

**Town of Northwood
Budget Committee Minutes
January 12, 2017**

Chair Dole calls the meeting to order at 7:00

PRESENT: Chair Ginger Dole, Vice-Chair Betsy Colburn, School Board Representative Bree Gunter, Tom Chase, Dan McNally, Bunny Behm, Betty Smith, Dave Ruth, Hal Kreider, Joe McCaffrey, John Boudreau, and Selectmen Representative Scott Bryer

Town Staff Present: Board Administrator Linda Smith and Land Use Secretary Susan Austin.

School Board members present: Keith McGuigan, Shane Wells, Barbie Hartford, Dr. Gadomski, and Marjorie Whitmore.

ABSENT: Excused: Brad Hall. Unexcused: Mike Carlton, John Jacobsmeyer

Work session

Petition Warrant Articles

Article #10

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to remove \$111,007, all cost for the purpose of full day kindergarten from the 2017/18 proposed budget. This does not impact half day kindergarten.

Not recommended by the school board 2/3

Ms. Colburn made a motion to not recommend warrant article 10. Mr. Ruth seconded.

Chair Dole stated that the problem with this article is that the money for the mid-day kindergarten bus was removed from the operating budget, so if this article were to pass, there would not be enough money in the operating budget for the mid-day kindergarten bus.

Petitioners comments:

Tim Jandebuer 33 Welch Road. The school board voted 3/2. I was one of the two no votes. I am speaking as a taxpayer. The specific reason for this petition is the concern how some people want to get to the deliberative session and change petition warrant articles. So, the reason there are two petition warrant articles for both the all-day kindergarten and the curriculum director is to not allow that to happen. I would like to say that this budget committee missed the budget that just ended on June 30 by over \$700,000. There is money in the proposed budget in every single possible corner that is not really spent. So, the reason I'm not concerned about transportation is exactly that. There is a ton of money in that budget.

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Vote 10/2 Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Kreider voted no.

Article #12

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to remove the salary, benefits and associated costs of a full-time Curriculum Director totaling \$122,381 from the 2017/18 proposed budget bringing the entire line 01-2212 to \$0.00.

Not recommended by the school board 2/3

Ms. Colburn made a motion to not recommend warrant article 10. Mr. Ruth seconded.

Petitioners comments:

Tim Jandebuer. The reason for this one is that a few years ago, the joint board had a number of people who wanted a curriculum director. They wanted to split that curriculum director between the three towns. I still feel that it is a wonderful idea. Unfortunately, I was not on the prevailing side. If they had received 1/3 of a curriculum director, they would have had one for 33% of the time. Today they have a curriculum person, not a director. She works two days a week, that's 40% of her work week. The reason this is a warrant article, is that on the one hand, no means no. The town overwhelmingly voted that they did not want a full-time curriculum director. The point here is that we would like to stick with 2/5th curriculum director. They are a small school. They don't need a full-time director.

**Mr. Ruth made a motion, seconded by Ms. Colburn to move to the question.
Vote 12/0 motion carries**

Vote 9/3, Motion carries. Selectman Bryer, Mr. Kreider, and Mr. McCaffrey voted no.

Chair Dole stated that they had to reopen the operating budget because they need to adjust the bottom line because a student is no longer living in Northwood. School board voted for this 5/0.

Ms. Colburn made a motion to reopen the operating budget. Mr. McNally seconded. Vote 12/0, motion carries.

Mr. McNally made a motion to approve the Northwood School District new bottom line of \$11,771,341. Ms. Colburn seconded. Vote 12/0, motion carries.

Chair Dole closes out the work session at 7:54PM

Chair Dole opens the Public Hearing at 7:54PM

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Warrant articles

Article #3

Teacher Contracts

To see if Northwood School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Northwood School Board and the Northwood Teachers' Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year 2018-Estimated Increase \$88,109
Fiscal Year 2019-Estimated Increase \$78,937
Fiscal Year 2020 Estimated Increase \$77,512

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$88,109) for the fiscal 2018 year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in the prior fiscal year.

