

Town of Sullivan, NH
Budget Committee – PUBLIC HEARING
Draft Minutes, Tuesday, January 24, 2023
Sullivan Town Hall

Board members present: Al Merrifield, Chairman, Gary Patnode, Mike Blanchard
Board Representatives: Dave Jakway, Selectmen; William Thorndike, Jr., School Board
Departments: Paul Bolduc, Selectman
Others: Michael Brooks, Leslie Casey, Chris Pratt, Sarah Thorndike, Will Thorndike III
Staff: Kathleen Rowe, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Merrifield called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

On a motion by Gary Patnode, seconded by Will Thorndike, the minutes of 01/10/2023 were unanimously accepted and approved as amended.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 Sullivan School District Budget

Chairman Merrifield opened the public hearing for the Sullivan School Budget.

A.) Sullivan School District Budget: \$2,159,413, (\$307,242 increase over 2022)

Chairman Merrifield reviewed the Sullivan School Budget, noting that tuition expenses are driven by the projected census for the district and the associate tuitions for each set of students.

Tuition:

Regular Ed Programs: \$1,291,532 (increase \$ 48,506 over 2022)

Special Ed Programs: \$ 489,544 (increase \$147,104 over 2022)

Special Education needs increased in 2022 and continue into 2023 requiring additional funding in tuition, student services, and transportation line items. The expendable trust will be used for 2022-2023; funding to rebuild this trust fund will begin in 2024.

Tuition: \$,1781,076 – (\$195,610 increase over 2022)

Vocational Programs: \$10 (placeholder only)

Other Programs (IDEA && Extraordinary Needs): \$41000 – (Same as 2022); L. Casey questioned the appropriation for the grant; Mike Brooks noted that this number is a placeholder allowing any grants received to be expended.

Student Support Services: \$66, 354 – (\$50,834 increase over 2022); Chairman Merrifield noted that the increases are for one-on-one assistance; as enrollment changes, these costs will fluctuate.

Other School Board: 12,800 – (\$800 over 2022) Additional hours for bookkeeper. Other funding for legal, audit and stipends remains the same.

SAU Management Services: \$42,400 – (\$400 over 2022); this item include salaries for the Superintendent, Business Manager and Special Education Manager. Chairman Merrifield noted that these two of these three positions were held by one person in the past. The total for the three has increased by \$400.

Business: \$525 – (same as 2022)

Student Transportation: \$215,249 – (\$43,609 over 2022) Chairman Merrifield noted that these services are primarily contracted.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Merrifield closed the public hearing for the Sullivan School District.

3. PUBLIC HEARING - 2023 Town of Sullivan Operating Budget and Capital Reserves

Chairman Merrifield opened the Public Hearing for the Town of Sullivan Operating Budget.

A.) Town of Sullivan Operating Budget and Capital Reserve: \$893,081 (\$4280 increase over 2022).

Chairman Merrifield reviewed the Town of Sullivan Operating Budget alone noting that this budget has increased \$10,780.

Executive: (Salaries) \$81,106 (\$433 less than 2022) includes 3% increase, removal of one prospective position.

Election and Registration: \$1550 (\$1259 less than 2022) only 1 election in 2023

Financial: (Selectmen and Town Clerk/Tax Collector)\$52,770 (\$8316 increase over 2022) transition to new accounting system includes a one-time licensing fee for the software. Increases in other software support drives this as well.

Revaluation/Annual Services: \$8500 (\$500 increase over 2022); contracted service

Legal and Audit \$22,525 – no change

Personnel: \$9288 (\$547 decrease) Decrease in unemployment and workmen's comp

Planning: \$2346 (\$1439 decrease over 2022); no further office equipment in 2023

Building and Maintenance: \$16800 (\$1,390 increase over 2022) Anticipated utility increases

Insurance: (Property) \$14,470

Cemetery:\$7600 (\$1200 over 2022) additional mowing for Jewett Park; new sign for East Sullivan Cemetery

Police Services: \$51579 (\$3922 over 2022) contracted service

Ambulance: (14,000 (\$1300 decrease from 2022) contracted services with Diluzio and City of Keene
Fire and Rescue: \$51,676 (\$12,978 over 2022) increased utility/fuel costs; overhead lighting in main building; tires for rescue vehicle.

