

Merrimack School District Budget Committee
Minutes
February 14, 2017

Present: K. Bobbitt, H. Gage, J. Guagliumi, S. Heinrich, D. Illg, S. Jacoby, C. Lang (by telephone) and School Board liaison N. Schoenfeld.

Excused: J. Hanson and C. Mower

Also present: Superintendent M. Chiafery, Assistant Superintendent Dr. M. McLaughlin, and School Business Administrator M. Shevenell

S. Heinrich called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. and asked N. Schoenfeld to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Lang joined the meeting by telephone at this time and told the Committee she was in Satellite Beach, Florida and was alone.

Warrant Article Review

S. Heinrich said the Committee could only vote recommendations on articles that had funding attached to them.

Article 3: Paving at the High School

M. Shevenell told the Committee that this article was a continuation of a paving project that was discussed as part of the Maintenance operating budget. Warrant article review:

Discussion included the following:

- The District will put the entire project out to bid, using a Request for Proposals created in conjunction with Keach Associates and hoping for at least three bids.
- The District estimated the cost in the warrant article for the project using the Town of Merrimack's rate for labor and materials.
- There is \$38,000 in the operating budget for paving the road on the east side of the high school. The warrant article paves the rest of the road around the building, including the front of the building.
- If the warrant article fails, the District can still use the money in the operating budget for that specific portion of paving.
- The project in the warrant article is needed, but not essential; however, doing both projects together will cost less than doing one now and one later.

Article 4: Asbestos Removal

M. Shevenell told the Committee this was the last asbestos removal project and that \$45,000 of the article was to replace cabinetry in the Family Consumer Science classrooms at the high

school. He said the cabinets were in bad shape and had to be moved in order to remove the asbestos tiles in those rooms so it is a good time to replace them. There were no Committee questions or comments.

Article 5: School District Repair Fund

M. Shevenell told the Committee this article requests \$75,000 or 10% of surplus from this year's budget to be deposited in the School District Repair Fund. He said this fund has been used in the past to pay for emergency boiler repairs and other unanticipated repair projects.

Discussion included the following:

- The current balance in the Repair Fund is \$150,000.
- The District would like the balance of this Fund to be between \$225,000 and \$250,000.

K. Bobbitt asked for an update on a new athletic field at the high school. M. Shevenell, N. Schoenfeld and S. Heinrich provided the following information:

- A charge regarding turf fields has been given to the School District Planning and Building Committee.
- The track was replaced over the summer as part of the default budget.
- A turf field would cost \$1.5 million dollars.
- The School Board is looking for alternative funding options.
- The School Board had other priorities for this year and moved replacing the field to a future year in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Article 6: Operating Budget

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to propose an operating budget of \$73,673,057 to the Public Hearing. Second: J. Guagliumi. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 0.

S. Heinrich recessed the meeting at 7:33 P.M until after the Public Hearing.

S. Heinrich reconvened the meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Work Session

Operating Budget

S. Heinrich asked if any member of the Committee had any adjustments to the operating budget to propose. No one did.

S. Heinrich asked if any member of the Committee had any comments on the operating budget.

C. Lang asked what the impact to the tax rate of the proposed budget was. M. Shevenell said that increase will be \$41.81 for each \$100,000 of valuation.

S. Heinrich made a MOTION to recommend an operating budget of \$73,673,057 with a default budget \$73,738,838. Second: H. Gage.

Discussion included the following:

- The operating budget was up 1.9%, which is close to the rate of inflation and is essentially level funded.
- The increases in the budget are in areas that the School District has no control over.
- The proposed budget is less than the default budget.

A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 3

K. Bobbitt made a MOTION to recommend Article 3. Second: H. Gage.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 4

S. Jacoby made a MOTION to recommend Article 4. Second: K. Bobbitt.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. J. Guagliumi asked why asbestos removal had been spread over so many years. M. Shevenell said when asbestos had been identified as a health hazard, the district examined all properties to determine asbestos and evaluate condition. Removal is costly, so a schedule of removal projects was set up for several years based on priority, location and condition.

A roll call vote was held. MOTION PASSED: 7 – 0 – 0.

Article 5

S. Jacoby made a MOTION to recommend Article 5. Second: K. Bobbitt.

S. Heinrich asked if there was any discussion. There was none. A roll call vote was held.

Other

S. Heinrich said the next meeting will be March 8, 2017, immediately after the Deliberative Session. He said if any article on which the Committee has voted a recommendation is amended, the Committee will revisit its recommendations. In addition, he said the Committee needs to approve meeting minutes.

S. Heinrich reminded the members that Filing Period is February 22nd to March 3rd. He said there were four three-year seats up for election as well as three open seats: two two-year seats and one one-year seat.

S. Heinrich thanked the members for doing their jobs.

C. Lang left the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

S. Jacoby made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Second: J. Guagliumi. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

S. Heinrich adjourned the meeting at 8 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Heinrich