

## Wakefield Budget Committee Meeting

January 14, 2021

Approved

Members present: Jerry O'Connor, Relf Fogg, Connie Twombly, Ken Fifield. Priscilla Colbath, Dave Mankus and Denny Miller, Paul Romano and Elizabeth Connor by Zoom

School Board present via Zoom: Bob Ouellette, Mary Collins

School Administration and Department Heads present: Via Zoom Jerry Gregoire, Anne Kebler, Marie D'Agostino, Jim Lampron, Present in person Joe Williams.

Public Present: Tom Daniels, Jim Miller and Max Gehring with Clearview Community TV and Community members by Zoom.

### Minutes

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to approve the minutes of January 6<sup>th</sup>. (Vote 9-0)**

Mr. O'Connor opened the School portion of Budget Committee meeting at 7:15.

### Warrant Articles

**Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to recommend Article #4, Operating Budget for \$11,282,569 with a default budget of \$11,240,736. (Vote 9-0)**

The School Board removed the word maintenance in Article #13.

**Mr. Fifield made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to recommend Article #13. (Vote 9-0)**

Mr. Fogg said the School Board would appreciate the Budget Committee weighing in on Article #7 so the voters will know if the town representatives, in the form of the Budget Committee supports this article. **Mr. Fifield made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to support Article #17. (Vote 9-0)**

There was some discussion about this article. This is a preliminary step to see if the Voters wish for the School Board and Water Precinct to enter into negotiations. Mr. Miller asked if Mr. Sager or the School Board attorney could take a look at this article to make sure the wording is legal. After more discussion it was decided to leave the article as is.

Mr. O'Connor opened up the Public Hearing at 7:35.

Mr. O'Connor read the amounts in each function. On the operating budget Mr. Daniels said the school separated with Milton and had a plan and over the last few years the school budget and number of employees increased and we went in the opposite direction. Now it looks like with these administrative cuts we're going back in the opposite direction again. Instead of moving

slowly we're taking huge leaps with no idea how the pieces will fit together. He believes that the Assistant Principal position should be moved back to full time. He feels the change is too dramatic. Mr. O'Connor said we had a pretty comprehensive plan that was created three or four years ago that went through quite a process and was weighed in on by a former Superintendent and our superintendent at the time and was approved by the Department of Education. That plan was never totally enacted. What the School Board is doing is trying to use that plan that the voters approved in 2015. Mr. Fogg said we do have an idea and our idea is based on facts. We have a very clear idea what we should do and what we can do and now what we will do. The pendulum did swing and this effort is to bring it back to the middle. We had a Transition team that did research and recently a committee that worked very hard and came up with the same ideas as the team four years ago. Mr. Daniels still feels it's too much to do in one year. Mrs. Twombly has a problem with a bus driver being a coordinator. She said when she was on the Board, they tried that and it didn't work. The Principal ended up taking over that position. \$10,732,569 which is a little lower than last year. Mr. Gregoire explained the default budget. In the 2610 function, operations and maintenance, a reduction of \$45,700. The total reduction is \$59,188.

No one had any more questions on the operating budget.

The chair closed the Public Hearing at 8:00.

Mrs. D'Agostino will have the paperwork that has to be signed by the Budget Committee Tuesday morning.

### **Adjournment**

**Mr. Fogg made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05.  
(Vote 9-0)**

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next Budget Committee meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
Secretary Pro Temp