

**Hill Budget Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2020**

**DRAFT COPY**

**Present:** Tom Seymour (Selectperson), Bill Wilson (Chairperson), Don Meyer, Carol Asher (School Board), Betty Hanks, Paula McDonough, Lee Herterich, Marshall Bennett, Paul Meyerhoefer (Secretary)

**SAU:** Dr. Brian Connelly (Superintendent), Mike Limani (Finance Manager), Joe Mahoney, December Fortin

Bill opened meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Hill School 2021-22 Budget Review**

**2020-21 Budget ( \$ 2,115,527.00 )**

**2021-22 Budget ( \$ 2,134,518.00 )**

Brian lead discussion commented saying largest increase was due to increase in both tuition rates from Newfound School system Elementary tuition rose from ( \$ 14,939.00 ) to ( \$ 16,062 ) with High School rate going from ( \$12,857.00 ) to ( \$ 14,290.00 ) This makes a ( \$ 34,000. ) increase in student tuition.

Food Service increase of ( \$ 3,500.00 ) due to rate increase for cost of filling vacant Food Service position

Increase in Bussing due to no competition for bus company Mike spoke of grouping up with Lakes Region Planning Board to get better pricing which was no help with lowering costs

Several of benefit costs had increases

Mike stated the town school budgets for a zero balance because we have no monies budgeted to a capitol reserve fund and if School needed extra monies an emergency town meeting would have to be held The cost of this meeting would fall on taxpayers There may be a better way to budget than leaving funding to only unreserved fund balances. He talked that contract with Newfound says all extra costs will be billed according to the formula the town agreed to Currant contract is from 2015-2025

Talked on special needs the state mandates the town by law to provide the needs each student All students are given access to special programs once they have been evaluated by a team of consultants from which a plan for the next 3 years is mapped out. This evaluation is monitored on monthly basis to look for changes The school doesn't base budget on Grant Funding Consolidated some positions for a more efficient use of funding Currently the school system is monitoring 22 students with 2 referrals in program

Carol would like conversation on budget to be fair and honest when asking and giving comments to others outside budget meeting Mike stated questions on budget are always good Lee asked what a 10% reduction in budget would mean to budget Brian commented that this amount of cut would gut budget and would mean cuts in staff which may cause the state to get involved.

Don asked if we could go around room and hear comments on school budget proposal

Carol spoke well of the school and the work all have committed to

Betty learned a lot on the budget and is impressed with the schools presentation

Lee has problem with rest of town Things are broken around town and school becomes whipping post for these

Marshall wanted to help town and felt he should start getting involved to help move town forward

Paula not looking to fund wage increases with the thought of saving a teacher position maybe switch increases to every other year

Tom felt school was iatrical part of community makes town more attractive for young families coming into community Raises are a way of showing appreciation for their work

Don would like to spend time on a summary review of how we tell story to town Hill teachers are some of the lowest paid in state we risk losing them

Bill mentioned even with wage increases teachers still remain in the same position very pleased with presentation

Mike was willing to work with town on budget presentation They look and act on budget as a business would rather give small economical increases to offset the cost of hiring a replacement at a huge increase in wages later

Brian recognizes worth of teachers when asking what are they doing in todays classroom? They are heroes for what they do Brian is confident and very excited working at Jeannie Blake the school is positioned for growth positioned to become better and better he said the school is a special place and would be willing to help the town with it's presentation to town by answering any questions on budget

Bill asked of any safety concerns with school? Brian said a new roof is probably the largest ticket item and also looking to replace windows he felt door latching and tile repair should be in mix over time

Approval of October 28 meeting minutes

Tom motion to approve minutes as amended, Carol 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, vote was unanimous 1 abstained

Approval of November 11 meeting minutes

Carol motion to move minutes as amended, Don 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, vote was unanimous 2 abstained

Bill updated on zoom meeting for public hearing with the possibility of purchasing software for this he said need 2 people to run program one to monitor questions from public and Bill would lead meeting

Tom made motion to adjourn Carol 2<sup>nd</sup> motion vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Meyerhoefer

