

TOWN OF SEABROOK

BUDGET MEETING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2010

Present: Paula Wood
Ivan Eaton
Aboul Khan
Richard Maguire
Don Hawkins
Peg Weare
Kathy Cronin

6:00PM

Mrs. Wood opened the meeting at 6:01PM.

Paul Knowles arrived at 6:02PM.

MEETING - SAU21

Nancy Tuttle was present for this meeting.

Ms. Tuttle introduced SAU Superintendent Bob Sullivan.

Albert Abramson arrived at 6:03PM.

Ms. Tuttle introduced the principle for the Seabrook School
Brian Buckley.

Health Insurance Rates - they were guaranteed a maximum of increase of no more than 11.3% but it actually came in at 4%. This would have been a savings of \$50K for the 2009-2010 budget. For the 2011 budget the increase was 19.5% but the actual came in at 13.3% and was a savings of \$37,047. There was discussion on the option of changing carriers.

Trust Funds - there is \$60,077.30 in the fund as of June 2010. \$25K was put into the fund for the building maintenance that was approved in the 2010 budget. Ms. Tuttle recommends that the special education fund be built up to \$300K and the building maintenance fund to \$150K. She recommends drawing from the budget and only using the trust funds in a catastrophic emergency.

Mrs. Wood said she has a problem with an increase in the budget to increase the money put into the reserve funds. She feels they should have a separate warrant article to allow the money to be put in. She thinks it should be up to the voters and not an increase in the budget. Health savings accounts were discussed to save money.

Revenues - Ms. Tuttle said they don't get a lot of money but they get some from state and federal government. She explained the 1.8 million being the bond for the Honeywell project.

There was discussion on the state revenue that was received and how it is broken down. They have no control over how much money they receive.

Year End Fund Balance - Ms. Tuttle explained the budget with the warrant article and expense trust with carry forward encumbrances. She explained how they come up with the revised budget and how they arrive at the amount that goes back into the general fund with the Town.

Ms. Tuttle explained further the unreserved fund balance and how they get to the numbers.

The committee members were very thankful for this meeting with what is being done as it was very helpful.

2010-2011 Final Budget - summary of the default budget and budget committee's recommendation.

Budget Timeline - this is just a guide but they hope to meet the goals.

Mrs. Wood said they would like to have the school budget for at least 2 meetings so they are not rushed. Ms. Tuttle agreed and said that would be fine.

Hampton Withdrawal - Ms. Tuttle does not know exactly how it will affect each district but she will bring information forward as soon as it is available.

Ms. Tuttle spoke about the out of district placements and said the cost is over \$180K, which is a \$135K shortfall. They will be reporting to the school board in December and will know more after that meeting.

Nancy Tuttle left the meeting at 7:04PM.

Water & Sewer Rate Study - memo was received. Mrs. Wood asked if this would be acted upon. Mr. Khan said the water superintendent is making a recommendation and it would be brought forward to the Board of Selectmen. The town manager indicated to Mr. Khan that the Selectmen are not looking for an increase at this time.

Mold Remediation - Mrs. Wood said she has done some research and spoke to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. She indicated she was told by the DRA there was no need for a special town meeting. The DRA does have a copy of the petition to superior court. In this process the court decides if it is an emergency and then the voters decide to transfer the money or not. She asked what happens if it doesn't pass and was told there is no plan B. She said there were already two articles that were voted down. She doesn't believe that something that takes months to fix and knowing about it for 4 years is an emergency.

Members spoke of their opinions of the mold remediation project and the RSA's that have been broken. Mr. Hawkins said the report said there is a major health issue and they had to correct or the lawsuits would have been that much greater. There was discussion on the other buildings and the need for a maintenance program.

Budget Status - Mr. Khan said contract negotiations were started early and are going very well. The Selectmen have restricted overtime to emergencies only. Mr. Khan spoke about the employees who have questioned what is more important the health and well being of the public or the process that is being followed for the remediation.

Mr. Maguire requested a report of expenditures through September 30, revenues through September 30, figures for the unreserved fund balance and a timeline from the Town Manager on the budget. He also asked if the Town Manager or Selectmen have any comments on the state aid to share with the budget committee.

Mrs. Wood suggested having the state representatives in to meet with the budget committee sometime in November after election.

Mrs. Wood asked if the committee would like a letter sent to the Town Manager on the request from Mr. Maguire. Mr. Maguire felt that Mr. Khan could bring it to him as the Selectmen's representative and that a letter was not necessary.

Next meeting is October 21 at 6PM.

Mr. Abramson brought up having a revolving fund for vehicles that can no longer pass inspection. The opinion of the committee is that this would take away voters rights. There was discussion on revolving accounts by the committee.

MOTION: Aboul B. Khan To adjourn the meeting
Second: Paula Wood at 7:45PM.

Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.
Minutes taken by Kelly J. O'Connor

Approved and endorsed:

Paula Wood, Chairman

Date: _____