

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting with members of the Board of Finance and Board of Education on November 13, 2017 at the Town Hall with First Selectman Robert Morra presiding. Also in attendance were: Selectmen Robert Neil, Michael Eremita, Gwen Marrison and Sandra Pierog; Board of Finance members Robert Munroe, Emily Bradley and Robert DePietro; Board of Education members Elizabeth Krueger, Scott Rich, Chris Davey and Andrew Broneill; Administrative Officer Joyce Stille, Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins; Superintendent Kristin Heckt; and town resident Richard Tuthill.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Morra called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Discussion on Budget and Related Items for Current Year, next Year and Subsequent Years

A. Revenues

B. Expenditures

J. Collins reviewed the revenue and expenditure report.

Key points include:

- ❖ unaudited cash surplus to start current year \$503,848
- ❖ additional Columbia student equals \$2,400 revenue increase
- ❖ State grant reductions include Municipal Revenue Sharing \$87,781, Pequot \$83, ECS \$141,047, Elderly Circuit Breaker \$30,113 and Motor Vehicle Grant \$144,994
- ❖ Continuing Education increased \$144 and Motor Vehicle tax with 39 mil rate provides tax increase
- ❖ net impact of state changes and motor vehicle is a \$99,826 deficit
- ❖ 1 mil increase in property tax is \$385,190
- ❖ additional reductions in the municipal aid from the state this year and future years is major concern
- ❖ Number of Columbia students impacts budget

On the Town side, the unemployment line item (covers Town and school former staff) is considerably underfunded in the current year's budget. Special education costs can impact the education budget positively or negatively at any time during the year. The impact of Special Education services for CHOICE students was discussed.

C. Capital Improvements

Mr. Morra shared that the Board of Selectmen will be acting on the hiring of a structural engineer firm to review the Notch Road Municipal Center.

Mrs. Heckt discussed a grant application for partial funding of improvements to the wireless system at both schools. In addition, an automatic door opener at Bolton High School and revising the Bolton Center School phone system are proposed capital projects.

D. Debt Service

After refinancing debt last year, debt service remains level. The audit for the high school project continues.

3. Shared Services

A joint Finance Policies and Procedures is being reviewed by school and town administration and finance staff.

Mr. Munroe is conducting interviews to review job functions for shared services. Shared services have been discussed at 2+2+2 meetings. The next meeting will include discussion on possible outreach activities with Columbia. Ms. Pierog said that future meetings will be posted open meetings.

4. Health Insurance

Ms. Stille shared that the Town and School are looking at joining an established self-funded health insurance consortium as a means of controlling costs. We will have an informational meeting on self-funding as the process progresses.

5. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce M. Stille

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.