

Wakefield Budget Committee Meeting
with the school
held in the Town Hall Opera House
December 13, 2022
Approved

Members present: Jerry O'Connor, Howie Knight, Tom Daniels, Elizabeth Conner, Priscilla Colbath, Dave Mankus Denny Miller, Bob Ouellette, Ken Fifield, John Parker and Mark Taliaferro

School Administration: Superintendent Anne Kebler, Business Administrator Frank Markiewicz

School Board member Brennan Peaslee and Facilities Manager: Joe Williams, Brock Mitchell, Max Gering with Clearview Community TV

Mr. O'Connor opened up the Budget Committee meeting at 6:30 to review the school's operating Budget and Warrant Articles.

Mr. Markiewicz told the Committee that he had updated the health insurance and tuition costs. They projected a 3% increase for next year. \$11,475,149 is now the bottom line amount of the operating budget. He said, unlike last year, Article 2 will include both food service as well as grants so the total will be \$12,025,149.

Article #2: Operating Budget

Mr. O'Connor read the article. Mr. Miller questioned the tax impact on the Default Budget. Mr. Markiewicz will check the numbers and this article was tabled for the time being.

Article #3: Educationally Disabled Children Fund

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knight to approve Article #3. (Vote 11-0)

Article #4: Transportation Trust Fund

Mrs. Colbath made a recommendation, agreed to by Mr. Knight, to table this article and send it back to the School Board to ask them to increase the amount from \$75,000 to \$90,000 to get back on track. The members were in agreement to do so by consensus.

Article #5: Building Renovation Expendable Trust Fund

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, to approve Article #5 . (Vote 11-0)

Article #6: Parking Lot and Sidewalk Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

Mr. Markiewicz said that the Board would like to pave Taylor Way and this warrant article is specific to the parking lot and sidewalk. The Board offered two options. Either change the wording in this CRF or write a new article for paving Taylor Way which would be his recommendation. The School Board wished to have this discussed with the Budget Committee tonight to see what you recommend. Mrs. Kebler said this is a project that the town and school have worked together on. The cost would be about \$75,000. The road also needs new culverts. Mr. Williams said the paving would start at the fence line at Dulco Circle and end in front of Angie's house. It would consist of digging up the old paving and replacing that plus the culvert,

fix the catch basin and pave with two inches of asphalt. Mr. Miller said it's not the Board or DRA you have to worry about as far as the wording goes. If the language doesn't meet the wording, they're not going to give you the money. And if they do it's a misdemeanor and if the Board spends it, it's a felony.

Mr. Williams said if we want to zero out the \$30,000 this year, we could do this next year so it's not as big a hit we can do this next year. The Trustees currently have \$23,000 listed in that fund. Mister Williams said that has been spent. Mr. Fifield asked, if we zero out this article can we add it to Mr. Mitchells highway plan? Mr. Knight suggested zeroing out this warrant article and making a new one. Mr. Ouellette said the Board had a conversation about this and he understood that the article had to stay at because they needed something in there for striping and sealcoating and they talked about adding \$30,000 to the fund and making a new article for paving Taylor Way. Mr. Williams said he doesn't believe that the Town will give us \$30,000 for this warrant article and another \$75,000 for another warrant article.

Mr. Miller said he was reluctant to do the whole \$75,000 as it's a brand new Warrant Article. He asked if it had to be done this year. Mr. Williams said because of the deal they're getting he recommends doing it this year. The Board sends this back to the School Board with the recommendation to zero this article for this year and add an article for \$75,000 to pave the road. Mr. Williams said the \$75,000 could be added to the Operating Budget under special projects instead in a Warrant Article.

Article #7: Replacing Boilers

No boilers have been replaced in the building for 35 and 38 years. Mr. Miller and Mr. Daniels expressed a desire to get some hard numbers together for next year. Mr. Williams would like to do this within the next year or two.

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taliaferro, to approve Article #7 for \$50,000. (Vote 11-0)

Article #8: Well Replacement Capital Reserve Fund

Mr. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knight, to approve Article #8 for \$15,000. (Vote 11-0)

Article #9: Maintenance Building Replacement Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve Article #9 for \$30,000. (Vote 11-0)

Mr. Daniels asked if the school was charging for The Little Paws Program. Mrs. Kebler said this will go into effect January 1st. The policy was passed and we gave the parents a little bit of a warning because they had two years of no tuition. Mr. Markiewicz said once the program is put into place it will be shown under local revenue.

The Public Hearing for the Town and School will be held on January 10th at 6:30. The Budget Committee will meet at 5:30.

Mr. Miller asked what the procedure was to ask for the money from the trustees for completed projects and why hasn't anybody asked. Mr. Markiewicz said we have asked for the money. We have an email that was sent to the Trustees and then we were told to deal directly with the bank. He sent the email directly to the Trustees. His experience has been when the Board votes to withdraw that money he takes a copy of the approved minutes and sends a letter to the Trustees with the minutes and ask that the money be withdrawn. Mr. Miller responded, that's exactly right.

The school portion ended at 7:30
The meeting continued with the Town portion.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next Budget Committee meeting,

Priscilla Colbath
Secretary Pro Temp