

**TOWN OF DEERFIELD, NH
MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
George B. White Building
8 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH 03037
November 21, 2017
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

6:30 pm – Chairman Dill called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

Chairman Dill asks all to rise and pledge allegiance to the Flag

Chairman Dill stated that for the roll call, John Dubiansky had emailed this morning and said he's got to work so he will not be in. Ben had had said he was coming and here he is, I don't know if we have to do this officially but they are the only two people who are missing, that and Steve which is going to get us in a second.

Mr. Robertson stated Troi Hopkins.

Chairman Dill asked if anyone had had heard from her. No one had. The chairman asked to have her marked down as unexcused. She might come back in I think.

Someone stated that they thought she just pulled in as well.

Chairman Dill stated, there we go. That's what we, that's what happens when we get the meeting going 30 seconds early. I apologize.

Ms. Hopkins stated that she was 30 seconds late.

Ms. Hopkins stated you took my seat Mr. Ben. No, I'm good, I'll pull this one, that's that not a problem.

Chairman Dill stated that's the one that sometimes, yeah.

Roll Call: Alden Dill, Chair, Members Troi Hopkins, David Carbone, Kevin Verville, John Dubiansky, Phil Bilodeau, James Spillane, Ben Menard, Zach Langlois, School Board Representative, Andrew Robertson, Select Board Representative.

Absent Excused: John Dubiansky

Absent Unexcused: Steve Giovinelli

Review of Outstanding Minutes:

Chairman Dill stated that he had not received any minutes, had anyone else received minutes?

No one indicated that they had.

Mr. Spillane stated that Mr. Dubiansky circulated the minutes of the last meeting.

Chairman Dill stated and unfortunately, it's a good thing that he took those minutes because that's all we have. We will leave that outstanding for the time being and did everybody get to read those on, on the email. Do we want to vote on those?

Motion: Mr. Langlois moves to accept the minutes as written

Second: Mr. Robertson

Discussion: Mr. Robertson wanted to note that he seemed to have any action that was taken.

Chairman Dill stated that it was a good thing for that too.

Vote: Yea 7, Nay 0, Abstained 2 – Motion Carries

Chairman Dill stated that he was going to try to write the minutes.

Mr. Spillane stated that that is what he was gonna ask. Mr. Chair, you were going,

Chairman Dill stated I was gonna forget in that position

Mr. Spillane stated that I understand what it's like.

Mr. Robertson stated that it always feels better when you take your own minutes.

Mr. Spillane stated that there are less spelling errors.

Chairman Dill continued that that was the only set of minutes and again, I apologize that we didn't get the video running correctly for the last meeting and we don't have the video to go back to but now we're good, I have been trained and there's a crib sheet which is even better.

Citizen's Comments:

None noted

Old Business:

Chairman Dill stated that we discussed at length, Steve Giovinelli, this is the fourth meeting regardless of which way we, we, at minimum, this is the fourth meeting so I think that we can safely say that we now have a vacancy on the Board. All are in agreement on that.

We had some issues at the last meeting of just because it wasn't on video we had some issues with outstanding minutes and if we were actually up to four but this has hit us at a minimum of four so we've moved beyond there.

So, I would say that we have a vacancy to fill. We had two people speak last time, Andrea Hotaling and Lila Thompson with their interest in filling. Do we have,

Mr. Langlois stated that he was going to make a nomination if you want to

Chairman Dill stated that he was going to wait and see if maybe that was why Jack came down too. And I have received no further applications for candidates so

Mr. Langlois asked Ms. Hotaling if she was still interested in

Ms. Hotaling stated yes, she was.

Motion: Mr. Langlois moves to nominate Ms. Hotaling for a position on the MBC

Second: Mr. Spillane

Discussion: Chairman Dill stated that he had told Ms. Thompson that at the last meeting we would extend it as well because she was here so

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Motion: Mr. Langlois moves to nominate Ms. Thompson

Second: Mr. Robertson

Chairman Dill stated that he would do a profundity of votes and again we are voting for one member so please only vote once and keep this somewhat easy.

