

BOARD OF FINANCE
BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 20, 2018
GREEN ROOM
MINUTES

Present: J. Olsen, D. Onofrio, M. Smith, J. Scully Welch, L. Santos, D. Traynor and K. Carr

Absent: Ona Nejdil

Olsen called the budget workshop to order at 7:00 PM.

John Olsen introduced Board of Education Chairman Erica Gelven. Gelven is unable to attend Thursday night's budget presentation so she made a brief statement to the board. A copy of the statement will be attached to the minutes.

The following budgets were reviewed by the board.

Fire Department – Chief Manware

- The budget remained flat except for an increase of \$6,030 in utilities. The Board of Selectmen reduced the budget by \$6,030. Manware asked for the funding to be restored.
- Total budget request by the department \$339,090
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$328,060

Fire Marshal

- Jeff Hesel was unable to make the meeting but was fine with the Board of Selectmen recommendations.
- Total budget request \$100,700
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$58,700

Library – Maribeth Breen

- Total budget request by the department is \$754,969. Last year their budget was originally approved at \$751,000 but it was reduced to \$746,000 after the town budget failed at referendum. Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen is \$746,000.

Communications – Chief DeMaio & Peter Niles

- Overtime budget request was increased from \$75,000 for FY17/18 to \$85,000. The Board of Selectmen reduced the overtime line item by \$10,000 for a total of \$75,000.
- Discussion on regionalization and possible savings in overtime
- Total budget request by the department is \$599,631
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$589,631

Police Department – Chief DeMaio & Peter Niles

- Building Supplies line item was moved to Public Works
- The overtime budget request was increased from \$250,000 for FY17/18 to \$267,076. The Board of Selectmen reduced the overtime by \$17,076 for a total of \$250,000.
- Marine Support line item request was increased from \$5,000 for FY17/18 to \$8,500.
- Total budget request by the department is \$2,690,780

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- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$2,673,704

Animal Control – Chief DeMaio & Peter Niles

- The department shares the facility with Madison and Westbrook
- Discussion on sharing services, cross training and extending services.
- Total budget request by the department is \$69,333
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$69,333

Civil Preparedness

- Total budget \$5,200

Water & Hydrants

- Total budget \$420,195

Street Lighting

- Total budget \$45,000

Technology – Peter Neff

- In July, Neff temporarily took over the department. The town is receiving services from the Board of Educations until a decision can be made on how to move forward.
- Several of the line items are shared services with the Board of Education
- Going forward copiers will be leased instead purchased. They have been added to the operational side of the budget and taken out of capital.
- Total budget request by the department is \$388,997
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$366,457

Capital Expenditure Committee – Miner Vincent

- The Capital Expenditure Committee approved a total town budget of \$1,330,500. They also approved larger projects that should be funded through another funding source and not the operational budget.
- Water Pollution was not in capital in previous years. The original request was for \$144,000. The Board of Selectmen reduced the request to \$80,000. The First Selectman is still working on the budget. Goupil recommended scheduling a joint meeting with BOS, BOF and WPCC to discuss the Rocky Ledge project and to prioritize projects going forward.
- Fire Department water supply upgrade of 3.5 million was approved and put in the funding other category. The committee approved \$150,000 which would cover the cost for 1 tank installation. The Board of Selectmen reduced it to \$80,000.
- Police boat was also approved by the committee but it was put in the funding other category and not in the operational budget.
- Total budget approved by the Board of Selectmen \$992,500

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The budget workshop adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino

Administrative Assistant

Statement of Erica Gelven, Chair, Clinton Board of Education, to the Boards of Selectmen and Finance, February 21 and 20 (respectively):

Greetings. My name is Erica Gelven, and I am the Chair of the Clinton Board of Education. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you about the Board's proposed operating budget in advance of the formal budget presentation. My teaching schedule prevents me from being here on Thursday, so I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns after that presentation. I can be reached at egelven@clintonpublic.net. I am also happy to share my cell phone number with you if you would prefer to have a one-on-one conversation.

What does it cost to operate a school district? This was the overarching question that guided our budgetary work this year.

Not "How do we cover our wish list?" Not "How do we continue to function and fund our schools the way we have in years past?" Not "How do we increase or maintain funding without thoroughly considering and vetting the programmatic impact of our budgetary decisions?"

Instead, the question was "What does it cost to operate a school district?" What does it cost to provide the knowledge and skills necessary for the students of Clinton to pursue the lives and goals they have for themselves once they have graduated from The Morgan School? What budgetary considerations and decisions must be made now to prepare for Clinton's future, particularly as it pertains to enrollment, which appears to be stable for the foreseeable future, facilities, and best practices surrounding the delivery of educational services. What does it cost to fund the priorities of the stakeholders of Clinton Public Schools?

Maryann will walk you through our budgetary process and results on Thursday, but I would like to highlight a few things for you now.

First, the budget supports the programmatic priorities of our district and community, including but not limited to: a diverse offering of Advanced Placement classes at Morgan; an empowering athletics program at Eliot and Morgan; a K-12 world language program, which is realizing impressive accomplishments in our Morgan students; Project Adventure for third graders; nationally-ranked Invention Convention participants at Pierson; "schools of distinction" recognitions at Eliot and Joel; and award-winning staff like Joe Macrino at Joel.

Second, as in recent years, the 2018-2019 budget contains cuts to personnel, both certified and non-certified. With solemn and serious thought, the Board recognizes that Clinton's demographics have changed, and the work of the district must evolve to reflect those changes. The current enrollment projections (as per NESDEC, compiled 11/7/17) indicate that we need to make some changes in staff allocation to better mirror the number of students we need to educate in each grade. One step we are proposing to achieve this task is restructuring the team concept at Eliot in

grade 6. This move will impact our staffing levels, but is appropriate in response to our enrollment. These were profoundly difficult decisions for the Board to make, and we do not take this action lightly. Additionally, over the coming months, the Board will be engaging in conversations that will center on our the future use and functionality of the district's facilities and resources, to insure that our work, while done in the best interest of our students, reflects Clinton's realities.

Third, the budget reflects the district's commitment to negotiate costs for goods and services that are in the best interest of the stakeholders. In addition to the ongoing participation in the healthcare collaborative, the district has gone out to bid on services such as transportation. Transportation represents a major budget driver, one that the district is statutorily required to provide to every student in the district, and it would be fiscally irresponsible not to require competitive bids for that service.

The Board unanimously approved this budget on February 5. It represents thoughtful, often challenging, consideration of the districts goals and needs. It reflects, "What it costs to operate a school district." It cuts staff and programming where it is prudent to do so, while maintaining the priorities of the district. It sets the stage for the evolution of the district as it continues to adapt to the evolution of the town.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you. I look forward to the conversation going forward, as the Boards, stakeholders, and taxpayers work toward the balance of Clinton's budgetary priorities.