

**Municipal Budget Committee
December 10, 2009
MINUTES**

Call to Order

5:55 pm: Chairman~ James Spillane called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Spillane asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

James Spillane~ Chairman, Don Daley~ Vice Chairman, Richard Pitman, Peter Menard, Harriet Cady and Kevin Briggs

Absent:

Liz Murphy, Tom Dillon & Bill Carbonneau

Also Present:

Bonnie Beaubien~ School Board Representative and Peter Warburton~ Superintendent for Schools

Update from School Board:

Chairman Spillane informed the School Board Representatives that Tom Dillon, who was unable to attend, requested to see a breakdown of payroll and benefits included in the information provided to the Municipal Budget Committee (MBC).

Superintendent for Schools/SAU #53, Peter Warburton would like to come in this year and do a presentation with a slide show. They have an agenda to go through each section and to answer any questions the MBC may have. He informed the MBC that the School Board is going to have a meeting where they make their final changes on their budget and he will forward the final version via email as soon as it is ready.

Peter Menard referred to having a projected student enrollment last year and asked if there was any for this coming year. Mr. Warburton replied that they would most like mimic the packet from last year and will add any new items the MBC would like to see. He stated that they would like to make these type of preparation meetings an annual event. Harriet Cady asked if they will receive the number of program teachers, special education teachers and the number of special education students. Mr. Warburton confirmed that those numbers would be provided. The MBC decided that if there is a 5% increase or decrease they would require backup explaining the change.

Bonnie Beaubien noted an example of the tutoring service line (Page 3 of 11), which says it went from \$298.00 to \$750.00, explaining that there was a substantial increase in tutoring. She questioned if that backup provided was a sufficient amount of information they would require. It was decided that it would vary for each situation and at times it may be predictions that are noted as the backup.

Peter Menard asked what stimulus money is coming into the Deerfield School District. It was decided that this will be addressed next Tuesday. Harriet Cady referred to a "smart program" for when a student is expelled/ suspended from Concord High and asked if Deerfield gets a rebate on their tuition when they are not in school. Mr. Warburton confirmed that suspended students are still part of the school program; they are still allowed to do work and make up work, as being suspended means they are not able to be on school property but are still a member of that school.

Vice Chairman Don Daley asked if there was going to be any more warrant articles presented besides the new contract. Bonnie Beaubien replied that they will not know the total of warrant articles till January 5th (one is the para educators contract and another is the teachers contract). Mr. Warburton confirmed that they will come with plenty of backup information. Chairman Spillane asked if there are federal government incentive programs that Deerfield can apply for. Mr. Warburton said they have looked into grants; for example a science and technology grant. They also met with the SAU #53's Commission of Education to discuss race to the top money.

Chairman Spillane asked if grant money was paid out by a certain formula and if Deerfield is a major contributor to the SAU, would the town get major grant money back or does it have to be divided with the other schools even if they do not pay the SAU as much as Deerfield does. Mr. Warburton replied that it really depends on the grants and the participants, as well as why they are there (each grant has different formula).

Mrs. Cady is concerned that the grants go out there (founded for one year or three years at a reduced amount each year), but come back on the tax payers to pick it up. As a taxpayer, she does not see the budgets go down in the amount of the grant. She explained that if we put in a \$100,000.00 grant next year and it is part of the budget going up that much because we had the \$100,000.00 but do not have the grant anymore; voting to get a grant may not always be a good thing if we end up having a program that we didn't intend to pay for.

Mrs. Cady stated that the Deerfield Community School opened with 580 students in 1992 and last year they had 499. She further stated that they have more classrooms now, have added three modulars and the budget has doubled for fewer students. Chairman Spillane added that for three years now they have been told that it is cheaper to maintain the modulars then to find out if they need them in the future and put new ones in, even

though the class sizes now do not require us to have them. He stated that the Town has budgeting to maintain them and keep them, but the question is to when they would decide it's cost effective to get rid of them. He feels the projected future class size, the need of those modular units, the continuation of the lease on those units and whether or not it would be more cost effective to wash our hands of those units need to be addressed. Mrs. Cady stated that she went to the State Planning Office (who uses the Census figures) she found that the kinder population has decreased by 2,250 statewide in the last year. She feels that what is happening in Rockingham County needs to be asked. She noted that the population in New Hampshire has decreased. Chairman Spillane asked if Peter Menard, as a realtor, could come up with projection numbers of what is going to happen in the next few years regarding the population. Southern New Hampshire Planning uses the Office of State Planning projections (who use Census figures). Mrs. Cady said legislature has put hold on building aid which will hurt some towns.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Citizen's Comments:

None

Adjourned

6:33pm

MOTION: Richard Pittman made a Motion to adjourn.

SECONDED: Vice Chairman, Don Daley seconded the Motion.

VOTE: Chairman Spillane took a Vote to adjourn. It was a Vote in Favor.

*The Minutes were Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Nese Farrell, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Municipal Budget Committee*