All in favor of Ms. Hotaling signify by raising your hand. We have,

Mr. Spillane stated that it looks unanimous.

Chairman Dill agreed. We will do the same thing we did last time, come on down and we'll get you right to work.

Mr. Spillane stated however, she needs to be sworn in before she can

Chairman Dill stated that she can't vote but we can, we can have we

Mr. Spillane stated she can have a copy of the budget and

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Verville who stated that the next meeting is a week from today so the sooner you can get into the town clerk's office, the better.

Ms. Hotaling stated no problem.

Chairman Dill stated that it's, it's a quick holiday.

Mr. Spillane stated that the office is open late Monday.

Chairman Dill stated that he assumed that town clerk's open tomorrow. Chairman Dill thanked both candidates for expressing interest.

Mr. Spillane stated that sometimes it's much harder to find somebody to fill it.

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Robertson regarding the Town Budget.

Mr. Robertson stated that he is going to hand this out without much fanfare or comment. This is a draft budget. The Board of Selectmen has not finalized our budget at this point. Most of it is in fact, I believe the primary area that is going to be confusing are Fire and Rescue. The Board of Selectmen is working on budget preparation. We're in the process of combining the departments and haven't decided exactly how we're going to present that budget, whether it's going to be two separate budgets, a combined budget and we're also talking about two additional personnel as I mentioned at the last meeting. But I think this will give you a good chance to look at everything else, the big budgets, the police, the highway, certainly transfer station. There's background information. A couple of pages into budgets I'll be providing more background and we can also, you know, taking a look at this, the committee can decide who they definitely want to see as department heads before the committee.

I'm assuming the usual suspects and if you've got anything else beyond that, we can certainly invite everybody.

Chairman Dill stated that it appears that the fire department starts on page 32 if anyone wants to mark that.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Verville who stated that in the past we've pre-published an operating order and asked that all the chairs be, be present. The other thing we've done is we've tried to group items that you know

the town clerk oversees several budgets so we try to group those so you can come in, get them all done. I think that precedent has served us well. It certainly is worth noting that in the past we have had some for whatever reason, you know, unable to attend or chose not to attend and that has hung up discussion on some, some budgets, so if we could put a schedule, that way committee members know which order to take the budgets in preliminarily.

Chairman Dill asked if we shooting to have this finalized, how soon? Certainly not by Monday.

Mr. Robertson stated that he would assume you know a week or so after that maybe two weeks so we can probably...

Chairman Dill stated that we could probably work on a schedule, schedule at our next...

Mr. Robertson stated that you could work on a schedule at any point. I obviously, you've got the big budgets, the policy chief, the transfer station, the highway agent and that you will make up the bulk of that number you're gonna want to see.

Mr. Spillane stated that also in the past, we've also had, when we've, we've had some areas of the budget that or sticky such as the fire and rescue seems to be now, we've had other budgets that you've been willing to say our final so that we can get rid of low-hanging fruit, things like our ZBA and, and all that kind of stuff. Is that something we can possibly do so that maybe some of the low-hanging fruit can be taken care of early?

Mr. Robertson stated that you could certainly do that early although I will say that the Board of Selectmen has not voted to recommend the budget at this point just because we've got...

Mr. Spillane stated so those smaller budgets still are, you, you wouldn't be taking a separate vote with the, the selectmen to just say, let's go ahead and approve those ones so that they can deal with those.

Mr. Robertson stated yeah, I don't see those changing at all however, we haven't voted to finalize them.

Chairman Dill stated, I came and spoke to Mr. Harrington this afternoon about the changes in the fire department lines and how it was set up this year. Do you want to speak to that real quick or should we let, since we have the town administrator here, speak to just how it's set up because it's set up a little differently than usual?

Mr. Robertson stated that he would be happy to defer to the town administrator to speak to that.

Mr. Harrington stated that what you're gonna see in the budget this year, I have left the single, independent fire department and the single, independent rescue in there with a dollar on each line so that you're able to see what the 2017 budgets are currently.

