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MILFORD SCHOOL BOARD
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Call to Order:

Chairman Paul Dargie called the Budget Hearing meeting to order at 7:00 PM in room 182 in the Milford High School. Board members present included Mr. Len Mannino, Mr. Peter Bragdon, Mr. Kevin Drew, and Mr. Robert Willette. Also present was Superintendent Robert Suprenant and Business Administrator Katie Chambers.

Overview of the Total Spending Plan:

Chairman Dargie provided an overview of the total spending plan referencing the Budget Hearing booklet. The projected tax rate increase is 2.2%. Mr. Dargie highlighted major changes in the proposed budget. Numbers were corrected for function account 5220. The actual 2014-15 proposed is \$2,121,891, or a decrease of 4.1%.

The actual increase in the operating budget proposal after fund transfers is \$61,109 more than the 2013-2014 operating budget or an increase of .2%. Mr. Dargie reviewed the specific warrant articles, and he described the revenue process and the District's projection of a decrease in revenues of \$373,153 or 2.91%.

Chairman Dargie made reference to the change in the default budget. Business Administrator Chambers described the changes that brought the default budget to a figure of \$36,965,334.

In reviewing the proposed budget for the Function 2600 accounts, Chairman Dargie noted that the five-year agreement for the District's copiers and printers is expiring at the end of the current school year. Prior to the expiration date, the District's equipment and service needs will be bid out. The subsequent agreement is expected to be for five years, and, like the current agreement, will contain a non-appropriation clause which allows the District to terminate the agreement if the voters do not approve the funding at some point during the five year term.

Public Comments:

Budget Committee member Rick Wood asked questions relative to the status teachers' contract. Mr. Wood also felt the School Resource Officer is a town function, not a school function, and should be funded by the police department.

Mr. Wood asked for clarification on Mr. Dargie's description that phone services were double-budgeted between the operating budget and the warrant for VoIP, resulting in a budget decrease of the amount that was double-budgeted. Ms. Chambers noted that there was an amount budgeted for phone service in the operating budget in case the warrant didn't pass, plus the VoIP service budgeted in the warrant article.

Mr. Wood questioned why health insurance is not shown under Early Retirement.

Mr. Wood spoke regarding Article 3. He said he has a problem with the way it is written, it appears to be disingenuous. Regarding revenue estimates, he feels the fund balance is no longer unanticipated but rather a contingency.

Mr. Peter Basiliere suggested using zeros as opposed to blank spaces in the CBA warrant article chart.

Mr. Dave Quigley offered to serve on a committee regarding lighting. He stated the lights trespass on his property and questioned why the District is not using a more intelligent lighting system. He expressed a concern that the proposed parking would cause a further lighting issue. He also expressed a concern about drainage should additional parking be added.

Mr. Dick Darling of 15 King Street spoke regarding the grading and drainage for the proposed parking spaces and stated snow was piled in front of the emergency access.

Budget Committee member Mr. Ron Carvell invited the public to attend the Budget Committee meeting on January 22nd.

Mr. Bragdon commented on his concern for using kindergarten enrollments as full time equivalents rather than half time equivalents.

Mr. Robert Kokko of Johnson Street spoke regarding the proposed parking spaces. He stated he is concerned about the amount of drainage and any mitigation should be in concert with the Town. He asked the Board to consider all drainage issues because it is more complicated than just adding parking spaces.

Adjournment:

Chairman Dargie closed the Budget Hearing at 8:35

Chairman of the School Board

Date of signing

The Mission of the Milford School District is to provide a quality education that challenges all students to succeed.