015 Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm at SAU

Thursday February 5, 2015 Deliberative Session, 7:00 pm at TRHS Gym

Thursday February 12, 2015 Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm at SAU

Thursday March 26, 2015 Organizational Meeting followed by Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm at SAU

Thursday April 9, 2015, Regular Meeting, 7:00 pm at SAU

**Adjournment (02:20:26)**

**Mr. Heffernan motioned and was seconded by Mr. Spero to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.**

**Vote: Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Smith

Approved 01/15/2015