You'll also see a 2018 proposed fire-rescue budget with the two departments combined. This way you can compare and contrast. If I had left the budgets or not put a dollar in, there would be no reversing this if we wanted to change course mid-year so I'm leaving those budgets in there with the dollar to leave the lines open for obviously changes that may occur throughout the year.

Chairman Dill stated and that was the only major format.

Mr. Harrington stated correct. Everything else is as you have seen it in the past.

Mr. Robertson added that the Board of Selectmen, it has pretty much given tacit approval to the numbers in the budget.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Verville who stated that the only concern that he has is that, you know it's already a fairly compressed cycle that we, we work under and our work session for the town budgets is a week from Saturday so we have a meeting next Tuesday scheduled and then a work session the following Saturday and generally we do the low-hanging fruit.

Tonight, and next Tuesday, while bringing anticipated questions forward to the town administrator and the Select Board and the department heads so the work session that they come prepared to the work sessions.

That being said, I would suggest a prudent course of action would be to follow fairly closely to the order that we've taken in the budgets in the past because that order sir, has served us pretty well. It puts less ..

Chairman Dill asked if Mr. Verville had a recommendation on the order.

Mr. Verville stated, yeah, it's published in last year's meeting schedules so it's, yeah it goes online for four years past so it's and the other thing, when the agenda is put together and published, it certainly helps if the page number can be annotated on the agenda. It makes flipping through the book a lot, a lot faster. Search and rescue so to speak, goes quicker because you know you, we're supposed to get the school on December 5th.

Mr. Langlois stated that he didn't think you're gonna see the

Chairman Dill stated that he wasn't to Mr. Langlois yet.

Mr. Langlois stated but we're probably not going to, I know we're still working on it. There's still quite a bit to do so it will be after that.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Spillane who stated I would not be averse to taking votes on some of the low-hanging fruit even though the budget has not been approved by the selectmen to get away and get rid of all the low-hanging fruit such as our own budget that we know we're not gonna change a number on but that would be at the discretion of the chair as to how I would move forward with this stuff.

Chairman Dill stated that he would be fine with doing that on Tuesday knowing that as long as we know that the budget is not finalized but I don't see them changing some of the numbers as well as it would be nice to cross some checks and boxes off early in the game.

Mr. Spillane stated get rid of those small ones.

Chairman Dill stated yep so he will work on that, take a look at that and try to get a list together that we can take care of on, on Tuesday. Suddenly it is Thanksgiving weekend and everybody's, I know I'm thinking elsewhere other than budget, but we'll get some of that done.

Anything else on the town budget while we got everybody here.

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Verville who states that there is no backup info with what we've got from the town so it, that we, that's probably gonna leave a lot of questions because we're not gonna have much time to review that.

Will we have the backup for next Tuesday or could we get that, can't get it earlier.

Mr. Robertson stated well...

Mr. Harrington stated that what he could try to do, I got these together tonight for you to have them What I can try to do is scan a full set of all the backup and send it to Alden and if he can distribute it, at least you'd have electronic copies of the backup.

Chairman Dill stated that that would be fantastic.

Mr. Harrington stated at least you have it for the long weekend.

Chairman Dill stated just send it to everybody. I don't think I'll be near a

Mr. Harrington stated that I don't have a group email. I don't have a current one but I'll make sure everybody gets a copy.

Chairman Dill stated the same way that we're doing the accounts receivable. I don't see a point to sending it to me first and then sending it out. Just if we can just send it out to everybody, it skips one layer.

Mr. Spillane stated that that would have saved me a lot of work.

Chairman Dill stated to Mr. Spillane that he hadn't thought of that.

Mr. Spillane stated that he was told that he couldn't do that. I had to do it first.

Chairman Dill asked if there was anything else on the town budget while we're here.

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hotaling who asked that she was interested in knowing what final disposition of the FICA problem from last year was. Did that get resolved and is the IRS happy with us?

