



TOWN OF BOW

Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

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Bow Budget Committee Public Hearing Bow School District Budget Bow Town Budget Unapproved Minutes February 8, 2022

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Andrew Matisse	P
Jeffrey Knight	P	Kathy Garfield (Remote)	P
Robert Blanchette	A	Benjamin Kiniry	A
Bruce Marshall (Selectboard Rep.)	P	Jennifer Strong-Rain (School Brd Rep)	P
Superintendent Dean Cascadden	P	Business Administrator Duane Ford	P
Town Manager David Stack	P	Finance Director Geoff Ruggles	P

* P = Present; A = Absent

I. Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Town Budget Review

Chair Zerba gave an overview of the process the Budget Committee goes through to review and evaluate the Town Budget and explained the budget hearing process. The Committee will present the Town Budget first and then go on to the School District Budget, allowing for questions between presentations. If there are no further comments, the Public Hearing will then be closed. Following the public hearing, the Budget Committee will meet to vote on the warrant articles for the Town and the School.

Chair Zerba reviewed the Town FY2022-23 Budget Overview by Department. The Town Warrant Articles were reviewed after.

Total Operating Budget recommended is \$12,537,074. Warrant Articles add \$1,735,988 for a total gross budget of \$14,273,062. Gross revenues are \$4,995,456 for a Net Appropriation of \$9,277,606. Add Overlay of \$250,000 and War Service Credits of \$237,500 to get a Net Taxable Appropriation of \$9,245,106. Net Taxable Valuation (x1,000) of \$1,281,542 for a Municipal Tax Rate of \$7.22 per thousand.

Chair Zerba called for questions. Sensing none, the Chair closed the Town portion of the hearing and opened it for the School District.

III. School District Budget Review

Chair Zerba reviewed the proposed budget for the Bow School District. Total operating budget recommended is \$31,832,024. Adding the proposed warrant articles brings the total to \$36,055,313. Less revenues of \$9,453,770 and minus State grants and SWEPT the estimated Local school tax rate is \$15.75 plus State school tax rate of \$1.33 equals an estimated total school tax rate of \$17.08 (\$1.22 over the previous year.)

Chair Zerba asked for public comments. Robert Louf asked a procedural question concerning the amount of time the ballot box must remain open between Warrant Articles #2 and #3. Superintendent Cascadden stated that legal counsel has advised it would be legal if the voters were to submit votes for both articles at the same time on different colored paper.

There was discussion regarding the proposed turf field. One taxpayer was concerned about the messaging around the funding source(s) for the field and asked for more transparency. Others expressed concern that now may not be the time to put in a turf field; and, why now, when the middle school's tap water has an unpleasant smell? Two School Board members confirmed that the cost to maintain the turf field would be the same as the cost to maintain the existing grass fields. Superintendent Cascadden told the taxpayers there was a Bond Hearing on the Turf Field Project scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022; 6:00 PM in the Bow High School auditorium and urged the taxpayers to attend to get their questions answered.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the public hearing was closed at 6:35 PM. The Budget Committee meeting followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary

