

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2016

Present: Gerry Brayton, Bob Finnegan, Tom Tracey, Christine Edwards, Kurt Kaiser, Maureen O'Sullivan, Peter Fimognari, Bob Margerison, Jim Pennington, Brenda Payette (Administrative Assistant), Mary Lauria (Town Accountant), Evan Brassard (Town Administrator), Cheryl Clarke (School Superintendent), Michelle Loglisci (Director of Transportation), Joshua Farber and Peter Souriel (School Committee), Don Smith (Director of Business & Facilities)

Absent: William Dominguez

The meeting was convened at 7:00pm

Mr. Pennington made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for February 29, 2016; Mr. Brayton SECONDED, all voted YES with Ms. O'Sullivan and Mr. Margerison abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Expenditure Ledger
Town of Monson FY17 projections
Updated proposed budget spreadsheet

BILLS TO PAY OR TO APPROPRIATE:

None

MEETINGS MEMBERS ATTENDED:

None

Reminder that the Pathfinder budget meeting is March 16, 2016.

BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Updates:

Mr. Brassard received preliminary numbers from Pathfinder-\$37,526 increase, this is reflected on the revenue sheet and it does impact the bottom line. Roughly \$18,000 is roof repair project.

Mr. Brassard handed out an updated budget spreadsheet with mostly completed figures. The School Transportation budget is not entered in yet, waiting until they give the transportation budget presentation and then will update.

7:05pm Cheryl Clarke, School Superintendent

Superintendent Clarke provided a 2016-2017 budget presentation, below is text from the slide presentation:

The Objective:

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1. keep programs & initiatives that have been brought back over last 2yrs.
2. maintain number of staff
3. maintain/increase enrollment through a reduction in Monson schools choosing out of district schools and an increase in the number of School Choice students.

New Programming Technology and Enrichment Opportunities 2014-2016

Quarry Hill

- every classroom outfitted with smartboards
- additional computer lab
- cart of tablets
- technology specials class
- behavioral program
- two additional preschool classes

Granite Valley

- full time music teacher
- .75 spanish teacher
- .75 art teacher
- behavioral program
- grade-level special education teachers

Monson High

- food and nutrition
- child development
- music: chorus, guitar, band
- technology education: tech drawing, manufacturing Tech I & II, Intro to computer networking, virtual learning opportunities expanded
- articulation agreements with HCC and STCC
- Football Co-op

District

- after school enrichment program - QH & GVMS
- school resource officer
- \$20,000 for professional development per year

Technology

Maintain the Number of Staff

- two FTE's to be eliminated at GVMS due to enrollment
- those FTE's will be replaced with:
 - STEM specials teacher - GVMS

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- additional grade 1 teacher - QH

Maintain/increase enrollment through a reduction in Monson schools choosing out of district schools and an increase in the number of School Choice students.

- School Choice
- Enrollment- stable over last 2 yrs., addition of a kindergarten class, addition of preschool class, number of students to pathfinder reduced

New FY 2017:

Technology- two laptop carts per school, new rediker website

QH- full day preschool

GVMS- STEM specials class

MHS- sophomore honors biology class

Additional funding requested from town:

FY2015 \$0

FY2016 \$0

Preliminary annual town meeting appropriation- \$10,537,630 (FY2015 number)

total operational budget- \$10,965,297

budget funding gap \$427,667

school choice dollars \$100,000

TOTAL REQUESTED \$ 327,667

Why such a large gap?

special education tuition increased by \$320,811 for additional out-of-district placements and staffing

contractual salary increase \$213,223

TOTAL ABOVE: \$534,034

IN SUMMARY...

no additional positions requested

two FTE's "swapped" for grade 1 and STEM

all other lines remain level

utilization of grant funding for positions of team leader and mentors

school choice dollars for technology and textbooks

Discussion after presentation:

It was asked if the special education budget could be reduced down?

Superintendent Clarke stated they are bound to the students IEP's plan.

It was asked about talk of an override?

Superintendent Clarke and Mr. Brassard said no, they just got all the figures together and they have had

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no additional talks.

7:30pm Michelle Loglisci, Transportation Director

Ms. Loglisci provided handouts of the transportation department budget request FY17, history of route eliminations (cuts) and school department vehicle inventory

text from route eliminations and cuts handout:

in 2015-2016 one route was eliminated - #of routes 10

line item increases: wages increased, garage expenses/utilities increase, garage lease

how increases were managed: bus fuel and deferral of bus purchase

text from transportation department budget request FY17:

town obligation FY16-\$938,848

town obligation FY17-\$978,693 (4.25% increase)

Mr. Brassard discussed the updated fiscal 2017 projections spreadsheet:

estimated shortfall of \$350,403 as this time.

Mr. Brassard was asked if we are caught up with expenses related to the tornado and October storm.

He said they are caught up with both expenses and income.

He said he is looking at different options;

- leasing highway dump truck
- will work with schools for one time purchase, can they use free cash? This is all new information so he has not had the opportunity to fully look at that.

FinCom will wait until after the Pathfinder budget meeting to see if they want to invite them in.

Ms. O'Sullivan questioned the increase in electricity for the schools. Mr. Smith stated the electricity for the schools is up, he is still negotiating the rates so those numbers are moving.

FinCom asked if the special education budget could go up for next year or maybe even down?

Superintendent Clarke stated that they just don't know for certain.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda I. Payette

Administrative Assistant to the Finance Committee