Mr. Robertson stated that it did get resolved. In fact, it got resolved, it got resolved rather recently. It got resolved at last night's selectmen's meeting. We signed all the, all the amended W-2s, taken care of the rest of the paperwork and I believe the final cost for the entire process was around \$24,000.00, right around \$24,000.00. That included making up for the, the underestimated FICA and FICA and Medi.

Ms. Hotaling went onto say, and did the IRS sign off and were happy with, just the, you know, there was something about only going back to three years even though there was five years.

Mr. Robertson stated if I could defer to the town administrator, he can give us...

Mr. Harrington stated that the Board just signed all of the documentation last night. The IRS has not gotten the documentation yet. It needs to wait for a check to be cut next week. Those will go to the Treasury Department and the Social Security Administration will get the corrected W-2's.

We have been working right with our treasurer. She has done all of the homework. We only have to go back three years so it will be 14, 15 and 16 for those employees that were affected that were part of the Retirement System.

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Spillane who stated that he recognized that we had overhead costs for accounting and all of that, that was part of this whole issue. Did we also end up incurring any penalties with the IRS that we had to pay and can we get an accounting of what the whole debacle ending up costing the town in not only the money that we ended up giving to the employees that they deserved into their funds but the costs that it incurred to us in fixing the problem.

Mr. Harrington stated that there was only one cost for the treasurer. She offered her services. It was fourteen hundred and forty-five dollars I believe. I don't have the actual numbers in front of me. I can have them for next week.

Mr. Spillane stated that we didn't end up having to pay any penalties to the IRS for that. Great.

Chairman Dill asked if everyone was satisfied on that topic before moving on.

Chairman Dill asked Mr. Robertson if he wanted to speak to this real quick.

Mr. Robertson stated that he didn't have much to say about it. There was a request for the wage survey that the police chief had done. The one comment that he would make. He used some towns that are very similar in size to Deerfield in that wage survey. He also used some towns that are in a different geographic location and maybe a little bigger than us and the point of that was not necessarily to say that Deerfield, you know, is a, I forgot the towns that are in there exactly, a Dover, a Durham or, or what have you but just to show the people that we're losing tend to go towards the Seacoast. Occasionally we lose folks to Manchester but for the most part we've been losing people to towns a little bit bigger than us, a little bit southeast of us so that some of those towns were included in there. Just a thing I can give an idea more of the competition that he's up against as opposed to what Deerfield's wage scale might need to be.

Chairman Dill asked if there were any questions on the wage study.

Mr. Robertson stated that he would be happy to address that too when he appears before the committee I know.

Chairman Dill stated that he knew that just when we hand stuff out, he wanted to make sure that nobody has any questions as long as we have you guys here to answer them.

Chairman Dill asked if there were any further questions, comments, concerns for the town. Moving on then.

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hopkins who stated that she recently had an interaction with one of our new hires. He had just finished the academy and was so excited to be involved here, was so excited to be in this town and it was just really nice to see.

We've had multiple ones, this is not the only person that I have see do that but it was, it was very nice to know that he was just all jimmy-jacked and ready to be here and that was a great feeling so I would like to keep that same type of enthusiasm in our budget and our minds with quality officers.

Chairman Dill thanks Ms. Hopkins and asked if there was anything else for the town. He went on to say that I guess that we are looking at you Zach.

Mr. Langlois stated, school budget, we have been working on it over the last couple of meetings.

Chairman Dill asked if this was from you?

Mr. Langlois acknowledged yes and continued. That was a question that popped up at the last MBC meeting was how many students were historically in the high school tuition line made up and so that information is contained in that chart.

You can see that it's fluctuated up and down a little bit over the years. It also includes where student body at DCS as well so it's all happy to be together on one page so handy to have.

We still have some work left to do to the budget. We're not...

Mr. Langlois was interrupted by Mr. Verville by asking if we can go into this just a little bit.

Mr. Langlois agreed.

Mr. Verville stated so the question really wasn't so much the exact numbers but it went to how the, how the surplus for the tuition is relatively large compared to the overall budget, right, so I don't have the numbers in front

of me right now but I want to say that the tuition surplus counted for roughly a third of the, about two hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Langlois stated that he could find that. It was about two hundred grand.

