

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 13, 2011
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

6:00 pm Chairman Don Daley called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Chairman Daley asked all to rise and pledge allegiance to the flag

Roll Call:

Present:

Don Daley, Chairman; Kevin Chalbeck, Fred McGarry, Tom Dillon, and Dick Pitman Committee Members; Steve Barry, Selectman; Maryann Clark, School Board Representative

Excused: James Spillane, Vice Chair; Liz Murphy & Kevin Verville Committee Members

Absent: H. Cady Committee Member

Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2011

Chairman Daley has received the minutes from December 10, 2011 today and will distribute to the Committee Members to review. The MBC will address formally at the next meeting.

Old Business

D. Daley noted that the bottom line voted on by Committee Members at the 12/10 meeting was off by \$30 in the Advertising line. The bottom line was given as \$3,432,183, should have been \$3,432,213.

Motion: Selectman Barry made a motion to approve the corrected total Town budget bottom line of \$3,432,213

Second: D. Pitman

Vote: Yea: 6, Nay: 1, Abstained: 0 – Motion Carries

Receipt of the 2012-2013 School Budget

School Board Representative M. Clark presented the Committee with an overview of the proposed 2012-2013 School Appropriation. The total proposed amount is \$11,866,749, a decrease of \$58,274 from the 2011-2012 calendar year. The default budget amount will be \$11,840,047. Potential impact on the tax rate, if no surpluses are returned to the Town from this year, would be \$1.02/thousand. It was also highlighted that there has been a significant drop in the State Source Revenues under the Catastrophic Aide line. That figure is tied directly to out of district placements and as that number has gone down so too has the aide. M. Clark drew the Committee's attention to the information including the 2013 Projected Tuition Costs, SAU 53 Shared Costs, the Deerfield Community School Proposed Roster, including both certified and non-certified individuals, the Enrollment projections and the overall proposed budget.

M. Clark pointed out that the Special Placements line is down significantly, along with the Special Education Busing line. D. Pitman noted that the Attorney Bill for the 2010-2011 school year was very high and now has dropped back off. M. Clark wasn't sure what she could legally elaborate on that, but did say that it is an issue that has been resolved. K. Chalbeck noted that several lines that have historically been funded at \$1 now have funds in them, in example the Tutor line under Regular Programming and Separation line under Benefits. He would like to see details explaining those increases. M. Clark will research. K. Chalbeck also noted a large increase in the benefits line. Is that related to the contract? M. Clark was not sure, but will get additional supporting detail. K. Chalbeck would like to know of any positions that were added during the 2011-2012 school year and also any that are proposed for the coming 2012-2013 year. M. Clark confirmed that she will check, she is aware of a PT Secretarial position that is in the budget, but not in the default budget.

M. Clark informed the board that the Collective Bargaining Agreement has been reached with the Teachers and Paras and those were ratified yesterday and today respectively. Numbers are not yet available and she is hesitant to provide the MBC with estimates, but for the teachers there is a 2 year contract with language changes. In year 1 of the contract there will be a 1 step

increase for everyone scale and a 1.5% increase for those not on (or at the highest rung) of the step scale. The same will apply in year 2. K. Chalbeck said that he believes it was shown in the 2011 contract that 1 step is the equivalent to a 5 or 6% salary increase. Is this still the same for the proposed contracts? M. Clark will do the math and provide, she noted that this is not a structure unique to Deerfield, but is consistent across the towns. K. Chalbeck said he understands, but wants to be clear that a step is a significant bump.

For the Para's there is a 2 year contract where year 1 will represent 1 step + 1% and the same will apply in year 2. Additionally they have changed the language in the Health Insurance Buyback program. Previously individuals needed to have been covered in order to qualify for the buyback, the new contract removed that language so that anyone can take advantage of the buy back. Dollar amounts are \$250 in year 1, \$500 in year 2 and \$700 at 3 years. There was a straw poll conducted and all 17 of the individuals affected indicated that they would take the buy back, translating into an estimated \$11,900 in buy back costs. T. Dillon noted that the Health Insurance line is up \$82,000 and asked if any of that increase had been addressed in the contracts. M. Clark said not at the moment. T. Dillon noted that last year the budget was presented to the Town with a \$0 impact under the Teachers Buy Back Line as individuals were unwilling to put a figure there, he would like to know how many are taking advantage of the program and how much the teacher buy out is costing. He feels that number is one that should be able to be calculated. M. Clark will try to get supporting data, but noted that one individual dropping insurance coverage could mask a number of individual taking the buyout.

Chairman Daley re-confirmed that for the next meeting the School Board will have some sort of comparative cost between the current contracts and those being presented for 2012-2013. T. Dillon clarified that he is looking to know how many people took the buyout. M. Clark confirmed and will also get copies of the contracts before the January meeting. If there are any particular areas of concern please let Chairman Daley know so that he can make M. Clark aware of the key areas of questioning.

New Business: None

Citizens' Comments: None

Adjournment

6:35 pm

Motion: Selectman Barry

Second: D. Pitman

All in favor – Motion Carries

The Minutes were Recorded, Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katie Libby.
Pending Approval by the Municipal Budget Committee