



TOWN OF BOW

Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

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Bow Budget Committee Minutes – School Budget Unapproved Minutes January 20, 2022

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| Mark Zerba, Chair | P | Kathy Garfield | P |
| Jennifer Strong-Rain, Vice Chair (School Board Rep.) | P | Jeffrey Knight | P |
| Ben Kiniry, Secretary | A | Robert Blanchette | P |
| Andrew Mattiace | P | Bruce Marshall (Selectman Rep.) | P |
| Michael Wayne (Selectman Alt.) | P until 7:00 PM | Martin Osterloh (School Board Alt.) | P |
| Superintendent Dean Cascadden | P | Business Administrator Duane Ford | P |

* P = Present; A = Absent

I. Call to Order

Chairman Zerba called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Approval Minutes January 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Kathy Garfield moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Andrew Mattiace. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Hearing Date

Chairman Zerba announced that the Public Hearing on the Town and School budgets would be on February 8, 2022 at 6:00p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The snow date is February 9, 2022.

IV. School Budget Review

The Committee continued to review specific line items for discussion from where they left off at the last meeting.

- Co-Curricular wages at BHS, there was a brief discussion concerning the \$3,200 increase and the \$18,072 increase.
- Athletic Training Contract Service Mr. Ford confirmed that service is contracted out, that is the \$30,000 and there is a proposal for two assistant basketball coaches at the high school that is \$5,200.

- \$500,000 fund balance was used to reduce taxes.
- Social worker position was eliminated, it was a grant position, instead hired a guidance counselor with those grant funds.
- Speech therapy Mr. Ford reported the current speech pathologist is retiring, they did a study of the speech program and it was determined it was over staffed, they reconfigured where people are and utilized Speech Therapy Assistants which their wages are less, this budget reflects the current staffing.
- Comprehensive phone project there was a brief discussion whether this was a need or a want. Mr. Ford reported ideally to have a communication mechanism in each classroom would be ideal for safety purposes. Right now, in some classrooms the only form of communication with the office is over the P. A. system not to say the schools aren't safe the current system just isn't ideal anymore. With the new system any unit would be able to call out, call the office and call a school wide event such as a lockdown. We are able to reuse some of the phones.
- District wide software, Mr. Ford explained that is three modules, they run their subs, and absences management through this program. Run the professional learning through there and hiring and advertising of employment.
- Technology there was a brief discussion of upgrading new equipment on the back end. Mr. Ford referred to Roy's report. Every student has their own Chromebook, which are retired on a 4-year cycle, and they reuse when they can. Mr. Zerba asked why kindergartners needed iPads, and Mr. Ford explained they have really good software programs that are based for children of that age base. Mr. Knight would like to know if they can share them with other classrooms, Mr. Ford will find out and report back to the committee.
- There was a brief discussion of the back-end switch system, its 12 years old. They run about \$20,000 to \$30,000, hopeful to purchase one that will last another 12 years.
- School Board Advertising Mr. Ford reported the district spent \$33,000 last year in advertising which is more advertising than they had done in the past. The district has switched to frontline subscription which is the industry standard, JobsNH subscription for job postings. So far this year the district has spent \$5,900 in advertising.
- District Legal Fees there was an increase due to contract negotiations.
- Property/Liability Insurance Mr. Ford explained the district uses PRIMEX, the increase is due to the cyber security cost. Mr. Knight asked how much it would cost to change the deductible, and Mr. Ford reported they would have to get a private policy in order to do so. The cyber deductible is \$25k, this is considered a good deductible, because of being in a pool at PRIMEX. The school does a yearly cyber security audit.
- SAU Administration Mr. Ford reviewed the process for the Superintendent search. It may be contracted out, \$12,000 would include contracting the search out should the Board decide to do so. There was also a brief discussion on the SAU fund balance of \$75,000.
- Student transportation there is a proposed increase for regular drivers \$107.00 per day, and drivers for the disabled students \$114.00 per day, and will be offering single health insurance for all drivers, if they want their family the employee would have to pay the difference. Ms. Garfield asked if they make due with buying 1 bus, Mr. Ford said we need the Special Ed bus, and is willing to hold off purchasing one of the regular buses.

- There was brief discussion on the math programs.
- There was brief discussion on the enrollment across the state, and what the future enrollment will look like, right now the district enrollment is strong.
- There was back and forth discussion on the overall budget, and what items were new to the budget. Mr. Knight would like to see the overall budget reduced by \$419,000, and suggested the district set up a capital reserve for their various buildings.
- There was a brief discussion on the world culture teacher position at the Elementary School. Mr. Osterloh was on the committee that brought forth this position to the school board. There was a lot of community support to bring this position in at the elementary school level. Right now, the world culture is not introduced to students until 7th grade.
- The increase of \$117,000 for supplies was discussed. A lot of that is literacy curriculum and math program.

V. Warrant Articles

The committee reviewed each warrant article noting the following:

Warrant Article 2 proposed turf field, Warrant Article 3 school salaries, Warrant Article 4 collective bargaining, Warrant Article 5 collective bargaining, Warrant Articles 6 thru 8 capital reserves, Warrant Article 9 no vote.

VI. Other Business

There was discussion on the proposed Turf Field, and what the procedure will be for this item at the Budget Hearing.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Kathy Garfield moved to adjourn, seconded by Andrew Mattiace. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tonia Lindquist