Mr. Verville continued, so thirty, forty percent, right and Mr. Langlois agreed.

Mr. Verville continued so the question, the question is what, what generated that, that large, where it is and it kind of goes to another, another point and we can take it up under, under new biz or we can take it up now, I don't care. I'm just a bit curious because our, our high school surplus is large. There's been recent issues where the high school was a negative surplus and so I'm curious what controls we have going on through the year that might allow us to better manage those line items.

Mr. Langlois stated that he was hoping that we were just going to get an update and then we could get into it, yeah and that wasn't the question you asked at the last meeting but we can.

Mr. Verville stated that it is, I wanted to know what the...

Mr. Langlois stated that you asked how many students made up the tuition which is the data that you have been provided.

Mr. Verville stated that there's no recording of that.

Mr. Langlois stated that if there are other questions, bring them forward under new business.

Mr. Verville stated the question, the question was and there's no recording of the meeting so we don't have much to go back on but the question was, what generates the large surplus where we overestimated the number of students going that didn't go there or were we over budgeting the per student tuition.

Mr. Langlois stated that last year the tuition figures provided by Concord were not provided at the time that we were drafting the budget so we used an estimate with a pad built into the estimate based upon what we what the business administrator thought that amount was going to be and that did create a cause for us to budget for a slightly larger amount.

This year we have already received our numbers from Concord so we have our tuition figures from next year.

Chairman Dill stated that he thought that just for matters of clarity, if you could just bring those numbers that you guys used last year to which Mr. Langlois agreed.

Chairman Dill stated that he thought that it would help.

Mr. Verville stated that what he would like to see is how much of that is from students we thought were going to go to Concord High that didn't so it was money that wasn't spent versus how much of that was because we over budgeted per student.

Chairman Dill stated so back to what we had started with, okay so where we were was...

Mr. Langlois stated that we are still working on the budget. There's still quite a bit of work left to do, don't have an exact date as to when we will be providing it to the budget committee. It will be sometime in December. When it is complete, we will be sending it over and I'll give you guys updates as we progress from meeting to meeting here. Our next meeting is in I believe a week and a half. It will be the first Wednesday in December. So that is when we meet again. Hopefully at that meeting we can either button it up or get close to buttoning it up and then we can prepare everything to bring over to the committee.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Verville who states that the only cautionary tale I've got, I've got a thing for that is typically we, we get it the first week of December from the school. We have two meetings in December and then one in January and then the work session so there's, there's only four meetings, one work session, three meetings after the 5th basically before we have to have our public hearing on the budget so we, we have to get it done by January 6th. It does not leave a lot of time to get through **(a lot of coughing into the microphones so not transcribed....)**

Chairman Dill stated that you're hoping to have it, you said this the first week of December.

Mr. Langlois stated they are hoping to be able to button it up at the next meeting but I'm not ...

Chairman Dill asked which was when?

Mr. Langlois stated that it would be the first Wednesday in December. I don't have a calendar in front of me but...

Chairman Dill stated the 6th.

Mr. Langlois continued so that will be the next, next meeting we have. Hopefully we can button it up but it is not by any means guaranteed at that point that the Board will be able to act on it fully. If we do button it up at that meeting, that would be brought to the next budget committee meeting after that. We if do not have it buttoned up, we meet two weeks after that so that would be the 21st. We are hoping to button it up prior to that but also do not want to bring a budget to the committee that it not complete and it's the chance.

Chairman Dill stated that he has to say that he echoes Kevin's concern. I would be really concerned if we got it the 21st.

Mr. Langlois stated he understood and we are working to get it to you prior to that but we're not bringing a budget that is not complete.

Mr. Verville stated but the 21st gives us one weekday meeting, one Saturday to consider a 12-million-dollar budget. That, I don't, I don't understand why we're breaking with the precedent that we've had. I mean I think Jim's probably Jim or Andy's the longest serving members on this committee and I don't think that there's a precedent for that budget coming in as late as the week before Christmas.