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 11/1 vote.
tax impact of \$.19 per \$1,000 if this article passes.*

Public comment:

Mary Faiella Old Turnpike Road. I raise this point regularly when there are contract items in the budget. I'd like somehow a way of acknowledging the fact that fiscal year 2019 is really \$88,000 plus \$78,000 and so on. So, the tax impact this year will be .19 per thousand, and the next year would be about .40 per thousand and the following year would be about .60.

Chair Dole stated that she would have to disagree. They are looking at one year right now and they have no way of knowing what the schools proposed budget will be in fiscal year 2019. There could be a radical reduction.

Article #4

Paraprofessional Contracts

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Northwood School Board and the Northwood Educational Support Personnel Association which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

Fiscal Year 2018 estimated increase-\$47,888
Fiscal Year 2017 estimated increase-\$47,796

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Recommended by the school board 4/0/1. Recommended by the budget committee 9/0/1. Tax impact .10.

Public Comment: None

Article #5

High School Tuition Capital Reserve

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to raise and appropriate “up to” Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the High School Tuition Capital Reserve Fund, established in March 2010 for the purpose of funding the tuition payments of Northwood High School students with such amount to be funded from year-end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2017. Current balance at 12/31/16 is \$132,516.46

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 12/0 vote.
There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.*

Public Comment:

Michael Faiella-Old Turnpike Road. Articles 5,6,7 and 8 show no additional tax impact. There may be something about that phrase that is correct, but it is wrong in what it is intended to import. It tends to let people know that their taxes won't go up. But the fact of the matter is, if 5,6,7, and 8 pass, their taxes will be higher than if they did not pass. The wording is wrong in what it is conveying.

Jim Vallencourt 34 Cove Way. The \$132,000 was from an unexpected number of students that went to Coe Brown. Is any of this money which going to be used to offset the extra \$300,000 that came this year?

Dr. Gadomski: That would remain to be seen at the end of the year. At this point, no. We feel that we've got money in our budget to cover that expense. The only time this would be utilized is if we got to the end of the year and we over extended our budget due to the fact we've got additional students going to Coe Brown.

Mary Faiella: Does the committee have a cap for the amount in this particular fund? Why is this money never used?

Dr. Gadomski: The school board has said all along that they wanted to have enough for ten students in that fund. Which is around \$150,000. This money would be utilized if they were in a situation where the budget was spent and they got an influx of students that would cause them to financially not be able to cover that at the end of the year.

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Article #6

Building Capital Improvement

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to raise and appropriate “up to” Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the Building Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing any and all capital improvements to school buildings as well as all or part of the cost of new construction for the Northwood School District, with such amount to be funded from year end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2017. Current balance at 12/31/16 is \$90,912.86.

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 12/0 vote.
There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.*

Public Comment: None

Article #7

Special Education Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to raise and appropriate “up to” Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of meeting the expenses of educating educationally disabled children for the Northwood School District in accordance with the provisions of RSA 35:1-b, with such amount to be funded from year end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2017. Current balance at 12/31/16 is \$75,511.88.

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 12/0 vote.
There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.*

Public Comment: None

Article #8

New England Associations of Schools and Colleges Accreditation

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) for the purpose of the New England Associations of schools and Colleges process with such amount to be funded from year-end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2017.

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 3-2 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 10-0 vote.
There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.*

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Public Comment:

Jim Vaillancourt. Is there a paragraph that the board could provide that would explain this process?

Dr. Gadomski: That the school board had a discussion about doing an educational audit. New England Associations of schools and Colleges accreditation is one way to do that. They come into the school and look at everything they do. In turn, they will write a report in terms of the strengths and needs of the building and staff. That's why we put this together.

Article #10

Remove Full Day Kindergarten from the budget

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to remove \$111,007, all cost for the purpose of full day kindergarten from the 2017/18 proposed budget. This does not impact half day kindergarten.

The School Board does not recommend this appropriation by a 2-3 vote. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation by a 10-2 vote.

