

**Hill Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019**

Present: Paul Meyerhoefer, Denise Robie, Kristen Cunningham, Jerry Desrochers, Bill Wilson, Charlie Henry, Shelly Henry (School Board), Mike Brady (Selectman)

Absent: Charlie Estes, Eric Herr, Tom Seymour

Public: Michele Munson (Superintendent), Mike Limanni (Part-Time Business Administrator), Caitlin Davis (Dept. of Ed. - Director, Division of Education, Analytics & Resources), Shaun Bresnahan, Paula McDonough

Meeting Business

Jerry Desrochers called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Minutes from the 1/10/19 mtg. were distributed. Mike Brady made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Denise seconded, vote was seven in favor with one abstaining

New Business

Caitlin Davis from the Dept. of Ed. presented information on how the state determines the cost of an adequate education for a student.

When Adequate Education Funding started in 2008 the Base Aid amount was \$3,450/student. In 2019 it is currently \$3,636/student. Every two years the base per student cost and additional costs for certain students are adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index.

Caitlin provided specific information on the formula the state uses to determine the Total Education Grant the town receives. It is calculated on the average daily membership (ADM) for the town. ADM is based on where the student lives and applies only to those students receiving public education (not for those being home schooled or those attending charter or private schools).

SPED Eligible applies only to students who have an IEP, not to those that have a 504 Plan.

TGR Eligible (Third Grade Reading Level) is available one time only and only if the student isn't eligible for Free and/or Reduced lunch, as an English Language Learner, or for Special Education.

The Stabilization Grant (established in 2012) is added to the Preliminary Grant and helps to determine the Total Education Grant. Currently the amount of Stabilization Grant the town receives is being decreased by 4% each yr. over the course of 25 yrs. until a \$0 balance of the original amount is reached. At this rate, a \$0 balance will be reached in 2041.

The Total Education Grant is the amount the state cuts a check to the town for. This money is distributed four times/yr. (Sept. 1st = 20%, Nov. 1st = 20%, Jan. 1st = 30%, April 1st = 30%).

Students in Kindergarten only count as ½ b/c the state only requires a town to provide a ½ day of Kindergarten. With the adoption of Keno last year those towns that provide full day Kindergarten receive an additional \$1,100/student.

Michele Munson reviewed and explained the differences between the school's 2018-19 budget and the proposed 2019-20 budget in order to provide the Budget Committee with information that would help them determine their recommendation for the amount to be presented at the public hearing on Feb. 13th.

She and Mike Limanni reviewed and explained the differences between the current and proposed Administrative Model.

Michele indicated that there would be Warrant Articles for SPED, Building & Maintenance, Capital Reserve Funds, and the elimination of the Capital Reserve Funds for Building Construction and Heating/Boiler Services.

Mike Brady moved for the Budget Committee to recommend \$2,036,000 plus grants to be determined, Bill Seconded, vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed

Jerry requested that the school provide the Budget Committee with the grant amounts and proposed Warrant Articles before the town public hearing on Feb. 6th.

Mike Brady requested that a breakdown of the \$123,000 underrun of the total \$176,000 underrun be made available at the Feb. 13th public hearing.

Jerry suggested that the Budget Committee hold off on discussion of its role in municipal financial management throughout the year and also meeting more frequently after Town Meeting (March-October) until Charlie Estes was present.

Old Business

Bill Wilson presented information on the Sidewalk Petition Warrant Article. It looks to create an Expendable Trust Fund to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the repair and/or replacement of sidewalks in the Village.

Mike Brady indicated that there would be additional town Warrant Articles for Capital Reserve Funds and Replenishment of the Emergency Repair & Replacement Funds.

Jerry pointed out that there were some numbers missing from the YTD Revenue Comparison/Net Income.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristen Cunningham