Mr. Spillane stated no, it was late last year and...

Mr. Robertson stated and has the occasional odd year but there's usually been some extenuating circumstances.

Mr. Spillane stated it really puts us in a hard position to try to get, you know, a good chance to get through the numbers. It almost makes me ask isn't there some way that the school Board themselves could decide they're gonna meet more frequently or sooner to try to finish their budget so that we could have it on time.

Chairman Dill stated that he thought like other concerns...

Mr. Langlois stated but the Board is concerned about presenting a budget that they haven't had a chance to act on. Understand the Board has decided to complete the budget prior to signing it to the budget committee.

Chairman Dill stated that okay, we'll bring that up at the next meeting and hopefully you guys get it done sooner rather than later.

Anything else for the school?

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hotaling who stated that she has to say because I've been interested in this, I watched the two school budget meetings where they did the budget stuff, the school Board meetings and I want to say I was very pleased that they looked at the salary line and this year I think for sure, the new hires will be in there. You will, people are retiring, they'll have new hires as opposed to the full salary and I also thought they had made some good progress making some pretty significant cuts from what was wanted by the administration so you know I see that they've moved along quite a bit so I'm hopeful that they would be able to finish.

Mr. Langlois stated that we, we have been very cognizant of the original budget that was presented did include an uncomfortable increase and the Board did send it back to the administration to trim as much as possible. There are unfortunately, some increases that we cannot avoid which appear to be causing the budget to increase overall but we are looking at it very, very hard.

Ms. Hotaling stated that she had two questions along that line. One is one of the other big items that is often over budgeted is the special ed budget and I think it's because people are very conservative to make sure that we cover those mandated things and my question would be you know next year they're talking about a two hundred thousand dollar increase in that line which is already a very high line and my question would be is this about known students that have known needs or is, you know, we might need it because somebody might move into the district, you know how, how certain are they that they really need that 200,000.

Mr. Langlois stated that it's, it's formulated based off of the IEP's for the individual students. I will say that the safest answer for me is to defer to on anything involving the special ed budgets will be to defer them to the special ed director when she's here to meet with us because there is a lot of, I don't want to say do wants but there's a lot of things that are involved in the special ed budgets that are very specific and there's a lot of laws regarding the special ed budgets but we, we have looked at them and I will defer those questions. That is the bulk of the increases that we have seen this year is, is in special education costs and some transportation costs under that and unfortunately questions beyond that I will defer to Deb Charger.

Ms. Hotaling stated that she just wanted to make sure that we aren't like building a fudge factory in there that then comes back you know, two years later, we over budgeted by two hundred thousand.

Mr. Langlois stated that it is all based upon individual needs and then the second one is regarding the high school tuition which was my other thing last year. We now have a contract that we have to guarantee a number of students to Concord in February, February 15th and last year in the budget we were projecting 171 students and I wonder, did we guarantee that amount and that's the number that was given at the deliberative session and I see we actually are running at 167 which maybe there's four students that we're running below budget and according to the contract if we're below budget in the current year then any amount that we're below we don't get back this year but they credited as a deduction against next year's tuition.

Mr. Langlois stated the following year's bill.

Ms. Hotaling continued and so I'm wondering if they've taken into account you know maybe there's 45 or 50 thousand there you know based on whatever next or this year's tuition.

Ms. Hotaling stated she had another and that is I listened to your discussion at the school Board meeting and somebody on the Board brought up the question of why do we pay Coe Brown 16, and we pay, you know, Concord 11 and I believe I heard the answer was that legal advised that we must pay whatever the tuition is and it was interesting because I looked at your website, school Board website, and on, I don't know, sometime four weeks ago or so, there was a policy out there from August 2014 where the school Board actually voted that we will never pay more than Concord tuition to any other school and then in November, no, then two weeks later I go to look for that same thing. I had printed off a copy but it's no longer there and what's there now is a superintendent statement saying we will pay whatever the tuition is, you know, they, that wording changed. There was something adopted by the Board in August 2014, in November, it was different and I believe the answer was that legal says we have to and I went back and read RSA 193:3 and 194 and 193:3 is the one that says if you contract with an out