Shirley Glennon. It is important to note that our school board is made up of elected members whose mission it is to make decisions in the best interest of our students. The school board meetings are public for the addition of a curriculum director and full day kindergarten have been frequently discussed and open to public comment. The minutes are shared publicly for those who cannot attend. And therefore, nothing was hidden within the budget. Cuts to school resources have been carefully made to create an affordable budget while integrating these desperately needed measures. A well-developed curriculum and the extension to full day kindergarten are the most cost effective, academically beneficial steps to give Northwood students an adequate education. It's discouraging to see many of the same names on these petitions against curriculum director and full day kindergarten. These are the same people that complain time after time that our school is failing and that our students lack proficiency in their studies. This continued obstruction of education is the reason for our lack of progress. This relentless attack on our children is intolerable. A glimmer of hope lies within the dedicated school board members, and the educators, parents, neighbors and friends who value the future of Northwood's children. For those who work so hard to better our school in the face of determined obstructionism and ignorance, who spend their evenings crunching numbers, researching, attending meetings, and listening to those who take the time to come to school board meetings. Your efforts don't go unnoticed. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Together our community can do better.

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Shane Wells, Fiore Road, speaking as a taxpayer. I'd like to talk about assumptions and risk. They go hand in hand. It's fair to say that if you assume something, the inherent side is going to be risk. Throughout most of his first year on the school board, He's heard so many different things. But so much more in the past month dealing with the budget. One major thing is the risk the school board took by placing the full-time kindergarten and full time curriculum director in the budget. Some say we are hiding. The risk that we are facing today is shown as we see all the petition articles. So, what was the assumption? Well, there's risk there's always someone that assumes something. How did the board come up with this assumption that the full-time curriculum and the full-time kindergarten is what the school needs and why it needs to go into the budget? Let me explain. I assume that the towns people voted that the full-time kindergarten and the full-time curriculum director in the past warrant articles failed because they did not want the tax rate to go up and to spend money. I had assumed that it was not because they hate kids and they do not want growth for our children. I will admit maybe some think that way, but most have good faith and want the best for our kids. The reason why full-time kindergarten and full time curriculum director failed over the years is financial reasons, and not for the growth of our children. The vote was close once, and got worse. But those that voted no, let me ask you something. Do you want to see growth in our children, so they can have a future better than ours? Is it not what true leadership is, to be given something and then give it back better than you received it? That is my goal as a school board member and a member of this community. To leave it easier for the next person. Building growth in the community by building a stronger education that is respected. I'm going to call out a few people in a good way. Joe McCaffrey, was it not you I was talking to during election day last year about what the school needs. We talked for a good twenty minutes about modeling our school after Canterbury. Because they have one of the highest-ranking schools in the state. We also talked about being fiscally conservative. Have not the school board done that? We have presented you a budget that assists us in growth in education, which you wanted, and we saved you money by presenting a budget lower than the default. I have met every expectation that you demanded of me. We have done our jobs. Tim Jandebuer, I heard you say that you are against full time kindergarten but you would only vote for it if it was done correctly. I can guarantee you that this board will do full time kindergarten correctly. If you want to be on the hiring process, you can hire the kindergarten teacher. You and I have the power to make sure we hold the SAU and the administration accountable to make sure full time kindergarten worked. Do you ever think about the assumptions of those who voted no? And I know you don't hate the kids. You are a huge supporter of making Northwood school great. You have fought for seamless K-8 programs, and it baffles me that you're not with us.

Ms. L. Smith asked if he was speaking on behalf of the school board.

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Mr. Wells stated that he was speaking for himself.

I, Shane Wells, who is on the Northwood school board, have done a fantastic job. I want the best for the children and like I said and need to repeat something. We have to assume that we all want the best for our children. They slashed the budget to make that happen. Hatred towards education for children is just wrong. There is nothing more important than giving a child a chance.

Tiffany Fuller, Princess Pine. I want to thank the school board who are supporting the full day kindergarten and have tried to make multiple attempts to get it presented and approved. I am in favor of full day kindergarten for a few reasons. One being that I has a child who has gone through full day kindergarten and I have been able to see the benefits of it. For the naysayers who think it's just baby sitting and coloring, it's not. I had a child enter first grade that was doing math and could read well about his first-grade peers here in Northwood. So, there is something to be said for that. This isn't anything innovative by proposing full day kindergarten. This is happening all over the nation. Our governor supports it. I appreciate the board members for trying to get this funded. I will be voting for this. If the voters are not interested in what's best for the school or the children, consider this; there is a reason houses sell in towns where the school is rated higher.

