

Budget Task Force - Selectmen Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2015 - 8:00am
Truro Town Hall

Selectmen Present: Jay Coburn, Maureen Burgess and Bob Weinstein.

Finance Committee Present: Lori Meads and Roberta Lema, Richard Wood

School: Mike and Terry

Staff/Others: Rae Ann Palmer, Trudi Brazil, Charleen Greenhalgh, Mike Gradone (Superintendent), Terri Humes (Chair, School Committee) and Bob Panessiti (on-phone),

The meeting called to order by Mr. Coburn for the Board of Selectmen and Ms. Mead for the Finance Committee at 8:08am.

School Committee

Mr. Gradone presented the budget, which is up 2.1%. Increase is in the tuition accounts for Nauset and Special Ed \$126,000. Mr. Gradone now knows how volatile it is to small towns with the tuition increases.

Professional development has also increased to allow for the alignment of training amongst the teachers for the advantage of the students. 41 accounts have been reduced from the FY15 budget, software changes, level funding of budgets have resulted in the reductions. K-6 budgets are up less than 1%. There is a 3.78% increase in tuition accounts. SPED is difficult to calculate as it is spread all over the budget. Negotiations are currently happening. The Pre-School program is not a mandated program, so this is not included in the budget. Early intervention for Special Needs has now been mandated. Approximately 20 students per session (morning – afternoon) are currently participating.

Overall there are 128 students in the Truro Central School (TSC) and 82 in the Nauset program. There are 19 students in School Choice of the 128 students at TSC. A discussion ensued on the Special Ed Circuit Breaker fund. This money cannot be used as a funding source. It is for the School to use at its full discretion. Both Mrs. Brazil and Ms. Palmer reported that Chapter 70 and Local Aide will not be touched, per announcement by the new Governor (Charlie Baker) on Friday.

The Special Ed program has been restructured, resulting in a reduction in the costs. Bus contract has been extended for 2 years for a 3% increase. It will be renegotiated for the following year. A discussion ensued about the proposed CIP. It was suggested that the phone systems may be able to be coordinated between the Town and the School through CapeNet. Phones: \$17,000; Exterior repainting of the steel: \$40,000; and, \$170,000 for refurbishing of the playground. There are safety issues and handicap compliance issues with the existing playground. A new estimate has come in for \$125,000; this is the number that will be used in the CIP. Discussion ensued about technology. There is a plan being developed for technology. Ms. Burgess spoke to the high ratio of staff to students. Ms. Humes explained that there is one teacher per classrooms. The Para-professionals are mandated by different programs. The question was raised whether maintaining the 6th grade class is in the best interest of the students, when the numbers are down. This is a debatable question. Also, money wise, because the Town has 6th grade, if a student wants to go to Nauset, where there is an existing tuition relationship, the cost is \$5000 per student. If the town does not offer 6th grade, then the cost would be around \$16,000 per student.

Mr. Coburn brought up what he sees as a disservice to the community that the Town Meeting is no longer held at the School. This provides for a disconnect between the community and the school. He would like to see Town Meeting held at the School, but this is a conversation for another day.

Selectmen Budget

The budget has been level funded. Mrs. Lima expressed that the salary should be increased based on the amount of meetings that the members attend. Staff will research what other communities receive and when the

last increase occurred. The decrease in the budget represents the elimination of funds for Search Consultant. The increase in the Chamber request was discussed. It is currently in the budget with a 50% increase over last year. Some felt more comfortable with a 25% increase. A discussion ensued about how the money is used. The Chamber is also looking at additional staff time, not just money for the booklet. Ms. Palmer will reach out to the Chamber to get more specifics.

Ms. Brazil spoke to going out for an RFP for the Auditing services, not this year, but next. It is a good policy to change auditors.

Administration

Level funded from the previous year. No questions.

Town Counsel

The increase at this point is primarily in the Labor Counsel portion of the budget. Mr. Weinstein is not happy with this budget. The Town has gone out for bid for Legal Services. It was suggested that the policy for access to Town Counsel services be looked at. There is currently a stipend with Labor Counsel for HR services, which has been invaluable.

Town Hall Operations

This budget has absorbed a number of other items, such as if mailings need to get done, which have not been covered in other budgets. This budget has taken care of many of these costs.

The budget is also looking at containing an Allocated Energy Fund to cover unanticipated electricity. Discussion about propane vs. oil was discussed as well as solar.

Annual Town Report

This does not take into account publication cost increases.

Next Meeting is February 2, 2015 for review of the Fire Budget and preliminary final budget.

The Selectmen lost the quorum at 9:33am. Ms. Mead adjourned the Finance Committee portion of the meeting at 9:36am

Respectfully submitted, Charleen Greenhalgh, Assistant Town Administrator/Planner.

Board of Selectmen



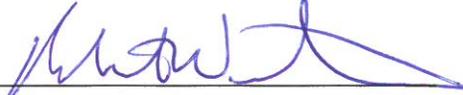
Jay Coburn, Chair

Absent

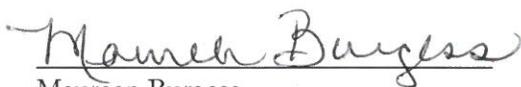
Jan Worthington, Clerk

Absent

Paul Wisotzky, Vice-Chair



Robert Weinstein



Maureen Burgess