of district, you know, district for your student and I believe it is because of manifest hardship you know that's 193:3. Then it appears that perhaps because of the hardship you're suppose to pay the full tuition but I can also read that a parent could just apply to go to some other place and maybe they can get somebody to accept them like Coe Brown and I think depending upon the reason why they're going there I think if you're just a sibling of somebody which we apparently let siblings go, maybe we don't have to pay the full tuition so I, I'd like a legal clarification.

Mr. Langlois stated that he knew and again I will most certainly discuss that with the superintendent, there is a couple of additional policies that I think are laced into that and as I'm sure if you've been reading policies, a lot of times they reference and refer back to other ones so the school reassignment policy which was a very hot discussion prior to my joining the Board which would have been right around that August 2014 timeframe, that school reassignment policy was a discussion that it really revolved around that conversation, is a Coe Brown student worth more than a Concord student and blah, blah, blah, and blah and how that all handled and worked out and there were some changes prior to my joining the Board as far as how that works as well as some RSA changes. So how that worked to tweak policies, I have to verify and talk to the superintendent about but there was most certainly a couple of things that were tweaked. As far as the manifest hardship that ties into our school reassignment policy and so Deerfield's current high school of record is Concord High School. That is where our students go, that is our, for a lack of a better term, our high school. The only way to not have Concord be your high school is to request that manifest hardship and then that is where that tuition is whatever the rate is at the signing school.

Ms. Hotaling thanked Mr. Langlois.

Chairman Dill stated that I guess you've been doing your homework.

Ms. Hotaling stated that her husband says are you crazy.

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Spillane.

Following on that same topic, I seem to remember the big firestorm over that whole thing as well and if I'm not mistaken, which I might be, but wasn't part of the discussion that the decision was made, we would not pay any other school more than what we pay Concord, but that the remainder must be picked up by the parents individually and I think that's part of what caused the firestorm and the outrage and everything that came in as far as controversy on that because parents said they weren't going to pay it, at the, that in prior years other students had gone and the town had picked it up and why should it be put. There was a whole lot of ...

Mr. Langlois stated that he remembers the meeting. I was at the meeting in the audience, a better place to be for that particular meeting. I would have to go back and check the disposition. It was a number of years ago. I'd have to go back and check the disposition. I do remember there being a lot of discussion about that, why is your student worth a different amount of my student, etc., etc. I don't directly recall how it was left by the Board and what the results or any action of that Board was but it is something we can easily find out. I just have to have an opportunity to do some research.

Chairman Dill asked if there was anything else that the Board wanted Mr. Langlois to bring to the next meeting.

Mr. Verville stated well, not really, maybe not to bring to the next meeting but I have to admit I've gotten quite a few inquiries based on recent events in Pembroke. We're all members of SAU 53, we use the same accounting personnel and they were obviously, to put it politely, accounting oversights in the Pembroke School District and so I just, I hope our Board is being proactive with the SAU to make sure that proper controls are in place from top to bottom so that Deerfield would not find itself in a similar situation in the future.

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hopkins

She stated that she has spoken with the business finance person, administrator, and it seems to be some of that is the way that it's reported as opposed to the way that it's actual being so when the reporting comes and it demonstrates the "X" amount is missing or the "X" amount isn't there, it's actually going to reporting it's not actually, it's not physically in the budget that way but it's been reported as such and quite over-exaggerated.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Verville

Mr. Verville stated that his family lives in Pembroke, my family received increased tax bill....

Chairman Dill stated I think we're just gonna stick with original comment of we all hope that the school district is checking on it and then this committee needs to focus on Deerfield's budgetary items and not

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hotaling.