Deborah Locke. This is not just a town problem, this is a state problem. On channel nine news, tonight, they were talking about case studies have shown there is no proof that this is beneficial for the children. It wasn't that many years ago, that a teacher came to me and said that the only reason for kindergarten was to separate a child from his parent. What happened to that? Are we putting too much pressure on these kids? I personally don't feel that it is right because they are little babies. They are 5 and 6 years old. That 6-hour day is just too long for separation. I had a mother tell me the other day that her kid is going to the bathroom in his pants because the pressure that's been put on him at school. He had to be put into a special program because of the stress of it all. We are expecting too much from these kids. My only question about the budget is what happened to the \$296,000 that we stopped paying for the gym?

Chair Dole: Very simply, the \$296,000 was used up and then some by the additional 16 students that were going into Coe Brown.

Mike Faiella, Old Turnpike Road. I would like to thank Ms. Locke. I feel she was eloquent in speaking the was some of us feel about kindergarten. There are some of us who have two motives for voting, and I thank Shane Wells for granting that we don't hate kids. I don't think the school board hates taxpayers either. Yes, there are a lot of us trying to figure out how to pay our bills, but we do spend money for things. We spend money for important things and things that we think are good and wholesome. I am of the opinion after doing very extensive reading, and I wrote letters about this for the last three years about this, not so much expressing my opinion but citing study

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after study. I realized that there are conflicting studies. But there is a great body of educational academic studies that all say the hurried child is a stressed child and children 5 years old should not be in schools for 6 hours a day. Another important aspect of what's going on is the process. One of the reasons I moved to New England from New York is that I wanted to live in the cradle of democracy. That is what New England historically is. To have all these bodies work on things, take votes and then hear what the public says seems backwards and not democratic. For the town to vote year after year after year a certain way just to have the school board undermine that, it just calls into question this whole democratic process.

Beth Bodreau, 97 Main Street. You are so right. Every child is such a stressed child, so why wouldn't we want to give these 5-year old's a full day of school? I would welcome to have any one of you come to the school and spend just an hour.

Kindergarten is not what it used to be. Today we did our NWEA testing some of the questions were not only what time it was, but there were multiplication problems too. It's incredible what these kids know.

Barbie Hartford, Ridge Road. How many times has the democratic system failed our children? Sometimes you just have to do what you think is best for the children. That's what I feel as a school board member. I am not speaking for the school board, but since I have started I have said that I want a full-time curriculum director. I feel like the democratic system has let our students down. That's why I am for these two position in the budget where they belong.

Shirley Glennon. I just wanted to make a comment as far as the democratic system is concerned. Like I said before, our school board are elected members who are put in the position to decide what's best for the kids. We haven't lost the process. We've elected these people to do this for us. We do have a say. The school board meetings are open. I absolutely agree that a hurried child is not a healthy thing. I teach preschool in an age range where play based school is important. If you have a half day program, where these kids need to be at first grade, you take all that play, all of that time to transition out of their day. So, if you're only going to give a half day program, you are hurrying that child, you are stressing that child because they don't have time for play anymore. Because they have to be ready for first grade.

Article #12

Remove full time Curriculum Director from the budget

To see if the Northwood School District will vote to remove the salary, benefits and associated costs of a full-time Curriculum Director totaling \$122,381 from the 2017/18 proposed budget bringing the entire line 01-2212 to \$0.00.

The School Board does not recommend this appropriation by a 2-3 vote. The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation by a 9-3 vote.

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Nikki Roy, Sky Farm Road. I'm asking a clarification point. If this were to pass, and line 01-2212 were to be brought to zero, does that eliminate the part time existing curriculum position that in the school. Or is that somewhere else in a different section?

Dr. Gadomski: The curriculum director is proposed in the next year's budget. There is no curriculum director in this year's budget. It's out of funds that were transferred from elsewhere.

