



TOWN OF NORTHWOOD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

BUDGET COMMITTEE

818 First New Hampshire Turnpike, Northwood NH 03261
(603)942-5586 Extension 211 Facsimile: (603)942-9107

January 16, 2020

Chair Ginger Dole called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

PRESENT:

Chair Ginger Dole, Vice-Chair Tom Chase, School Board Rep Brian Winslow, Brad Hall, Betty Smith, Michael Moore, Ted Wilkinson, Cove Village District Representative Michael Jobin, Water District Representative Robert Young, Selectmen's Representative Hal Kreider, Paul Tudor, and Gulf Village District Representative Eric Buckland

ABSENT:

(Excused) Grace Mattern, Dan McNally **(Unexcused)** Brandon Albert, Steve Robinson

Town Staff:

Land Use Assistant Susan Austin

School 2020 Warrants

Article #3

Shall the Northwood School District approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Northwood Education Support Staff and the Northwood School Board covering the three-year period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits , at the current staffing levels, over those paid in the prior fiscal year;

Year	Estimated Increase
2020-2021	\$105,360
2021-2022	\$97,305
2022-2023	\$96,118

and to further raise and appropriate the sum of \$105,360 for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional cost attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year?

The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 4 to 0 vote
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 16 to 0 vote

Article #5

Shall the Northwood School District vote to raise and appropriate "up to" Twenty Thousand Dollars \$20,000 to be placed in the Building Capital Improvement Capital Reserve Fund established in 1986 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, 2020. Current balance at 9/30/2019 is \$115,239.

***The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 4 to 0 vote
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 16 to 0 vote***

Article #6

Shall the School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,563 to be placed in the Buildings and Grounds Capital Reserve funds established in 2018 for the purpose of maintaining, replacing and improving the school district's building and grounds, including but not limited to playgrounds, parking areas, ball fields, school signs, roofs, HVAC systems, electrical systems, etc....., with such amounts to be offset by a onetime grant of "fiscal disparity" funds in this amount, that will be paid to the district as part of the State's adequate education to the district? Current balance at 9/30/2019 is \$20,833.

***The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 4 to 0 vote
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 16 to 0 vote***

Article #7

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 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 amounts to be funded from year end undesignated fund balance (surplus) available on July 1, 2020. Current balance on 9/30/2019 is \$163,956.

***The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 4 to 0 vote
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 16 to 0 vote***

Article #2

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 warrantor as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling eleven million, three hundred, sixty five thousand, nine hundred ninety six hundred and forty nine cents (\$11,365,996.49), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Northwood School District 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 article by a 4 to 0 vote
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 16 to 0 vote***

Jim Hadley

Mr. Hadley stated that last year the Town of Strafford voted to form a planning committee to explore whether or not it would be in their best interest to withdraw from SAU 44. They issued a report on October 15 and they will vote on it at this year's town meeting. The SAU has

already gone through and determined how much the impact would be if Strafford left. There will be a financial impact. He stated that the other issue is the tuition rate at Coe Brown. He compared it to Pinkerton Academy. There is a difference of 24% in the tuition rate. He sent an email to the headmaster at Pinkerton to find out about why they return surplus every year, 11 out of the last 12 years. He looked at the tax returns for both Coe Brown and Pinkerton. Coe Brown has accumulated 1.7 million in surplus, but not returned it to the town. This year, all three school districts and the SAU have the same CPA firm to do their audit. Now that all three school districts and the SAU utilize the same external audit firm, a remedy could be that the three school boards could request that their CPA firm request a meeting with Coe Brown and their external auditor.

Jim Vallencourt

Mr. Vallencourt stated that everyone at home watching should be there. Mr. Hadley just proved that point, he has the skills to look at certain things and brings that to our attention. The budget is impacted by the reduced number of students that are in Northwood. The Coe Brown tuition has gone down \$171,000. The most random expense is Special Education. It seems that the school board has a handle on the other expenses and can watch those. So, he took them out, that makes the budget \$329,000 down from last year, and when you look at only Special ED, it's up \$205,000. Compensation is down \$92,000, is that one person? Mr. Winslow stated that they have not reduced any teachers or administrators; he believes they consolidated in facilities by a half of a position. What they are seeing is a bit of turnover. Curriculum improvement is the math texts are down \$16,000, and classroom workbooks are down \$22,500. Did they buy them last year and not buy them this year? Mr. Winslow stated that he believes that is the case. Mr. Vallencourt asked what are classroom workbooks? Mr. Winslow stated that he didn't recall.

Cove Village District

Article #2

To see if the Northwood Cove Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's Budget recommended amount of \$9,050 for general operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addresses.

Recommended by the commissioners 3 to 0 vote

Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Article #3

To see if the Northwood Cove Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,900 to be added to the road maintenance Expendable Trust Fund previously established.

Recommended by the commissioners 3 to 0 vote

Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Gulf Village District

Article #2

To see if the Gulf Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the Northwood Budget Committee's recommended budget of \$16,000 for general operations. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

Recommended by the commissioners 2 to 0 vote
Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Article #3

To see if the Gulf Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be added to the Gulf Village Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

Recommended by the commissioners 2 to 0 vote
Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Water District

Warrant Articles:

Article #2

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,351 for general District expenses.

Recommended by the commissioners 3 to 0 vote
Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Article #3

To see if the District will raise and appropriate sum of \$1,000 from water rents to be added to the previously established Water District Expendable Trust for major repairs.

Recommended by the commissioners 3 to 0 vote
Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

Article #4

To see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for the development and application of an Asset Management Plan for the district's infrastructure. \$20,000 is to come from an AMP grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and \$20,000 to come from the District's Expendable Trust Fund, as needed, to support the grant match and supplement funds used from the operating budget and in-kind matches expected for Asset Management Plan Development.

Recommended by the commissioners 3 to 0 vote
Recommended by the Northwood Budget Committee 16 to 0

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. B. Smith made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Mr. Chase seconded. Motion carried 12/0

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Austin, Land Use Assistant