One last thing, just a date kind of thing. There's a deadline to request a different placement for high school that the superintendent is put of December 15th, I believe and notification to the students in that policy statement is February 28th and I just wonder if that shouldn't be tightened up given two things, one I we have to budget prior to that, I mean you know that December 15th, the budget should already be wrapped up before that and secondly we have to guarantee to Concord by February 15th, how many students are going to be attending there and we are going to pay based on that number so why would we say that we can make a decision by February 28th.

Chairman Dill recognizes Mr. Langlois

Yes, that's an excellent question.

Chairman Dill stated so if you can get some clarification on that a school choice which has only been going on as an issue here for 120 years or more.

Chairman Dill asked if there was anything else for the school.

Mr. Verville asked if they were going to go to new business.

Chairman Dill stated that was next on the agenda.

Mr. Verville thanked the Chair.

No other questions for the school.

New Business:

Chairman Dill called on Mr. Verville

Mr. Verville stated that he has got a question for both the town and school side so given the snowstorm during the second session last and given what's been a chronic notation of having to prepare budgets very, very early from the school district and obviously having increased trouble meeting those deadlines, I'm wondering if the school district, the school Board and/or the select Board are going to put a warrant article on the warrant to move our voting day, move everything to the May, to the month of May.

So under SB2 you have three options, you have an April, I'm sorry, a March, an April or a May and it would, it's my opinion, we'd want to keep the town and school lockstep because that way it's one election day and it's just cheaper and cleaner that way and I would think that the May would be the preferable as that would provide a, an extra two months to the School Board, sixth of a year to get their budgets closer to their actual closeout date

which has been a perennial complaint of the school Board. So, I was just wondering if either one of those bodies was planning on doing that.

Mr. Robertson stated that they have had no discussion of doing that. I don't believe that it has even been a blip on the radar on the town side of things.

Mr. Langlois stated that the school is in the same position.

Chairman Dill recognized Mr. Verville

Might I recommend to both the select Board and the school Board to consider that topic at their next meeting. It would bring desired relief on the school side. I don't know if there's any advantage on the town side but it would certainly bring desired relief.

It's not a low bar. It takes, takes a 60 percent majority to move when we, when we do that but it's, it's certainly doable. It would bring budgetary relief, I think, to the school side and I would, I would advise both bodies to consider it.

Chairman Dill stated, so noted. Any other new business?

Mr. Verville stated that the only other thing that he had for a new biz was just because the agenda didn't say we were receiving the budget or anything tonight for the vacancy so if we could just get some more details when the agenda is posted.

Chairman Dill stated filling a vacancy. The budget, that was out, yeah. There's two different, that was John bailing me out on notice so there was two different agendas. The second one has the filling a vacancy listed.

Mr. Verville stated that he guessed one that was here and I got this, I got this last night off the webpage. But if we could get the agendas so the interested parties of the public, I know people are very interested in Veasey and other departments and it allows them to know when to participate if that's on their, on their radar.

Chairman Dill asked if any of the wonderful citizens want to comment?

(any of the comments that Mr. Hutchinson was stating were not heard on the tape due to him not being at a microphone and were not captured.)

Chairman Dill stated that that was Jack and Dan if anyone on the TV is wondering cuz we didn't change it over.

Chairman Dill recognized Ms. Hopkins.

I'm sorry, this is digressing but I'd like to say thank you to Mr. Hutchinson for the work that he's done at Hartford Brook. It looks amazing and it took a long time to get there. It's noticed and it's appreciated. Thank you.

Mr. Menerd stated that he would just throw this out there. When I was on the DCC, I had to bring this so we were sworn in. I was given this documentation. I don't know if the, if anyone needs to make note of that but they wanted to see it at the DCC.

Chairman Dill stated that we weren't that complicated here. We figured that if you didn't get sworn in by the town clerk, then he'll tell us later. Yeah, if you could go visit him in the next couple of that'd be awesome and can I get a motion to adjourn.

Adjourn:

Motion: Mr. Langlois moves to adjourn

Second: Mr. Spillane

Vote: Yea 10, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Next Meeting: Monday, November 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm

*The Minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dianne L. Kimball, Recording Secretary
Pending approval by the Municipal Budget Committee*