

Town of Sullivan, NH
Budget Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Sullivan Town Hall

Board members present: Al Merrifield, Chairman; Mike Blanchard, Dave Jakway, Gary Patnode, BJ Wahl
Representatives: Paul Bolduc, Selectmen; William Thorndike, School Board
Others: Michael Brooks, Chairman, Sullivan School Board; Stephanie Millotte, Co-Chair, Sullivan School Board
Staff: Kathleen Rowe, Secretary

1. Call to Order: Chairman Merrifield called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. On a motion by Dave Jakway, seconded by BJ Wahl the minutes of the December 28, 2021 Budget Committee meeting were unanimously accepted and approved as written.

3. BUDGET REVIEWS and RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Sullivan School Board - \$1,852,171: Michael Brooks and Stephanie Millotte presented the Sullivan School Board 2022 Budget.

Tuition

Tuition Reg Ed - \$1,243,026: Comprised of Nelson, KHS and KMS. Nelson tuition costs are calculated using entire cost of operation divided by school census and will fluctuate from year to year. School census is calculated closely on average kindergarten population and actual year-to-year attendance through graduation. Chairman Merrifield asked if the new addition was figured into the operating costs, Mike confirmed this.

Tuition Special ED - \$342,440:

Mike noted that Nelson charges the same tuition for both regular and special education students whereas Keene elementary schools tuition at the full SPED rate. When asked if SPED census could be anticipated, Stephanie Millotte explained students may enter the SPED program at any time in the education process, on evaluation and referral by medical and special education staff, making budgeting to anything other than current census difficult. The Special Education Capital Reserve Fund is now fully funded to its goal in anticipation of further expenses.

Other School Board

Other Programs - \$25,000:

Placeholder for expenses from anticipated grant; offsetting entry in anticipating revenues. This grant will support special needs programming.

Student Support Services - \$15,520:

\$10 entries in budget are placeholders; provision for summer programs (\$11,500) and other support services (\$4000)

Other School Board - \$12,000:

Stipends (Board members \$200; clerk \$800; Treasurer \$200; moderator \$100;
Legal: \$2000 (anticipated contract work for new superintendent and bookkeeper)
Audit; \$2400

Primex (insurance): \$1000
 Data Manager: \$600 (data maintenance for grants, etc.)

SAU Management: \$42,000
 Superintendent: Current superintendent Ken Dessau who, in the past acted as both Superintendent and Special Education Coordinator, will be retiring in 2022. Mike noted that this position will become two separate positions, each budgeted at \$16,500.
 Business Manager: \$9000

Business - \$525 Office supplies, PO Boxes and postings

Student Transportation - \$171,640:
 First Student - \$151,891: 3% increase, 2nd year of 3-year contract; School Board did look at other providers, but found negotiating pricing to include other small towns more cost efficient.

Parent Reimbursement - \$300

Tucker Transportation - \$18,000

Other - \$1449: Summer school transport

Chairman Merrifield asked if the 5.71% overall budget increase was primarily in tuition; Mike confirmed this, adding that he has questioned school administrators about the prospect of returning to “normal” schooling, including having students who are currently home schooled or in charter schools returning to the district; in view of current Covid19 issues, the answers he receives are not yet optimistic.

Budget Committee Recommendation: Hearing no objection or discussion, the Sullivan School Board 2022 budget as presented will go to the Public Hearing.

B. Town of Sullivan Operating Budget - Reviewed in order of presentation to the Budget Committee

Planning and Zoning - \$ 3,785: No change

Cemetery - \$6,400: No change

Police – 47,657: No change

Highway - \$ 305,107: No change

Selectmen’s budget adjusted to reflect propane contract received from Amerigas and line item change requested by Todd for building maintenance.

Highway Special Projects - \$130,000: No change

Dave Jakway suggested using \$30,000 earmarked for Church Street reclamation to fund highway vehicle; Mike Blanchard noted that Church Street is a highly travelled road. Chairman Merrifield determined that this would be brought to the Public Hearing.

Library - \$22, 419: No change

Selectmen’s budget adjusted to reflect propane contract received from Amerigas.

Conservation - \$2,318.71: No change

Selectmen’s budget adjusted to reflect actual 2022 City of Keene recycling charges.

Selectmen’s Budget - \$233,466.25: No change

Town Wages - Noting the \$10,000 requested for the proposed clerical position for the Planning Board/ZBA, Chairman Merrifield asked if there were job descriptions for this position and the

code officer position; Paul confirmed that the code officer position description has been written; the clerical position has not yet been written. Chairman Merrifield suggested that the Town do an updated salary survey using small surrounding towns as a basis, to determine where Sullivan is in relation to prevailing salaries.

Capital Reserves – \$66,500: No change

Highway Major Equipment: Regarding additional funds (above the requested \$20,000 for 2022) Chairman Merrifield brought up Todd's comments regarding the formation of a committee to evaluate and recommend long-term planning with level funding for the replacement and purchase of highway major equipment. Mike Blanchard asked if the Budget Committee could recommend that a committee be formed; Chairman Merrifield suggested discussion at the Public Hearing before making recommendations to the Selectmen.

C. Warrant Article - \$20,000: Fire Department Breathing Apparatus: No change

4. Other Business:

- Public Hearing for the 2022 Town Operating Budget and Warrant Article and the 2022 Sullivan School Board Budget is scheduled for January 25th, 7:00pm at the Sullivan Town Hall. AA will post and publish notice of this hearing.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:20PM made by Dave Jakway, seconded by BJ Wahl, all aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen N. Rowe
Secretary