

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING – January 14, 2016

Unapproved

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING

7:00 PM

HOOKSETT MUNICIPAL OFFICES

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

35 Main Street

Thursday, January 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

David Pearl, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

ATTENDANCE

Richard Boisvert, Jason Hyde, Chris Morneau, David Pearl, John Pieroni, Kevin Van Horn arrived at 6:00 pm, Steve Peterson, Amy Boilard, School Board Rep., and Marc Miville, Council Rep.

Absent: Village Water Precinct and Central Water Precinct

Resignation of Board Chair

D. Pearl read an email from Chairman Gosselin date January 11, 2016 stating he is resigning from the Budget Committee effective immediately.

*C. Morneau motioned to accept the resignation of Pat Gosselin. Seconded by J. Hyde.
Vote unanimously in favor*

Nomination of Board Chair

*J. Pieroni nominated D. Pearl as Budget Committee Chair.
Vote unanimously in favor*

M. Miville nominated C. Morneau as Budget Committee Vice Chair.

S. Peterson nominated J. Pieroni as Budget Committee Vice Chair

Vote:

C. Morneau 7

J. Pieroni 1

C. Morneau Vice Chair.

J. Pieroni nominated J. Hyde as Budget Committee Secretary.

Vote unanimously in favor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2016

*J. Hyde motioned to approve the minutes of January 7, 2016. Seconded by M. Miville
Vote unanimously in favor. 1 abstained.*

OLD BUSINESS

Budget Hearing Process

D. Pearl reviewed the guidelines of the public hearing.

*J. Hyde motioned to approve the guidelines as presented. Seconded by C. Morneau.
Vote unanimously in favor*

School Administration response to Budget Changes

Dr. Littlefield addressed the 3 points; the cut to transportation, the cut to Media Specialists and the discrepancy in the High School Tuition.

High School

There was a question regarding a difference of 9 students (high school). We have 598 public high school students. Students move in and out; it is a dynamic number. Regarding a December 28th bill which reflected a difference of 9 students; all the difference comes from West High School. Two (2) students are in special programs, their services are billed in June because of the nature of the services; two (2) students withdrew; two (2) students moved to Manchester; one (1) student is a chronic truant so we were not billed; two (2) students are being reconciled.

Impact of reducing 2 buses

We currently have 19 buses total. 18 buses do elementary runs. 10 buses do middle school runs. 9 buses do High School runs- 5 to Manchester and 4 to Pinkerton. A cut of two (2) buses leaves 17; one (1) fewer than we require for our elementary runs. If you had students at the elementary level, you know that the timing is a challenge. At the elementary school level, that is a function of two (2) schools that start at the same time and we have to pick up through the entire town (18 buses). With a reduction of two (2) buses, there would be an impact at the High School level, the issue there is that some of our students are picked up at 6 am. Some alternatives to consider are extending bus routes, (fewer buses with longer routes). Some would be picked up before 6 am. Providing a centralized pick up, which would have to be a public pick up which would require parents to transport students from home to the centralized pick up? Centralized pick up is a challenge because we are doing the entire community to three (3) high schools. I two communities with a river running through it. After all being said, the elementary runs, students would be to school late and get picked up late. It is a challenge today. The high school situation would require longer runs with earlier starts or centralized pickups. I think a lot of people would share my concern with putting kids on the street early in the morning when it is dark and drivers are not anticipating it.

Media Integration Specialists- Memorial and Underhill

The impact is obvious meaning those specialist have an instructional responsibility at the Elementary school level. They do about 100 classes per month. Those classes wouldn't take place. We are blessed with Para Professionals but I couldn't trust our kids to an

unlicensed professional. We live in an informational era. Our economy has shifted from industrial to informational. For me the impact is we are removing the professional personnel from the area where we filter the information. It would have an impact on teachers; it would have an impact on the management of each media center. Underhill, 1800 items are borrowed each month from the media center. Another issue, I'm concern about the lack of media specialist and the minimum standard for public school approval. You can't operate a school unless it is approved. There are standards we must follow. The State under an RSA that went into effect two years ago, the State sends out visiting teams to check the school. I think we are about due with one of our three schools. There are a couple approval standards.

1. Services of a certified principal, a certified Library Media Specialist and a Certified Guidance Counselor. What does it mean? Does it say you must have a specialist, no it says you must have the services of a media specialist. My interpretation is that is a human being doing that function. Another Ed Rule says in each elementary school the services of a reading specialist and library specialist must deliver services per ED Rules. In regard to Media Resources, there is an ED Rule that says the local district will provide development appropriate resources including online and printed material that shall be current to support the curriculum and needs of the population. I think this puts Memorial and Underhill in jeopardy of losing the school approval.

J. Pieroni: With regard to the Media Specialist, a comment made in cutting that position is the teachers are now more media savvy and therefore would not need the specialist services.

Justine Thain, Media Director: Regarding teachers being more media savvy, my judgement with the skill of the teaching staff is they each come with their particular gifts and knowledge. Some are skilled but not all are. The Media Specialist's role is to teach the students and not the teachers. They are a resource for teachers and parents. The needs and programing is changing.

At Memorial, the Library Media Specialist will instruct 3rd, 4th and 5th graders on how to access online, how to critically judge what is online, and how to behave in a manner that is safe and secure. She operates both in the Media Room, the Computer lab and in the classroom. They help with new digital tools that the teacher may not be comfortable with. If we updated software or new learning initiative, she will work with teachers to integrate into the lesson. The Underhill Specialists meets with students for instruction and more emphasis on traditional books and uses digital tools to supplement that learning. They have consultation responsibility, teaching and managing the library.

