

Town of Sullivan, NH
Budget Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Sullivan Town Hall

Board members present: Al Merrifield, Chairman, Gary Patnode, Mike Blanchard
Board Representatives: Dave Jakway, Selectmen; William Thorndike, School Board
Departments: Mike Brooks, Chairman – Sullivan School District
Stephanie Millotte – Sullivan School District Vice-Chairman
Kim Caron – Sullivan School District Superintendent
Others: Paul Bolduc, Selectman

Staff: Kathleen Rowe, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

On a motion by Mike Blanchard, seconded by Gary Patnode, the minutes of 01/03/2023 were unanimously accepted and approved as written.

2. BUDGET REVIEW

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

Mike Brooks presented the 2023 Sullivan School District Budget; at Chairman Merrifield's request, the student population as basis for the budget, was addressed first. The budget is based on 66 total students, 32 in Nelson Elementary School, 14 in Keene Middle School, 20 Keene High School students. Mike explained that student population is a 'best estimate' based on the activity of the current population movement from pre-kindergarten to graduation.

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

Tuition: \$1,781,076 – (\$195,610 increase over 2022)

Student Support Services: \$66,354 – (\$50,834 increase over 2022)

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)

Business: \$525 – (same as 2022)

Student Transportation: \$215,249 – (\$43,619 over 2022)

On a motion by Chairman Merrifield, seconded by Gary Patnode, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to present the Sullivan School District budget as proposed by the Sullivan School Board, to the public at the Budget Hearing of January 24, 2023.

3. BUDGET COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Town of Sullivan Operating Budget

Salary Survey: Chairman Merrifield noted that only one town responded to the Request for Salary survey done in the Fall of 2022. The responding town (Gilsum) is similar to Sullivan in staffing needs and the Chairman noted that the numbers are comparable.

Proposed Pay Changes: Chairman Merrifield noted the 3% increase for salaried and hourly employees; on a request from Paul regarding this change, Chairman Merrifield expressed this to be reasonable. Members agreed the pay increase will be recommended by the Budget Committee.

Summary of Selectmen/Budget Committee recommendations: All Departments reviewed and will be recommended as proposed by the Selectmen; one change made in Capital Reserve funding request from the Selectmen:

Chairman Merrifield noted that the original recommendation of \$35,000 for the Highway Major Equipment Capital Reserve had been amended by vote of the Selectmen at their meeting of 1/2/2023 to \$45,000. He expressed that in this economic climate the original recommendation of \$35,000 in 2023 with increasing amounts in future years would be preferable.

The Highway Major Equipment Capital Committee's recommendations for replacement indicate that the Terrastar will be the first piece of equipment to be replaced (2028); funding of \$35000 now would be in line with the funding needed for that purchase.

On a motion by Gary Patnode, seconded by Mike Blanchard, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to amend the Highway Major Equipment Capital Reserve to \$35,000 as originally recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

On a motion by Chairman Merrifield, seconded by Gary Patnode, the Budget Committee voted unanimously to present the Town of Sullivan Operating Budget as recommended by the Board of Selectmen and amended by the Budget Committee (Highway Major Equipment Capital Reserve), to the public at the Budget Hearing of January 24, 2023.

4. OTHER BUSINESS:

The 2023 Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, 7:00 PM at the Sullivan Town Hall.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:14PM made by Dave Jakway, seconded by Mike Blanchard, all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen N. Rowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "R".

Kathleen N. Rowe
Secretary