

Unapproved

SALEM BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES February 25, 2010

PRESENT

Carole Eckart
T. J. Butcher (Alt)
George Householder
Georgia Pech (Alt)
Greg Preston
Roland Traylor
Janet Griggs
Bill Weinschenker

ABSENT

Kevin Friert

B. Weinschenker called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

1. Proposed appropriations for the 2010/2011 Budget.

A. Salem School Budget 2010/2011(Packet Included)

Dan Kung, Chair of the BOE, presented the Salem School budget. The presentation began with the overall budget. This included goals, enrollment, staffing and class sizes

The overall goal of the BOE is to improve performance. Enrollment figures were based on downward trends, out of district, special education and East Lyme High School enrollment. Staffing was reduced because of lower enrollment. Teachers were offered early retirement, which enable the BOE to reduce staff. D. Kung informed the BOF that the BOE established a Finance Committee to estimate short and long term needs. The two main things that the BOE does are maintenance of the building and student programs.

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to seat TJ Butcher in place of Kevin Friert.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Chairman B. Weinschenker asked the BOF if they wanted to review the School's budget line by line. It was agreed that this was the way they have done in the past.

At this point the BOF discussed the MBR statute (minimum budget requirements). B. Weinschenker asked how the BOE arrived at the total budget amount. D. Kung based the budget on the amount of the 2008/2009 year.

It was noticed that the District Administrative Salary line was up. D. Kung explained that this was based on a contract. In the benefits line, the Disability/Annuity/Stipend line increased by 166%. This line is based on the amount of longevity of employees based on contracts. District level contracts were another section with increases. G. Preston inquired about the lease of the postage and copier machines. He was informed that the postage machine can only be leased and that the copier lease was a more economical way to go.

The BOF asked about the Adult Education budget. It was explained that the total cost of sending students to Norwich Adult Education Program was \$11,500. The state will reimburse the Town of Salem approximately \$3600.

The E.L.H.S cost shows an increase in regular tuition, transportation, and special education services. Out of District Services were addressed next. Special Education for transportation was up 45%. D. Kung explained that in the future the BOE would like to contract with qualified staff to meet the special education needs in house. G. Householder asked D. Kung how the negotiation were doing between East Lyme and Salem. He was told that there is a committee in place working on the contract.

Salem School Pre K-8 section increases the most. The BOF questions about the increase in substitute salaries and why there was a 23% increase. D. Kung stated that in the 2009/2010 budget, this line item was already overspent. Disability/Annuity/Stipend/

Incentives had the biggest increase. This increase reflects early retirement incentives for staff.

G. Householder approved of the increases for Program Improvements for new Curriculum and Textbooks. G. Preston asked the BOE why software/licenses were in multiple places in the BOE budget.

B. Weinschenker asked the BOE about the fuel expense in the 2009/2010 budget and if this line is over or under budget. He was informed that the fuel was a pre buy.

J. Griggs noted that the IT Equipment, which was discussed at an earlier BOF meeting, was not in the BOE 2010/2011 School's Budget.

D. Kung this will be discussed at the next BOE meeting.

The BOF commended D. Kung on his presentation. Chairman Weinschenker stated that in the past the budget showed present budget expense by line item, which informs the BOF which line items were under/over budget. The BOF agreed that this would be helpful. They would like to see at least the over spent budget items

M/S/C (Householder/Preston) to approve the BOE appropriation in the amount of \$10,077,593, subject to revision at the 3/18/2010 BOF meeting for presentation at public hearing.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

B. Revenue (Packet Included)

Chairman Weinschenker noted that the estimated revenue figures for the 2010/2011 budget looked correct. He noted that Department # 91, Property taxes is based on the current mil rate. The Department #92, State/Federal Grants are subject to change. The Department #94 revenue is down due to the economic times. The Revenue from use of Town's money is almost no existing.

Adjournment

M/S/C (Preston/Butcher) to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Vote: Approved Unanimously

Virginia Casey

Recording Secretary