



TOWN OF BOW

Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

Phone (603) 228-1187 | Fax (603) 224-6680 | Website www.bownh.gov

Bow Budget Committee Minutes - School Budget Approved Minutes January 6, 2023

Mark Zerba	P	Brock Ehlers	P
Jennifer Strong-Rain	P	Andrew Mattiace	P
Ben Kiniry	P	Jeffrey Knight	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman)	P	Robert Blanchette	P
Superintendent Dr. Dean S. T. Cascadden	P	Business Director Ford	P

* P = Present; A = Absent

I. Call to Order

Mark Zerba called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. Election of Officers

Motion:

Chris Nicolopoulos nominated Mark Zerba for Chair, Jennifer Strong-Rain for Vice Chair and Jeff Knight for Secretary. The motion was seconded by Ben Kiniry. All agreed to serve, and a vote was taken.

Motion carried 8-0-0

III. Review of the School Budget

Superintendent Cascadden will be retiring at the end of this school year so he will not be implementing this budget. Superintendent Cascadden gave a synopsis of his 16 years of interaction with the Budget Committee highlighting issues and circumstances surrounding the budget for those years.

Business Director Ford presented the proposed budget highlighting various areas. The proposed warrants include the Bow Elementary School Renovation Project (Article #2) at an estimated cost of \$10 to \$12.5 million, funded with a partial bond and Capital Reserve Fund withdrawal, and (Article #3) for design work and switch gear/electrical work. It is possible that if the warrant for the BES addition/renovation and the design/electrical work were put into two articles, one article could be approved, and the other could be voted down. Including both articles in one article is being discussed. The BES project includes, among other things, adding four classrooms and reconfiguring some; installing sprinklers in the school; constructing a secure and controlled entrance to BES; and electrical work such as adding outlets to handle electronic technology requirements.

The BES project was slated to be presented to the town the year that the pandemic hit but the School Board decided to wait until they could have an in person annual meeting. The next year a turf field proposal came forward. Taxpayers at last year's School Annual Meeting turned down the turf field proposal in part citing renovations and safety concerns at the BES as being more important.

Discussion continued regarding the proposed BES school addition/renovation project with strong opinions on both sides. If bonded and using the current amount of capital reserve fund dollars, the project could start on July 1, 2023. If a million plus dollars were added to a capital reserve fund (CRF) each year, they could save for the project and reduce the amount of the bond and interest (if needed) but it delays the project. Pros and cons debated were the potential for costs increasing if the proposal is delayed, supply chain issues, inflation, bond interest payments and addressing safety concerns. There was some conversation around the number of students in the school and the current layout and function of the building. The Budget Committee will take a tour of BES on January 16th.

The proposed operating budget is \$33,954,065 which is an increase of \$1,544,252 or 4.76% over the approved operating budget of 2022 – 23. The school board did cut \$316,291 from the administrative proposed expenditures. Major impacts of the increase are wages and benefits for BEA professional staff and support staff not covered in the BESS agreement; one additional classroom teacher is proposed to address class size. Due to increased enrollment in CRTTC programs, an additional bus is being proposed. The addition of a new Student Information System Administrator position along with increases in special education transportation and some staffing changes in athletic and performing arts also impact the proposed budget.

IV. Other Business

The proposed budget for the town and proposed budget for the school district will be presented at a public hearing set for February 9, 2023 and a snow date of February 13, 2023, set to start at 6:00 PM at the high school auditorium. The town will present first followed by the school. Both the Budget Committee and the Bow School Board will hold a meeting directly following the conclusion of the hearing.

V. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the Chair called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion:

Ben Kiniry moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Jeff Knight seconded. Sending no further discussion, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion carried 8-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gilman, Recording Secretary