

Town of Sullivan, NH
Budget Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2021
Sullivan Town Hall

Board members present: Al Merrifield, Chairman, John Bolles, Gary Patnode, William Thorndike, Mike Blanchard, BJ Wahl , David Jakway (remote)
Representatives: Paul Bolduc, Selectmen; Mike Brooks, Stephanie Milotte - Sullivan School District
Others: Marsha Cook

Chairman Alfred Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. On a motion by Chairman Merrifield, seconded by BJ Wahl, the minutes of January 19, 2021 were approved as written. All in favor

BUDGETS

Sullivan School District : \$1,727,144 (-\$85426. -4.76%)

Michael Brooks, Chairman of the Sullivan School Board presented the 2020/2021 budget. Noting that the budget has decreased 4.76%, Michael pointed the Budget Committee to the school census page which indicates a decrease for Keene schools (-1), Nelson School (-7) and out-of district schooling (-1), resulting in an appropriation change of 5.78%.

Other line items discussion:

Other Programs \$25,000 (+\$25,000) placeholder with value for State funding that may be forthcoming; School Board Business Manager and auditors request a line item for these funds. This will impact the tax rate. These funds are specifically a special education grant. Mike indicated that if they do come through they will be spent prior to spending other special education line items.

Al Merrifield: The School Board will have to show that is has been spent and the associated expenses.

Marsha Cook: If this is a grant, but this appears as a line item request, are we raising more tax money than necessary?

Mike Brooks: Was told by auditors and Business Manager that this was the way it has to be presented.

Summer Programs: Although this appropriation has not been spent in prior years, the Superintendent recommended that it be left in the budget as there are plans for programs in 2021.

Stipends: \$2100, (+\$100) Requesting additional \$100 for the Moderator; even though he has run the School Board meetings, he has never received a stipend from the School Board to do so.

Audit: Contracted Price

Transportation: \$166,926 (+6,791) (estimated increase)

Al Merrifield: Is the School District paying First Student the same as if school was going on?

Mike Brooks: Yes; There have been 4 trips daily during hybrid sessions; the School Board voted to maintain the contract with the drivers. The Board rebid the transportation contract and First Student provided the best bid.

Gary Patnode: Is this cost based on the number of students?

Mike Brooks: Yes; School Board provides a list of numbers and addresses for the bus company to create routes.

William Thorndike: There appear to be more students using the busses due to the later start in Keene Schools; parents are no longer able to drive students.

John Bolles: What is in Other Transportation?

Mike Brooks: This is special needs transportation as necessary. ON occasion the school will need to reimburse parents for transportation they provide that the school would otherwise have been legally obligated to provide.

School Board is not asking for Expendable Trust funding as they have met and exceeded the goal for this fund at this time.

Budget Committee Recommendations:

Chairman Merrifield requested the Budget Committee discuss the 2021 Sullivan School District budget and make recommendations, noting that this budget shows a decrease even with the Other Programs line item. There being no further discussion, Chairman Merrifield asked for a motion to recommend this budget as proposed; Gary Patnode made the motion to accept the budget as proposed; BJ Wahl seconded, All in favor.

Selectmen Capital Reserves : \$16,500

Revaluation (\$4000): Town is revalued every five years; this fund provides the necessary funding.

Major Building Repairs (\$9000): provides funding for necessary repairs as they arise (roofing, foundation work etc.); there are no imminent projects but we need to be able to take care of anything that occurs.

Land Conservation: (\$1000) Land acquisition funding

Town-Wide Emergencies: (\$2500) Provides funding to deal with unforeseen emergencies (flooding, etc.)

Budget Committee Recommendations:

Chairman Merrifield requested the Budget Committee discuss the 2021 Town operating Budget and make recommendations:

4130-Executive Budget – Wages: BC recommends that the stipend for Joint Loss be set at \$500.

4150: Financial – BC recommends that \$2000 be moved from Supplies to Office Equipment

4215: Ambulance – Chairman Merrifield questioned if stand-by funds are in this line; Marsha Cook: This is difficult to project; could come from contingency. Suggests adding \$500 if BC wants to fund this line. BC recommends \$10,500 for this line and a change to clarify use (eg. "Ambulance/Stand-by")

4220: Fire/Emergency Mgt:

660: Marsha noted that Chairman Merrifield had asked at a previous meeting, the use of the \$9000 in this line; Paul Bolduc: These funds are for 6 new tires to be put on the pumper. Guidelines require tires be replaced every 10 years; these have been on the truck for 18. All other tires in the department are pushing this 10-year requirement as well.

662: Radios: Paul explained that radios are 500-700 each; new technology is necessary to communicate efficiently.

4619: Conservation – The extra \$100 in Summer Programs is for town-wide conservation programs; the commission would use this for speakers and materials. The \$500 is for the Harris Center programs offered to the Nelson School; these allow students to experience hands-on field work with Harris Center staff as well as classroom follow-up.

Capital Reserves:

Discussion:

902 – Fire Department Vehicle: \$20,000

BC: \$20,000

908 – Breathing Apparatus: \$2500 – Funding for annual maintenance and equipment purchases

BC: \$2500

906 – Revaluation: 3 years away, \$4000/year to fund

BC: \$4000

903 – Highway Major Equipment: \$17,000 - funding for future major equipment purchases

BC: \$17,000

904 – Town Building Major Repairs: \$9000

BC: \$9000

905 – Reconstruction/Resurfacing: \$5000 – funding for future road projects

BC: \$5000

912 – Land Conservation: \$1000 for land purchases

BC: \$0 (no specific projects; funded currently at \$16,052; has trust through NHDES (?) currently funded to \$58,000.)

917 – Town-wide Emergencies: \$2500

BC: \$0 – (no specific planning for use of these funds; currently funded to \$18,400; will hold off funding in 2021)

920 – Master Plan: \$5000 – to fund update of Master Plan as mandated by the State

BC: \$5000

921 – Town Bridges: \$5000 – funding for bridge repair and replacement

BC: \$0 (there are no red-lined bridges in Sullivan at this time; will hold off funding in 2021.)

922 – Sand/sale Storage Building: Could be removed by warrant article and funds released to general fund; suggested to leave it as is in the event of items that may become necessary in its first year of use or longer.

Perpetual Care – Cemeteries: Marsha will talk with Trustee of Trust Funds to document the use of these existing funds.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Merrifield asked for a motion to recommend this budget as recommended by the Budget Committee; BJ Wahl made the motion to accept the budget as recommended by the Budget Committee; Mike Blanchard seconded, All in favor.

The Budget Committee Public Hearing for the @021 School and Town Operating Budgets will be held February 4, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30PM made by Gary Patnode, seconded by John Bolles. All in favor

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen N. Rowe

Administrative Assistant