

**Hill Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2016**

DRAFT COPY

Present: Joe Mahoney, Gerry Weinert (Vice Chairperson) Desiree Mahurin, Paula McDonough, Mike Brady, Lisa Seymour (Chairperson), Denise Robie, George Robie, Gerry Deroschers, Tom Seymour (Selectperson), Shelly Henry (School Board), Paul Meyerhoefer (Secretary)

Absent: Patrick McDonough

SAU: Amanda Bergquist (Business Administrator), Daniel Legallo (Superintendent)

Public: 1 person

Lisa opened meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Review of minutes from January 13, 2016.

Mike made motion to accept minutes as corrected, Tom 2nd, vote was unanimous

Tom updated committee on previous meeting questions.

Selectmen have decided to make the new line item cost (\$ 10,000.00) for Health Insurance under Twn Clk/Tax Collector a warrant article.

Insurance numbers although being low are correct.

Fire Dept. are planning to purchase 1 new SCBA Pack out of there 2016 budget.

Lisa opened discussion on 2016/2017 Hill School Budget looking for any changes needed to be shown at the Town Public Hearing.

Mike started review discussion by making motion to level fund Hill School Budget to cost of 2015/2016 budget a cost of (\$ 2,124,633.00). Mike referenced the need to better management of school costs, dealing with staff benefit, fluctuation of student enrollment numbers, were contributing to increases in school tax rates which effect community decisions on town needs, only so much revenue to spread around before burden falls on taxpayers, in past years monies not spent have been used in part to off set the tax rate. There were no such monies available in last years budget, these monies are becoming increasing unavailable to give back to community.

Shelly questioned were do you make a (\$ 98,488.00) reduction ? This number is a larger cost than 1 teacher closer to 1 1/2 teachers. This reduction would have a big impact on Jennie Blake. She felt budget as presented is already close to bottom line to meet the educational needs of all town students.

Tom commented this is a difficult subject, a good education is important, also important is the burden placed on taxpayers..Town has had to use wage freezes in past years to help limit increases in taxes for community.

Shelly stated she appreciates what town has done over the years in support of the schools and she would never scrafice town expenses over school and supports both budgets equally.

Denise thoughts were to cut budget on both sides. Harder each year to pay for taxes.

Joe felt we should have had this conversation a year ago mentioning Winnisquam's cost was the lowest for selecting which school to send our students.

Gerry D. said we needed to define budget cuts on contractual commitments, He proposed going to Public Hearing with current 2016/2017 Hill School Budget and after listening to public make changes to bottom line.

Mike followed saying it was up to the budget committee to present their proposed budget for the Public Hearing, and any changes could be addressed after hearing.

Mike's motion was 2nd by George, vote was 6 yes, 6 no, tie vote motion fails.

Further discussion on budget lead committee to Desiree's motion to reduce budget by \$ 35,000.00 and using discretionary funding as a guide line to reduce budget.

Shelly felt reduction in discretionary funds was a better alternative than other options suggested.

Mike 2nd motion, vote was 8 yes, 4 no, motion passes

Lisa reminded committee of meeting next week to review Town and School budgets on January 28, 2016 in Library @ 6:30 p.m.

Mike motion to adjourn, Shelly 2nd, vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Paul Meyerhoefer