Nikki Roy: If that were to pass, there is no funding to allow even the existing part time person who's in charge of looking at trying to pull a curriculum together going forward.

Mary Faiella, Old Turnpike Road. As we are talking about funds being transferred and the possibility of funds being transferred to cover expenses that might otherwise be removed from the budget, I'm wondering about what you are saying about the funds for the current curriculum person have been transferred from someplace to cover her salary and the \$250,000 for the unexpected Coe Brown students having been transferred from someplace to cover that expenditure, and I'm just wondering how it comes about that there are so many hundreds of thousands of dollars in the budget that can be brought from hither and yon to cover what sounds like a lot of money.

Ms. L. Smith: These questions are more for the deliberative session and should be brought up at that meeting.

Tim Jandebuer, Welch Road. I think some of us think we heard one thing from Dr. Gadomski, and some of us think we heard another thing from Dr. Gadomski, so I would like him to be clear. I believe that Ms. Roy asked if this weren't passed, would there still be money elsewhere in the budget that can be moved to cover a part time curriculum director. I thought I heard "that's what we are doing this year, if there's money" and there is. But maybe I misunderstood what he said.

Ms. L Smith: That's up to the school board to decide where the money comes from.

Mr. Jandebuer: I would just like him to clarify what he said.

Chair Dole: This isn't the right meeting to ask that question.

Mr. Jandebuer: It is not the intent of the petitioners to eliminate our part time curriculum person.

Nikki Roy: I would like to point out that if you want to create change in an organization, and there's been a lot of discussion about how government should be or could be compared to a business, it is a very good idea, and quite frankly the only successful method I've seen in place, is to bring in someone who is in charge of

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coordinating all of the pieces that are important. In a school that is the curriculum. So, to the point that Tim just tried to make, my original question was to clarify whether eliminating that position out of the budget would eliminate guaranteed position in the school that keeps an eye towards that curriculum and pulls it together. The bottom line is there is no guarantee that position will be funded. If we want to effect change, we need to be willing to put someone in charge that can pull the curriculum together and align it going forward.

Tiffany Fuller, Princess Pine: Again, I would just like to thank the board members who are supporting this. I wanted to make a point that common core standard is just what it is, a standard. It's setting a baseline so that first graders can do X, Y, Z before they enter second grade, and so forth. Curriculum is what will be more specific to our school. Again, I'm sorry to dwell on this, but the curriculum seems very behind in Northwood. My child is in 3rd grade at Northwood and he comes home and tells me he is bored. He's repeating things that he's already done in previous grades in a different school district. In any business, you have people who have certain skill sets. We have the teachers in the classroom educating our children. They need the expert to create the curriculum that is comparable to the rest of the state. This will bring us up to par. If you need an analogy, I would say common core standard is a standard, just like at age 50, your provider recommends you get a colorectal exam. It's up to your provider to educate you on how to go about getting that. The standard is to get that exam at age 50. The standard is common core. We need an expert to help set that standard of where we all need to be. I have full faith in our school board to read over a resume and know what's justified.

Shirley Glennon: I just wanted to second that point. I also have a child who started school in a different district and then came to Northwood and we found the curriculum was much farther behind a somewhat local school. I am a parent and an educator and right now I can supplement that, but when we get to 6th, 7th and 8th grade, that is not my area of expertise. My kid is a math whiz, but he is not being challenged mathematically. We need curriculum to provide support to not only the children that need help getting ahead or who need to get to that equal platform in kindergarten to get to first grade, we need curriculum that will continue to challenge our older students. Because every parent is not able to compensate for the school's shortcomings. It's important to note that the parents in this town are taxpayers too. Right now, we are going above and beyond, paying our taxes, and we need a school that supports our children's needs so that we don't have to continually go beyond that to find other ways to supplement that with extra commuting and extra financing. Having a curriculum director who can come in and set those opportunities so that the children are getting their needs met, that will make it happen. It's a lot cheaper than having to have intervention on an individual basis.

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Chair Dole calls a 15-minute recess at 8:43 PM. The committee returns from recess at 9:00 PM.

Article #2

Northwood School District Operating Budget and Default Budget.

