

Budget/Finance Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Rolf Olsen, Chairman Budget/Finance Committee; Coleen Laprise; David Rowe; Suzanne Brockelbank; Ralph Bartholomew; Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent; Brenda Stevenson, Chairman School Committee; Frank Dexter; Frank McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Betty McDermott; Christine McClellan; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Rolf Olsen opened the meeting, at 6:00 pm at the Raymond Elementary School library which was a continuation of the meeting from March 29, 2004.
2. Recommendation for the Town Budget Warrant Articles continued.

NOTE: The Warrant Article numbers used here were changed because two articles were found to be unnecessary and deleted from the warrant of March 29, 2004.

ARTICLE 56 now Article 54: To see what sum the Town will appropriate from the foundation allocation for school purposes (recommended \$5,503,285) and to see what sum the Town will raise as the local share of the foundation allocation.

The School Committee requests \$4,410,472
The Budget Committee

MOTION: Suzanne Brockelbank motioned to approve. Seconded by Coleen Laprise.
VOTE: Unanimous.

ARTICLE 57 now Article 55: To see what sum the Town will raise as the local share of debt service.

The School Committee requests \$683,944 of which \$468,389 shall be the state share and \$215,555 shall be the local share.

The School Committee requests \$215,555
The Budget Committee

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to approve. Seconded by Ralph Bartholomew.
VOTE: Unanimous.

ARTICLE 58 now Article 56: To see what sum the Town will raise in additional local funds under the provisions of 20-1, M.R.S.A., Section 15614.

The School Committee requests \$1,846,124 be raised and appropriated and \$60,000 be appropriated from existing surplus, and \$35,000 from Medicaid Reimbursement for a total of \$1,941,124.

The School Committee requests \$2,002,839
The Budget Committee

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Laprise asked if the question of the school surplus was resolved. It was noted that the auditors said that the school surplus would have to stay with the school and not be added to the municipal general fund.

MOTION: Coleen Laprise motioned to approve. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ARTICLE 59 now Article 57: To see what sum the Municipality will authorize the School Committee to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004 and ending June 30, 2005 from the foundation allocation, debt service allocation, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, local appropriations, State subsidy and other receipts for the support of the schools.

The School Committee requests \$ 8,128,353
The Budget Committee

MOTION: David Rowe motioned to approve. Seconded by Suzanne Brockelbank.

VOTE: Unanimous.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brockelbank asked if the designated funds are earmarked for the NCLB line. Ms. Caldwell replied yes. Mr. Olsen asked if the auditors were reached concerning a meeting. Ms. Caldwell answered that they didn't want a meeting but wrote a letter giving their opinion in that school surplus could be used for a school use with town meeting approval but could not be moved into the town's general fund. Ms. Caldwell said that the School Committee would be discussing this issue at their next meeting April 7th and that some of them had not seen this letter as yet because she only received it today. Mr. Leavitt understood that the school's surplus couldn't be used in its entirety in one year but felt that it could be used over the course of years to help supplement the school's budget. He understood that there was a maximum amount of surplus a school could hold but not a minimum. Mr. McDermott felt that the School Committee should be allowed to manage the school budget and advised that if the Palesky referendum gets passed the school will need that money. Mr. Leavitt said that if some of the school surplus is used it would need a separate article in the warrant.

3. Adjourn.

There was a motion and second to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: Rolf Olsen adjourned the meeting at 6:32 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk