



TOWN OF ADAMS SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE JOINT MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, March 18, 2015 – 6:30 PM

ADAMS TOWN HALL, MEETING ROOM, 1st FLOOR, ADAMS, MA 01220

On the above date the **Board of Selectmen** and the **Finance Committee** held a joint meeting at the **Town Hall** at **6:30 p.m.**

Chairman Arthur Harrington presided the **Select Board Workshop Meeting**. Present were **Members John Duval, Joseph Nowak, Jeffrey Snoonian, and Vice Chairman Richard Blanchard**. Also in attendance was **Town Administrator Tony Mazzucco**. Town Counsel Ed St. John III was absent.

Chairman Tim Burdick presided the **Finance Committee Meeting**. Present were members **Craig Corrigan, Brian Johnson, Paul Demastrie, Charlie Foster, Amy Giroux, Sandy Kleiner, David Allen, Leon Parrott, Fred Hobart, Joan Smigel, Matt Pitoniak, Rachel Tomkowicz and Greg Tremblay**. Absent was John Lawson.

The Select Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town Administrator Mazzucco introduced Dan Maloney, McCann Finance Committee Chairman, and James Brosnan, Superintendent.

Dan Maloney, McCann Finance Committee Chairman explained he asked Superintendent Brosnan to build as lean a budget as possible, while staying as close as possible to the minimum state requirements. Health care changes were negotiated in coverage and percentages as far down as possible while still being fair. There is very little to control in the budget due to fixed costs. Most changes were done within the existing balance to give teachers the tools they need, with no additional cost to communities.

McCann Budget Overview

Superintendent Brosnan explained the McCann Budget, Chapter 70 and Chapter 71. He gave a brief overview of each area of the Budget and answered questions by the Finance Committee and Select Board.

Transportation

Transportation costs are about the same. The amount assessed to the towns goes into transportation and excess gets returned to the towns.

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TOWN OF ADAMS

SELECT BOARD AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Enrollment

Student counts are estimated by the previous October 1st number. No students have been turned away over the last 5 years. There were 7 additional students attending McCann.

Capital Projects

Next year is last year from district agreement for capital projects before coming off the books.

Legal Expenses

There is a decrease in legal expenses for fiscal audits and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) reports.

Combining Services

There has been talk about shared staffing between Adams/Cheshire for Kindergarten through Grade 2, which makes sense in special education services. Tele-education and virtual education expands services and can offer higher priced educational programs to students more economically.

Instructional Resources and Equipment

Textbooks and software show significant movements in models. Last year was a major change in the series of mathematics, and there is a 3 year contract. Last year's software licenses were paid for in last year's budget, so the instructional equipment budget this year stayed the same.

School Nurse

The School Nurse showed a change under transportation due to a contract increase shared by 9 communities.

Building Maintenance

Heating, building maintenance and gas costs are in good shape despite price of gas going up. The school has done a lot to maintain systems to help heating costs go down.

Insurance Costs

Insurance dues are paid to MIIA for all athletic and cooperative programs. Berkshire Health Group plans went up, and the school is holding costs down as best as possible but a health insurance increase is reflected. 75/25 is standard split for McCann. 15 years ago was 85/15 and has been bargained down. The retiree split is 75/25 on the Medex plan for those over 65 years old. Staff is audited yearly for dependents.

Grant Money

Around \$200,000 or more is received and pays for staff and other costs reflected in the budget, which are reduced.



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Per Pupil Expenditure

Vocational Schools get more per pupil expenditure and McCann is in the middle, around average of what schools get. Because of equipment and faculty needed for safety for vocational programs there is an addition to staffing costs.

ADJOURNMENTS

Adjournment by Finance Committee

Motion made by Member Allen to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting

Second by Member Parrott

Unanimous vote

Motion passed

Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Leon Parrott, Member

Craig Corrigan, Member

Paul Demastrie, Member

Fred Hobart, Member

David Allen, Member

Charles Foster, Member

Amy Giroux, Member

Sandra Kleiner, Member

Joan Smigel, Member

Brian Johnson, Member

Greg Tremblay, Member

Matthew Pitoniak, Member

Rachel Tomkowicz, Member

John Lawson, Member

Timothy Burdick, Chairman



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Adjournment by Select Board

Motion made by Member Snoonian to adjourn the Select Board Workshop meeting

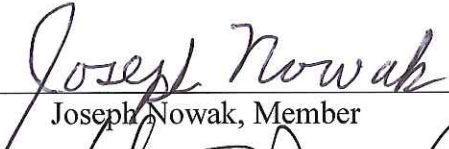
Second by Member Duval

Unanimous vote

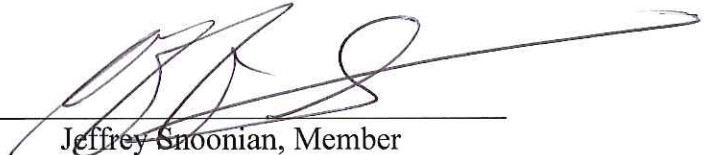
Motion passed

Select Board Workshop Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

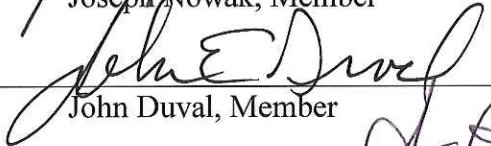
Respectfully Submitted by Deborah J. Dunlap,
Recording Secretary.



Joseph Nowak, Member



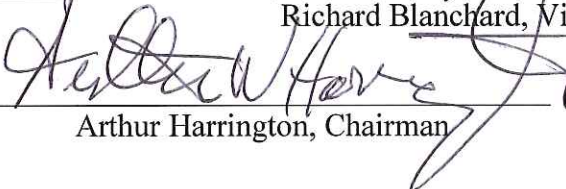
Jeffrey Snoonian, Member



John Duval, Member



Richard Blanchard, Vice Chairman



Arthur Harrington, Chairman