Shall the Northwood School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Eleven Million Seven Hundred Seventy-One Thousand, Three Hundred Forty-One dollars.

(11,771,341). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall total Eleven Million Nine Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty-Seven Dollars (11,942,937) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Northwood School Board or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

The operating budget warrant does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles

*The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5/0 vote. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 12/0 vote.
(Tax impact is unknown at this time)*

Mike Faiella, Old Turnpike Road: I'm very confused by the whole process here tonight. Why are we getting public comment after all the works been done? Can someone explain to me why we even bother with public testimony after all the work has been done, instead of before when public comment might cause some members to take into account what the public thinks?

Ms. Behm stated that after listening to public comments, they can always reopen and vote again. It's not a done deal.

Mike Faiella: My understanding is that the only person who could reopen it would be someone from the winning side? So, there is some limited possibility that something could happen. I am a little confused also by the fact that some people were trying to get information tonight and seemed unable to do so because it was out of order. I don't quite understand that.

Chair Dole stated that the process is the way it is now because the town chose three years ago, to eliminate the first public hearings on both and go directly to a work session, which anyone can attend. Anyone can listen to the process and get answers as to why the committee voted how they did. The state RSAs do not require that they have a public hearing before the budget committee begins their work. Most of the towns around and in the state, follow the same process. The public is not without an opportunity to speak.

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Mike Faiella: So, this streamlines the process? So, what is the purpose be for us and the public to be talking now. Since it wouldn't change anything, what are you looking for from the public?

Chair Dole: We were not looking for anything specific, other than by law they are required to hold a public hearing after they have developed their recommendations to the town. That is when the public has the opportunity to come and ask questions and voice concerns. The time to take action, unless a member of the committee requests to reopen a particular article for consideration, is at deliberative session.

Mike Faiella: My last question is, would you agree it would be a good thing for you to know what the public feels before these work sessions, rather than after you're done with your work?

Chair Dole: The proper place for the public to raise any questions or concerns would be at the Selectmen's meeting or School Board meetings during their budget prep process. They have opening public comments as well as final public comments at each meeting. They are the ones who are developing the budget that is presented to us.

Rick Wolf: I'd like to have somebody explain to me how the default budget ended up higher than the regular budget?

Chair Dole: The default budget, by law is the same as it was last year, with adjustments required by law, for contractual changes or elimination of one time expenditures. As far as the difference between the operating budget and the default budget, they were able to have some cost saving things by switching positions, eliminating positions, as well as other cost saving things.

Tim Jandebuer: I would like an answer to one question before I make my comment. So as I understand what you said before the vote for the school board budget on the budget committee is what? How will it show on the ballot?

Chair Dole: It would show 12/0.

Tim Jandebuer: I just would like three of you to know you've been snookered. So, three of you who originally voted no, have now voted yes, thinking that you were only voting on the reduction of the \$37,000. That is your problem. In today's world of no means no, whether it's a young man wanting his way with a young lady and the girl says no, or whether it's a vote in the United States for president. SB2 town, usually no means no. Now, if Tom Chase came to me and said "Tim, you are my last hope, I've got 24 signatures on this warrant article, would you be my 25th?" Even if it's something that I don't agree with, I'd help him out. Because I believe in warrant articles. Once something has gone to the tax payers, and they say no, and a second time they say no, and a third time they say no, each time more, a higher percent say no. Then it's put in the budget. In my opinion, that's just plain wrong. On the other hand, if the school

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board had asked me to agree to put in a warrant article for all day kindergarten, I would. It doesn't mean I support it, it means I would do it. No more than Bree has to support the school board here. No more than I supported the school boards stance in negotiating with the teachers. So, when you see that teacher contract, that's the school board's stance, not mine necessarily. God help this town if I'm ever was able to negotiate the teacher contract on my own. That would be something. All I'm saying is that, it's the same thing here, as far as I'm concerned. It's the last thing I'm going to say tonight. The town clearly said no. I don't have any problem with anybody in this town bringing a warrant article. Clearly, many people in this town. 9 of you right here. Don't understand that no means no. The democratic process. You put something up for vote, and someone tells you no. So, the process failed. Not you in supporting your stance. Amazing.

