

MINUTES OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING MAY 28, 2014

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Police Station with Mrs. Walter and Mr. Hevy. As a joint meeting with the Finance Committee the following were present Mr. Lubelczyk, Mr. Hubacz, Mr. Locatelli, Mrs. Maggio and Mrs. Orsi.

I. MEETING WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

Superintendent Dr. Provost and School Committee Chair Mr. Kiszka were present to discuss the school budget. Dr. Provost provided a handout that discussed Lost Years, Lost Opportunities, Actual education spending relative to General Fund Revenue, Reversal of Chapter 70 Decline and Chapter 70 Reversal Hampered by below funding in North Brookfield.

Lost Years, Lost Opportunities:

Massachusetts Education Spending Growth 2008-2003: 17.3% annualized rate of 2.8%
North Brookfield Education Spending Growth 2008-2003: 4.9% annualized rate of 0.76%

Actual education Spending Decline Relative to General Fund Revenue:

2008 NNS = 66% of General Fund Revenue
2013 NSS = 62% of General Fund Revenue

Reversal of Chapter 70 Decline:

FY10 approx. \$4.3 Mil
FY11 dropped to approx. \$4.12 Mil
FY15 inclined to approx. \$4.2 Mil

Chapter 70 Reversal Hampered by Below-Share Funding in North Brookfield:

North Brookfield Chapter 70 Aid was approx. 59%
North Brookfield Required Local Contribution was approx. 41%

Massachusetts Average Chapter 70 Aid was approx. 43%
Massachusetts Average Required Local Contribution was approx. 57%

Minimum NSS Increase for 2015: \$161,221
School Committee Budget Increase 2015: \$119,236

Mrs. Maggio asked about the current salary of new Supt. And Dr. Provost and Mr. Kiszka mentioned that the goal was to try and keep salary down and the new Supt. Does have good credentials and her contract was going into negotiations.

Mrs. Maggio asked about the school using teachers that had a .6 employment status and how he was going to address this concern. Dr. Provost mentioned that he is looking at it but did not offer specifics.

Mrs. Maggio asked about the Inclusion Teacher in whether or not the parents were definitely coming back with this program. Dr. Provost mentioned that the parents were coming back and this could save approx. \$100,000.

Dr Provost mentioned that there was approx. \$40,000 in Medicare reimbursements that would be available to the town to help reduce the deficit.

Dr. Provost mentioned that School Choice numbers for this year were approx 6 to 12 new students coming in.

The Finance Committee had no further questions and made a decision to reduce the School Budget by \$50,000 which would fund them with approx. \$69,236.

	\$119,236 requested above last year
Minus	<u>\$50,000</u> reduction
	\$ 69,236 Funded

Finance Committee approved by a 3 to 2 vote.

A. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Dept Budget was discussed, the committee has tentatively agreed to a budget amount. The committee will revisit this as we continue to work through the budget.

B. HIGHWAY BUDGET

The Board of Selectmen conveyed that hiring a new Highway person to replace the one employee who was out on disability and then retired was a high priority due to public safety. The Finance Committee has tentatively set the budget amount and are still in discussion of hiring a part-time person verses a full time person.

C. EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee both agreed that this was a must to do. It was a matter of Life Safety and felt it would be a win/win scenario to regionalize with Brookfield and East Brookfield Emergency Squads. By regionalizing it would open up a lot of opportunities to access grants that would benefit all three towns. The cost would be \$50,000 for North Brookfield EMS and \$68,000 for the ALS contract.

There being no further business, at 8:33 PM Mrs. Walter moved, and Mr. Hevy seconded, a motion to adjourn. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M Hevy
Board of Selectmen Clerk