

Town of Rye Budget Committee  
Budget Review

08/06/19

Attendees: Chair Jaci Grote, Mae Bradshaw, Peggy Balboni, Randy Crapo, Shawn Crapo, Ralph Hickson, Scott Marion, Mindy Ryan, school business administrator, Salvatore Petralia and Becky Bergeron, Acting Town Administrator and Finance Director.

Chair Jaci Grote opens the meeting at 6:10 with the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Jaci Grote: Has everyone looked at the minutes and does anyone have any comments or concerns? If not, can we have a motion to approve them?

Mae makes a motion to approve, second by Ralph.

All in favor except Ralph Hickman as he was absent.

Chair Jaci opens with the sad news that our Clerk Peter Crawford has passed and that there will be a memorial service on 8/27/19 at the Rye Library on his behalf.

Jaci opens with the school budget.

Sal Petralia introduces Mindy Ryan and gives her background to the Budget Committee.

Mindy will review the 2018/2019 school budget year to date. This is an unaudited review. Auditing will take place later.

Mindy opens and distributes the paperwork to the budget committee. Members of the budget committee introduce themselves to Mindy. She has provided a snapshot of the financials as well as a detail report that is attached.

Questions about the Special Education costs that are up. And substitute Teaching/support staff absences are up? Sal will investigate and respond to the Budget Committee through the chair.

Question: When did we change the Junior High to Middle School? Mindy explains that this is the way the chart of accounts is online.

Bleacher Inspections? Is this to be done every year? \$1500 per year. Mindy will review this and report back to the committee.

Recent expenses made to spend down a portion of the remaining budget, per agreement with the Board of Selectmen, by the end of the year. Boiler is in process and part of the incumbent.

Special Education – we were hit hard by some surprises and legal issues.

Speech Therapist was hired at higher rate and pay grade than originally budgeted.

Professional Growth \$30,000 not spent. Instructional coach has not been hired year whether we need one or not has not been determined.

Technology Expense \$30,000

This is contract services – IT Assistance when needed.

Legal Services

Deal with legal issues with students. One is an 18 months issue which is winding down.

Question: Why do we only put aside \$2000 a year for this? Scott Marion will review with School Board.

Boiler Replacement

We were encouraged by the Budget Committee to take care of this and we are doing it now.

Jaci: Where are we with the replacement of these boilers? Are we in good shape? Are we going to be more proactive plan to maintain the systems going forward?

Response: Yes, we are very good now. We should be good for the next 40 years.

Jaci: Are we moving forward with the lighting program through Eversource?

Response: Yes, we are working on it right now.

Water bubblers we are moving to replace these to with one that has a better filtration system.

Question: Is there a procedure for going over a budget line item?

Answer: Yes, the School Board can vote and move the line item to another line item.

Jaci: I see we have a bus overage. We are splitting it with New Castle? Sal will investigate this for us.

Safety Grants – obtained for improvement of safety aspects of school building total \$115k.

Question: Can we get a reduction on our insurance rates for doing these safety programs? Maybe reporting these upgrades will change our rates? Mindy will investigate this for us.

The Grant money will be added to the bottom line when the money is received.

Jaci: Any other questions regarding the school budget????

Thank you, Mindy, for reporting this. This was a great summary. We will see you in the fall.

Jaci: Okay now let's go over the Town Budget. Will this be your last financial director job? Will this be your last presentation to us?

Reply: No, we are still working out how we will handle this but for the next foreseeable future it is me.

Becky Bergeron: Okay. Bear with me I didn't get this out as early as I would have liked to.

The Skidoo has been doing well with rescues. It's been very good. There have been 3 rescues since we got it.

Jaci: Should we go over the summary? Any questions?

Mae: Under finance (replacement) is that a full-time position or part time position?

Becky: We are no sure yet. We are not sure how we are looking at that yet. I don't believe that we need a warrant article for a change in status this position was full time previously.

Mae: In the IT exopenses you are saying that you put out bids.

Becky: We got everything from \$12, 000 to \$100,000.

Randy: Are we going to see something done this year? Or where we are?

Becky: We need to do something now. We have no IT person. We are working on a large undertaking. What will the budget committee support?

Mae: Will that be part of the scope of work???

Randy: Makes recommendation on doing an independent study and then doing the other items from different provider.

Jaci: How much do we spend now?

Reply: \$20,000 to 26,000 a year.

Mae: Building the administrative vacancy what would it be to put someone with full time person.

Becky: \$50,000 to \$60,000 with the benefits.

Jaci: Let's start by going through this with the Revenue

Becky: Some of the revenue is not posted yet.

Question: How are we doing with parking tickets?

Becky: We have a lot of appeals.

Mae: RHC advertising and notices what is this for?

Jaci: 57-446 That is the Rye Heritage Committee fund.

Jaci: Let's keep moving.

Becky: Just a reminder that all that revenue has not been posted yet.

Mae: The parking finds where does the 60% go?

Becky: The 40% is in the general fund on page 2.

Becky: Explains fine procedures.

Mae: I have a question. Page 19 of the expenses showing that only 55% of their budget. Advertising and notices as a negative of \$534.00.

Becky: This is from fund raising and has nothing to do with the Budget accounts.

Question: Where are we with Highway construction projects?

Becky: The big-ticket items are just starting now. I am not sure where we are with those.

Mae: page 8 under police there is over \$100,000 in replacement wages, overtime, etc.? Should we hire other police offer to take on this additional fund.

Shawn explains why this happens at the end of the shift. In the general course of the department this happens. Also, when an officer is sick and getting paid sick leave someone else is getting paid overtime.

Jaci: If everything goes well we could be on target, but it looks like the IT thing could be scary? It's a big unknown.

Becky: We need to do something. The police department is going to be the biggest needs. We are looking for response time and many other things. It looks like it's going to be \$50 to 60,000 for this expense.

Mae: page 13 prior year encumbrances. These have not still been paid. Paving project has not been paid yet but will be soon.

Question: Did we save a lot of money on fuel? Now we have a contract.

Becky: I will get back to you to you on that.

Jaci: Given your best guess, what do you think the IT contract would be given our need?

Becky: \$50,000 to \$60,000

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by:

Second by:

Meeting Adjourned at 7:19 pm