

Rollinsford Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2011

I. Call to Order

Richard O. Wasson called to order the Rollinsford Budget Committee meeting at 6:34 p.m. on January 20, 2011 in the Rollinsford Town Hall.

II. Attendees

The following members were present: Richard O. Wasson, Tasha Botelho, Michele Small, Ed Jansen, Mike Rollo, Denise Knowles, Madeline Cambo, Carlton Spencer, Greg Cordeiro, Dan Marquis and Dennis St. Hilaire.

Visitors: Members from the Community

Absent: Frank Rosselli, Paul Turgeon

III. School Budget

Denise made a motion to take forward the operating budget for the school. Michele seconded for discussion. Mike said he has some cuts that he would like to propose. 10-1100-100-01-11 Teacher's salaries: cut \$ 87,136.00. This reduction reflects both salaries and benefits for the vacant Fourth Grade position. I believe that it is foolish to fill this position before the space needs committee finishes it work. With enrollments dropping we should be cutting costs where appropriate.

10-2222-110-01-11 Library Services: Cut \$17,870.00. This reduction is for the new proposed media specialist portion of the librarian's salary. Although this new proposal is wanted, it is not a need and should be held for another time.

10-2222-641-01 Library Services (Print Media): I believe this \$2000.00 increase is for 5 new laptops for classroom use. Another need versus want situation. I have had my laptop over 5 years and it runs great. Why do we need to upgrade at this time? Also, I would prefer ALL of the teachers actually use their assigned computers before we are asked to purchase additional ones. These three proposed cuts will net approximately \$107,006.00. Not a huge amount, but certainly a start.

Greg saw the problem with \$28,859 as a payout to the retiring teacher as a bonus. He said that in the contract it says that they may get bonus but it says they need to inform them by Nov. 1st. Denise said that the school budget waived that date. Greg said that he is concerned that we are setting a precedence because we have many other teachers looking to retire. If we were trying to reduce staff then the bonus is worth it. Denise said that the bonus was decided when the school board accepted the retirement. Greg

asked about the computer usage in school. Bill said that the teachers use the new laptops on a daily basis and they didn't get rid of the old computers. They are still being used the best they can. Mike said he is not arguing the educational merit of computers, just arguing the economic right now. Ed said that he is not worried about the computers, he is looking at the large increase. If we are looking at a new teacher, and space needs, it would not be fair to put a new teacher in and then take them out in 2 years when we have changed the space. Denise is concerned about the reduction of force to the number of students. The feasibility study is going to take 2-3 years if passed and that is 2-3 years of oversized classrooms. Michele is concerned with 28 students in a classroom. She is concerned with locking into a contract we cannot afford. She agrees with Greg about the retirement bonus but understands that it was in the current contract. In the economy it is the one piece we can actually negotiate. The town can only vote down the contract and it goes back to negotiations. If a teacher is not hired, the current size of the building doesn't meet codes already. Right now they have waivers for small class size. If we bump up students per classroom, they might have to go to portable classrooms which are approx. \$90,000. Mike said if we keep the teacher then we need to find cuts somewhere else. Greg made an amendment to the motion to take out \$2,000 from subs and take out \$17,870 for library additional days, so total removed \$19,870. Mike seconded. Mike further amended to take out teacher salary of \$87,136.00. Madeline seconded. 4 votes for the motion, 5 votes against. So the motion went back to removing \$19,870.00 8 votes were for the motion, 1 against. So the motion passed to remove the \$19,870.00. The original motion to move \$4,869,169.00 passes with 7 yes votes, 2 no. The contract needs to be voted on. Greg said that his concern is that it is hidden from the town. Ed said that if you don't like the buyout you have to vote down the contract. Ed is worried about future years in the budget. It is not only the \$40,000, it is the future. Denise makes a motion to bring forward the \$40,867 for the contract. Michele seconds. One is in support, 8 don't support. It does not pass. Mike make a motion to have warrant articles for feasibility study within the Rollinsford School District for the purpose of outlining options for educating student in the Rollinsford School District totaling \$20,000. Greg seconded. 6 voted yes, 3 no. Motion passed. Mike made a motion for the withdrawal from the school building improvement fund for the fixing of items in school. Madeline seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mike made a motion for the capital reserve fund for the purpose of education of educationally disabled children to be funded from the June 30, 2011 undesignated fund balance for transfer on July 1st. Michele seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Water Budget

Denise made a motion to bring the water budget of \$532,091.00 forward. Mike seconded. Michele brought up the issue with the 3% raise for personnel. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Town Budget

The grand total is \$1,363,195.77 which is up 2%. Mike asked about street lighting and Ed said we can take it out of contingency if needed. Mike is also worried about the Lamprey Waste. It is a problem and they are going to try to fix it. Denise made a motion to bring the budget forward of \$1,610,725.78. Mike seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Other Business

**Next Meetings: 9:00 a.m. RGS
Feb. 5th Deliberative Session**

Carlton makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

Richard O. Wasson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Tasha Botelho, Secretary