Deb Locke: I heard about what Mr. Wolf said about the budget. The response was on a contractual agreement. So, wouldn't the bond payment of \$290,000 and the interest of \$6,960 be a contractual agreement? Why hasn't that been removed?

Chair Dole: It has been removed. It is not in the default budget or the proposed operating budget.

Deb Locke: So, is that number going to go down that you just gave us?

Chair Dole: No, it's already gone down. It's been removed.

Deb Locke: So, you're telling me that it was \$12,200,000?

Chair Dole: Subject to any increases or changes in contractually required line items. Remember, some things go up each year. But you have a contract that you are going to continue to be obligated for. As well as the removal of any one-time expenditures. This year, for the default budget, the bond payment and interest were considered a one time.

Mary Faiella: I was listening as you read the operating budget article, and I did notice that on the draft that we have in front of us, the budget committee recommended the budget on a 9/3 vote. When you read it you said 12/0? I understand that because of that amendment that happened and then people thinking they were voting just on reducing the budget voted unanimously to reduce that number. So, my understanding is that it is possible for someone who voted in the affirmative to reopen the budget, so that if in fact they want to register an objection to the operating budget bottom line number, that the vote can be retaken so their vote can be reflected on the warrant?

Chair Dole: That is correct.

Mary Faiella: I have a question about the operating budget versus the default budget. Clearly a lot of lines in the operating budget had to be reduced in order to permit the

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kindergarten and curriculum director. So, I'm looking at science supplies, cut by 47%, math supplies, cut by 37%, social studies supplies cut by 86%, substitute teacher salaries are cut. How does that all work?

Chair Dole: My suggestion was to go to a school board meeting and ask the school board why they felt they could reduce those specific lines. They can explain to you why they did it. The budget committee reviewed the operating budget, the school board presented that budget.

Ms. Behm: Some of the reason was because of the wish list, they bought things at the end of the year and didn't have to spend the money for the coming year.

Mary Faiella: I'm seeing lines where the actual expenditures are considerably more than the what are being proposed.

James Vaillancourt: I listened to Linda earlier and I deleted several of my questions that borderline on opinion and stuck with questions. I'm interested on page one about how many teachers is this budget supporting. When I read the note, for the teacher's salary, it says this is for 27 teachers, but also includes 10 additional positions for a total of 37.

Ms. Behm: There are 27 teachers on this salary line, for regular ed. The rest are for special ed and in different sections.

James Vaillancourt: The only way I can reach those numbers is 4 special ed, two guidance, is guidance considered teachers? Or are they just members of the bargaining agreement. If there are 10 teachers I can't find them.

Chair Dole: This wasn't a specific topic of discussion while we were reviewing the budget.

James Vaillancourt: So, you don't know how many teachers that this budget covers?

Chair Dole: I took this budget as being one that was prepared and approved by the school board, that this was what met their needs and I didn't feel the need to challenge whether they had enough teachers or too many teachers. Again, I will tell you to check with the school board.

James Vaillancourt: Did you have any documentation of the numbers and the trend of the student population split out by grade? If you did have that, is it possible to get a copy?

Chair Dole: We had the most recent enrollment report, by grade for K-12. There were not projections per say.

James Vaillancourt: I can get a copy of that?

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Chair Dole: Yes.

James Vaillancourt: On page 6, special ed contracted services for the elementary. The note says that that currently is in the special ed contracted services. I cannot find that line item. Generally, in the past, when we've looked at a line, and they've added a new line, the old line is there because you see the past history. I don't see that here. The default budget has that particular line item and so does the other budget, but I can't find the special ed. What line item were the currently in?

Chair Dole: If you continue with the note, it says these were currently classified under contracted services and now they are broken out between high school and elementary.

James Vaillancourt: So, they were lumped together in the past?

Chair Dole: Yes

James Vaillancourt: This is a large amount of money. It's absolutely not possible to analyze this electronically. I can do it with the town budget, but the school put these as images on the web so you can't merge the two together. There is \$124,000 difference between the proposed budget and the default budget that I can't find. It bothers me. Maybe it doesn't bother anyone else in town but it bothers me. I want to find it. I just wish the budget committee will stand behind us. You're not providing us with any kind of summations, or trends, nothing to understand this. You can't even compare the default and proposed. They aren't on the same page.

