



# TOWN OF BOW

## Budget Committee

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## Bow Budget Committee Bow School District Unapproved Minutes January 6, 2020

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Melissa Radomski	P
Jeffrey Knight, Vice Chair	P	Kathy Garfield	P
Bob Arnold, Secretary	P	Benjamin Kiniry	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman Rep.)	P	Jennifer Strong-Rain (School Brd. Rep)	P
Dr. Dean S. T. Cascadden , Superintendent of Schools	P	Duane Ford, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration	P

\* P = present; A = Absent

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

### II. Election of Officers

#### Motion:

Bob Arnold nominated Mark Zerba for Chair of the Committee. Jeff Knight seconded. Mark Zerba was elected Chair by unanimous vote of the Committee.

#### Motion:

Bob Arnold nominated Jeff Knight for Vice Chair. Motion was seconded by Ben Kiniry. The Committee voted unanimously for Jeff Knight as Vice Chair.

#### Motion:

Jeff Knight nominated Bob Arnold as Secretary of the Committee. Chair Zerba seconded the motion. Bob Arnold was elected Secretary by unanimous vote of the Committee.

### III. Approval of February 13, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes and February 13, 2019 Budget Committee Minutes

#### Motion:

Selectman Nicolopoulos moved to approve the both minutes from February 13, 2019. Motion was seconded by Bob Arnold and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

### IV. School Budget Discussion

Superintendent Cascadden, touched on some of the larger issues of the budget. The schools have been asked to restrict the scope of spending over the last few budgets due to assessment issues with Eversource. As a result, any renovations to the Bow Elementary School (BES) were put off despite rising class sizes. Bow continues to see an increasing population with school age children. There is a great

need for space at BES and the BES Renovation/Addition Project is a major item on the Warrant. The budget also includes proposed staff changes and additions in Special Education and Special Services, as well as a total reorganization of how ABA/Autism services are provided. Contracts have been settled with teachers and staff and carry associated increases. Health insurance costs continue to rise. Along with the building project, this budget includes some real educational needs the Committee should consider carefully.

There was some discussion regarding cost per student being lower than the state average; moving the pre-school to the high school with associated costs and benefits in making the move; and staffing changes.

Assistant Superintendent Duane Ford began a more detailed look at the proposed budget with a PowerPoint presentation. The BES project is proposed to move forward with a warrant article for design costs only at this time. There are continued changes in Special Education. Enrollment continues to increase and contracts with BEA and BESS have been settled. Associated costs for them are included in this budget.

There was some continuing discussion among the Committee regarding the BES project – pros, cons, bonding, capital reserve funds. The design team needs to be in place before Town Meeting so the school can meet the deadline of the NH Department of Education to apply for State funding. The currently proposed warrant article of \$700,000 is to find and select a design team. The schools are not requesting any further monies for the BES project at this time. Back and forth discussion continued. Delaying the project but increasing contributions to the capital reserve funds (CRF) was discussed as an alternative to bonding. Assistant Superintendent Ford stated there is currently \$1.6 million eligible to be taken out of CRF. There was also some question on whether the taxpayers would vote for the addition/renovation if it were bonded.

Assistant Superintendent went on to discuss salaries and benefits prompting further comments on health insurance: amount of deductible funded by the school and whether the schools had ever looked at self-insuring. Assistant Superintendent Ford answered some questions regarding the pension system and briefly reviewed how the State of NH Pension System worked. The Autism Program has historically been contracted out however this budget includes costs associated with Bow Schools hosting their own program and eliminates the cost for contracted services.

Assistant Superintendent Ford will continue his PowerPoint presentation at the next meeting on January 13, 2020.

## **V. Adjourn**

### **Motion:**

Ben Kiniry moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Motion was seconded by Melissa Radomski and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary