

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH**  
**MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
George B. White Building  
8 Raymond Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037

**January 12, 2021 7:00 PM via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Public Hearing**

**Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:00 PM**

**Roll Call: Present** - Herman Pretorius (Chair), Andrew Robertson, Zach Langlois,  
Phil Bilodeau, JoAnne Bradbury, Jocelyn Messier, Maureen Quinn

**Not Present** - Bill Von Hassel (Vice-Chair, excused), Terry Roy (unexcused)

**Presentation of Town Budget, Warrant Articles, and Default Budget:**

Mr. Pretorius read each of the Warrant Articles and Mr. Robertson & Mr. Harrington provided comments on them. Mr. Pretorius also noted that the proposed budget for the Town is an increase of approximately \$582,000 or 15% from last year, and that the Town has been operating on a default budget for several years.

**Public Comments Regarding Town Budget, Warrant Articles, and Default Budget:**

Harriet Cady had questions with regard to the budgets for elections, increases to the police department budget, and in regards to Warrant Article 6, pointed out that when the town of Raymond made their road agent a hired position instead of elected, the salary for that position doubled.

Kevin Verville stated that the 15% increase to the budget is not modest, as the Chair stated. Mr. Verville also commented on the efficiency of the MBC recommending the school budget in under one hour. Mr. Verville is also happy to see Warrant Article 2 being brought back to the table.

**Presentation of the School Budget, Warrant Articles, and Default Budget:**

Mr. Langlois read the one Warrant Article for the School and explained major increases and what will be cut if the proposed budget is not passed.

**Public Comments Regarding the School Budget, Warrant Articles, and Default Budget:**

Mr. Verville stated that the proposed school budget is double the rate of inflation, due to generous contracts for teachers and paras that was passed by the voters in the last few years. He stated that there will be several more years of rapidly growing budgets to cover salaries and benefits. Mr. Verville also again pointed out that the MBC spent less than one hour on a budget of more than \$15,000,000, which doesn't sit well with him. Mr. Verville finds it disappointing that systemic cost increases are built into the budget, and that due to this, defaults will likely prevail, and as a result direct student services, such as textbooks and supplies, will be reduced to pay for salaries and benefits.

Ms. Beaubien spoke as a member of the public, not as a representative of the MBC. She reminded everyone that investing in teachers is an important investment as they are the backbone of the educational system.

Ms. Messier spoke as a member of the public, not as representative of the MBC. She wondered why people who want to be compensated equitably for their work would question paying teachers equitably for their work.

Mr. Verville took offense to Ms. Messier's remarks and said he had been mischaracterized by those remarks and that he takes umbrage to that.

Mr. Pretorius reminded Mr. Verville that Ms. Beaubien and Ms. Messier were speaking as members of the public, not as representatives of the MBC, and that both women are entitled to their opinions as members of the public.

Ms. Cady asked questions regarding how many students are currently enrolled and how many teachers, paras, specialists are currently employed. Mr. Langlois answered her questions.

Seeing no further comments from the public, Mr. Pretorius moved to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:43 PM.

**Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:43 PM.**

These minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Tina St. Peter,  
Recording Secretary  
Pending approval by the Municipal Budget Committee