Chair Dole: As you know, we don't have any control with how the town puts its budget online and how the school does.

James Vaillancourt: I disagree. The reason I disagree is because the way the RSA reads is that the budget that is being presented to the town in warrant article 2, is the budget committees budget. So, you're responsible for it.

Chair Dole: Then I will take it upon myself to check the RSA to find out if the budget committee is required by RSA to have a specific format on a website to make it accessible to anyone in town in the format they would like. I can't do anything about it tonight.

James Vaillancourt: My last point is, if I got to the revenue page, which is in the packet which was made available tonight. On the bottom in the box, 1.2 million dollars have been returned to the town in the last two years. You can flip it one way and say that's really great, but the other way is that they aren't that great at budgeting. Because they took 1.2 million dollars and held it for a year before giving it back to us. So, one wonders now, where is the \$124,000. Please, give us better tools to understand this so we can make intelligent votes.

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Tim Jandebuer: I lied, I do have one more comment. I particularly hope you didn't bring your pistol tonight. I would really like for you in a quiet moment, to get the CD from Gary, and take a look at your response to Mrs. Faiella. I think that you will see why you were off over \$700,000 in the budget year that we just completed on January 30th

Chair Dole: can you be specific to which response?

Tim Jandebuer: I'm going to listen to it word for word. But you should listen to it. I think you will see things like "I didn't feel the need to question" I'll say the same thing to Jim. A million two? This is a budget committee Look into this stuff, you will find what's wrong.

Rick Wolf: I'd just like to say that I am sorry that this all falls on the kids in this town, that the school board and everybody else involved can't get their act together. This just seems like a real slippery, slimy deal on everybody's part to me. There is stuff that's been hidden, I mean, nothing is accurate. I have a real problem with that, and the kids shouldn't pay for other people's mistakes. Education is important, I don't have a problem spending money for education, but it needs to work when you spend money.

Joe Gunter: Not so much a question but a comment on the budget. I'm going to ask. I feel you guys, this is a complex budget that is very difficult to understand. When things are complex like that it leads to accusations that I don't understand what's wrong with it. It's difficult for me and I've been doing this for years. Can I ask that these documents, the default budget and proposed budget be provided electronically? Much like the town did. The town provided at the request of the budget committee a proposed budget and a default budget comparison. We provided that last night. I would like to see that for the school. It would help me make my decision.

Chair Dole: Just so that I can clarify your request, you want to know where the differences are between the proposed budget and the default budget?

**Selectman Bryer made a motion to recess the public hearing, Mr. Chase seconded
vote 12/0**

Chair Dole opened the work session

Ms. Behm stated that she would like to ask if there were any members that were part of the unanimous vote that didn't understand what they were voting for and would like to change their vote. If so, she would make a motion to reopen the budget.

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Ms. Behm made a motion to reopen article #2, the bottom line figure. Mr. McCaffrey seconded. Vote 9/3. Ms. Colburn, Mr. Chase, Mr. Boudreau voted no.

Ms. Behm made a motion to recommend the figure of 11,771,341. Ms. Colburn seconded.

Selectman Bryer stated that he felt it was a procedural mistake.

Mr. McCaffrey stated that he voted yes with the understanding that they were only voting to accept the change as an amendment to a number, and not the budget itself.

Mr. Ruth stated that if everyone understands what they are voting on, he would make a motion to move the question. Ms. Colburn seconds. Vote 11/1, Selectman Bryer voted no.

Chair Dole stated that now they would vote on the main motion amend the bottom line budget.

Vote 9/3. Selectman Bryer, Mr. McCaffrey, and Mr. Krieder voted no.

Chair Dole closed the work session

Chair Dole opened public hearing

Chair Dole stated that the committee voted 9/3 to amend the bottom line budget

Chair Dole closed public hearing

Mr. Chase made a motion to adjourn at 9:58. Ms. Colburn seconded. Vote 12/0

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Austin, Land Use Secretary.