



SELECT BOARD MEETING
Town of Southwest Harbor
Pemetic School Library
6:00 p.m. ~ Wednesday, January 17, 2024

BUDGET MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Ball called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Chair Carolyn Ball, Vice Chair Natasha Johnson, James Vallette, Luke Damon, Chapin McFarland, Town Manager Marilyn Lowell, Finance Officer Becky Gattcomb, Town Clerk Jennifer LaHaye

A. Excused Absences (if any) none.

- 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Request of the Town Manager for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

Johnson motioned to adopt the agenda as presented. Seconded by Damon. Vote: 5-0-0.

4. BUDGET REVIEW:

6:00 pm ~ Pemetic School Draft Budget

Michael Zboray presented the Pemetic School draft budget. He advised this is the first draft, and they will come back on February 14th to finalize it. Zboray provided a basic update of the budget.

Revenues Summary

The school has a healthy carryover of funds, this includes extra money from positions not being filled, Impact aid, coast guard aid, state subsidy, Town appropriations and anything not used. He noted that aid from the coast guard could possibly go up. Subsidy forms are not being filled out by parents. Free lunch is supplied for all children, but the school relies on the forms being filled out to capture the demographics of the families.

Zboray advised they are looking at an increase of 5.29% with the new budget. They are currently using federal funds to help with costs, which reduces Town appropriations.

Regular instruction pre-K 8

Most costs are around salaries and benefits. They are also looking at a new science curriculum. Currently there are 123 students in the school. Dr. Christine Gray, Principal of Pemetic, stated that they are averaging about the same. There are about 15 Coast Guard students, which is similar to last year. The Coast Guard will use a formula per child. Nancy Thurston advised there is more money that will go towards special education students.

Vallette noted that currently the Coast Guard does not supply much aid to the school because of their tax exemption, He asked if there was any discussion of reaching out to the federal and elected officials.

* To access the meeting using Zoom, please click the meeting link on the home page of the Town's website www.southwestharbormaine.org.

Zboray will investigate this and see if past superintendents have had similar discussions in past years.

Special Education

Zboray said that the school has a speech therapist that now meets with the children in person, last year they were using .com services. There will be savings to the budget as they budgeted for the .com service, which was more costly.

Other Instructions

Co-curricular -They have expanded summer school to five days a week and will be moving it to another location within AOS 91. The increase in salaries and benefits is mostly due to the staffing.

Johnson asked if there was any further discussion related to transportation to and from practices. She noted she mentioned this last year. Currently there is no discussion related to that. Mr. Zboray said he can bring that back to the Transportation director for possible discussion.

Student & Staff Support

Increase in software for cyber security. Zboray noted more schools are experiencing phishing attacks to attempt to gain access to their information.

Student Transportation

Increase in salaries and benefits. Last year they did not add any money into the budget. They got the electric bus last year. Now looking at adding back to the reserve.

Fuel

Damon noted That funding is the same amount as last year, even with the new electric buses. Zboray noted prices are down now but in the future that could change.

Food Service

Reimbursement from the state was a bit higher than expected. Many schools throughout the state will have money returned to them. Pematic was told they had money to spend. They assessed the needs within the kitchen. They are looking to get a generator that will run the kitchen in the event the school loses power. This will allow the food to stay cold and not spoil.

Capital Outlay

Zboray reviewed future projects and repairs. He noted there is an overhang that was destroyed and will need to be replaced in the next month. Repairs will be reviewed and completed for the sprinkler system in the gymnasium. They are looking at getting security cameras within the halls. They are getting quotes to have this done.

- 5. NEXT MEETING DATE:** *Adoption of a motion to confirm the date of the next regular meeting for Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office Meeting room.*

Johnson motioned to confirm the next regular meeting for Tuesday, January 23rd at 6:00p.m. at that Town Office. Seconded by McFarland. Vote: 4-0-0. (Ball had left the meeting early)

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Damon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm. Seconded by McFarland. Vote: 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer E. LaHaye
Town Clerk

APPROVED

Carolyn Ball, Chair

Natasha Johnson, Vice Chair

James Vallette

Luke Damon

Chapin McFarland