

January 4, 2022 Bow Budget Committee

Minutes

The meeting was warned for 6:00 at the Bow Municipal Building.

Budget Committee members present:

Mark Zerba, Jennifer Strong-Rain, Michael Wayne (Select Board Alternate), Ben Kiniry, Jeff Knight (arrived 6:13), Andrew Mattiace, Bob Blanchette, Kathy Garfield,

Administrators present:

Dean S.T. Cascadden, Duane Ford

Public Present:

Chris Nicolopoulos (Select Board Alternate)
Martin Osterloh (School Board Alternate)

Meeting:

Mark Zerba opened the meeting at 6:05 and called for nominations of officers.

Kathy Garfield motioned and Jennifer Strong-Rain seconded to elect Mark Zerba as Chair.

Motion carried 7-0

Mark Zerba motioned and Jennifer Kathy Garfield seconded to elect Jennifer Strong-Rain as Vice Chair.

Motion carried 7-0

Mark Zerba motioned and Jennifer Strong-Rain seconded to elect Kathy Garfield as Secretary.

Motion carried 7-0

Mark Zerba announced that Bryce Larrabee would be coming to the Budget Committee on Thursday January 13 to present a proposal for the Community Turf Field.

Dr. Cascadden reviewed his overview of the budget including:

- Issues and needs related to COVID
 - Learning Loss-ARC Literacy Program funded by federal COVID money is addressing this, as well as piloting math programs.
 - Delayed Maturity-MTSS-B is a district initiative focused on addressing climate, culture and behavior in our schools

- Glad to see officer Goodacre working into the SRO position. This is a needed resource that we have been missing.
- A very complicated warrant that touches on the following:
 - AREA Agreement and historical cost negotiations with Dunbarton
 - Proposed Master Contracts with BEA and BESS, professional and support staff
 - BES HVAC project and future needs (Capital Reserve Deposit)
 - Community Turf Field
 - Budget
 - World Cultures Teacher and program k-6
 - Restructuring Special Services- add a coordinator, one per building
 - Increased compensation for sub and bus drivers

Duane Ford passed out and discussed a packet that explained the largest fund balance (20-21) that the district has had since at least 2005. This fund balance lowered the amount of taxes raised locally. That document is attached to these minutes. It is possible to use future fund balance to put into capital reserve if the board and budget committee would choose to propose that.

Duane Ford reviewed the overall budget using a powerpoint that is attached to these minutes. The Budget Committee asked a number of clarifying questions that Mr. Ford answered. Warrant articles were covered and the budget was reviewed by Function and then by Object. Any questions on the proposed turf field project were deferred to the presentation coming next week.

This first meeting is mostly about overview and presentation. There was some discussion and clarification, but the attached documents contain the bulk of the information conveyed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15

Respectfully Submitted:

Dean S.T. Cascadden, Superintendent