Fire Mutual Aid \$11,500 (no change)

Emergency Management \$400 (no change)

Highway: \$315,173 (\$10,066 over 2022) increased utility/fuel costs, increases in salt, sand and gravel.
The salary line (increase \$5853 over 2022) reflects 2 fulltime employees and 2 per diem employees.

M. Brooks asked if, in light of the expenses of \$30,000+ in the past two years for vehicle repairs compared to the \$20,000 recommended for 2023, the Budget Committee and Selectmen felt the new International CV515 would bring the repair costs down. Dave Jakway responded in the affirmative.

Highway Special Projects: \$90,000 (\$40,000 less than 2022); current cost of asphalt precludes a large paving project in 2023; Selectmen and Highway Department will determine best use of this funding on smaller project(s).

Humane Society \$150 (no change)

Health and Welfare – Agencies: \$10,437 (\$4437 increase over 2022) greater documented use by Sullivan residents resulted in increased request, principally from 100 Nights and The Community Kitchen.

Health and Welfare – Direct \$1000 (no change)

Health and Welfare – Vendor \$4000 (\$11,000 increase) Increase calculated on current known need.
Recreation Committee - \$1000 (no change)

Library - \$23,123 (704 increase over 2022)

Conservation Commission - \$2520 (\$201 increase over 2023) increase in Hazardous Waste charges

Capital Reserves: \$80,000 Increase (\$13,500 over 2022) - Selectmen recommended \$90,000; Budget Committee decreased Capital Reserve for Major Highway Equipment by \$10,000, citing the inhospitable current investment climate, with the idea of putting more into this fund in future years)

B). Long Term Debt - Broadband Bond: \$31,955 (\$11,955 interest; \$20,000 principal) – This expense is fully funded by monthly payments from FiberCast and has no effect on the budget or tax rate.

OTHER BUSINESS: Sarah Thorndike expressed her approval of the Highway Department line-item for “Small Equipment Repair as, in her former town, that line was expressed as “Small Equipment Replacement.” Kudos to Sullivan’s small equipment mechanics.

L. Casey thanked the Budget Committee and Selectmen for the work put into this year’s budget.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Merrifield closed the public hearing for the 2023 Town of Sullivan Operating Budget.

4. BUDGET COMMITTEE DELIBERATION

A.) Sullivan School Board Budget:

Chairman Merrifield noted that the School Board had been conservative in estimating the student population, keeping the budget costs in line. W. Thorndike also noted that many of these costs are fixed and/or contracted leaving little room for changes to the budget.

On a motion by Dave Jakway, seconded by Gary Patnode, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve and take to the Town Meeting the 2023 Sullivan School District budget as presented by the School Board and recommended by the Budget Committee.

B.) Town of Sullivan Operating Budget:

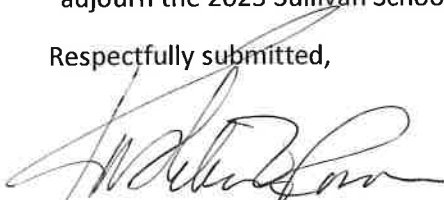
Chairman Merrifield stated that the Town of Sullivan Operating Budget has only one change made by the Budget Committee in the Highway Major Equipment Capital Reserve. He also spoke to the increase in the Health and Welfare Agencies and vendor lines, noting that the Town Welfare Guidelines require the use of any and all other available resources as needed.

On a motion by Gary Patnode, seconded by Mike Blanchard, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve and take to the Town Meeting the 2023 Town of Sullivan Operating Budget as presented by the Selectmen and amended by the Budget Committee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dave Jakway, seconded by Mike Blanchard, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the 2023 Sullivan School District and Town of Sullivan Operating Budget hearing at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen N. Rowe, Secretary