J. Hyde: It sounds like a description of a modern day librarian. Is there also a librarian?

Justine Thain: In my day we called it a librarian. Then with film and audio we had a media person. Then we had people think that media specialists were related to the news. Now we use the term Library Media Specialist. We also have Library Assistance that support and the checking in and out the books.

M. Miville: I understood that there was a State rule there were Media Specialist needed due to enrollment numbers and those numbers have since dropped. The Media Specialists also had assistants. I thought we were dropping the assistants.

D. Pearl: There was a time when our enrollment in the schools exceeded 500 and therefore required a Media Specialist. We use to have one Media Specialist that moved between the schools. The primary Specialist would still be there. I did bring up the assistants and I thought we were fortunate to have the Para's that we do and an efficient use of personnel.

M. Miville: The Assistant Media Specialist will still be in the budget?

D. Pearl: We zeroed out the 2 Media Specialist. We didn't do anything with Paras. My understanding is that would not allow the Administration to fund those because the lines were eliminated.

Dr. Littlefield: There was a time that there were numbers associated to some positions. That changed in 2014. The old regulation was replaced with the new regulation. The time for someone to float between two schools, given the complexity of the position, would not be possible with the current position.

J. Pieroni: Regarding the number of students in high school, the number you presented you believe was correct but it changes?

Dr. Littlefield: Hooksett only limited school choice program allows when high school selection is made, we have a number certain on high schools, however families do move in and out of the district.

J. Pieroni: Is it possible that there are students that moved in that were part of the flux in the bill?

Dr. Littlefield: We received the bill on December 28th. I don't know what their cut off is. Come June, I guarantee we will be billed for all students that attend.

J. Hyde: Have there been any audits done to insure that the number we are paying are actual Hooksett students?

Dr. Littlefield: Limited choice is something no other district has. It makes Hooksett attractive for those that live here and those that don't. We confirm every student that we are billed for. We require every new student to come to my office and do an affidavit of residency. The School Board, at my request has filed a resolution to sponsor legislation that will say whoever provides false information for the sole purpose of attendance or helps someone is liable for the full tuition. There is a person in my office and my secretary that follow through on residency issues.

J. Pieroni: Regarding the increase in the budget over the past few years, would you say the high school has been a driver of those increases in your opinion?

Dr. Littlefield: I wish I could control that if the cost of living goes up 1.6% that the cost of operating the school district went up 1.6%. If we look at the cost drivers I described in November, the list is the same from year to year. As a major employer, the cost of health care has been a challenge. Congratulation to the teachers for agreeing to migrate into a consumer driven plan. The cost of special education, one figure is the budget went up 25% over 5 years. Some of our Sped Cost went up quadruple that. God bless us that we live where we live and provide for all our kids. That is a cost driver, particularly this year. In November, I outlined the drivers, Sped, Health Care and this year high school. Our tuition to Pinkerton is in the lowest in the State and Manchester is less. Our per pupil cost is low. Our per pupil expenditure is below the State average. I wish those costs had not gone up. I think we migrated to School Care for our health insurance which ameliorated the increase. Now we are following that with a consumer driven plan but will still be an increase of more than 5%. The cost of the drivers was greater than the increase in the budget so we did decrease other parts of the budget. We cut \$300,000 and the School Board cut \$300,000 of my request.

R. Boisvert: On the buses, who is the person responsible for analyzing the routes to make them as efficient as possible?

Dr. Littlefield: K. Lessard

R. Boisvert: Is she a professional on traffic engineering?

Dr. Littlefield: To be a Certified Business Administration you must be competent in Budgets, Maintenance, and food service. She has the training and credentials.

R. Boisvert: Would it be beneficial to hire an expert?

Dr. Littlefield: My answer is the vendor is an expert. The vendor has some opinions and we have some more conservative opinion and we have the expertise to oversee the transportation and routes.

J. Pieroni: It was stated that the use of GIS mapping and technology driven routes should be used to analyze the routes.

Dr. Littlefield: We have a demographic analysis that we partnered with the NHEA to do. Every child that lives in Hooksett is a dot on the map and has a graphical representation that is current as of December 1st. We are able to export PowerSchool data and get the same information for every child by school.

J. Pieroni: Why do we have money left over at the end of the year?

Dr. Littlefield: There are 2 reasons:

1. When we develop a budget, we are forecasting a year and half in advance. Principals start budgeting during the summer and teachers start before they leave in June.
2. Expenditure, it is one thing to project needs, but when it comes to expending funds, each expenditure comes to my desk. I would say that in most school systems, when a budget line item has a balance in it, the word goes out - spend it or lose it. In my system, if we are budgeted and don't need it, it will go back to the taxpayer. Most school systems will spend their whole budget; I feel it is my responsibility to return to the taxpayer when possible.

J. Hyde motioned to add one dollar to line 31-2220-5111-03 and 31-2220-5111-04. Seconded by C. Morneau.

The lines are for the Media Specialist. I added a dollar so the Administration can fund those lines as they see fit. If we zero them out, they don't even have that opportunity.

Vote 7:1 motion carried

J. Pieroni motioned to add \$1 to line 31-2220-5232-1-00-. Seconded by S. Peterson
Vote 7:1 (retirement)

Recess at 6:55 pm

PUBLIC HEARING (7:00 pm)

D. Pearl opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm

D. Pearl reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

HOOKSETT SCHOOL DISTRICT WARRANT

J. Pieroni read the following Article into the record:

(2) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett School Board and the Hooksett Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Increase</i>
<i>2016-2017</i>	<i>\$193,855</i>

and further to raise and appropriate \$193,855 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

No comment or questions

(4) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to approve a tuition agreement to be entered with the Manchester School District for the education of some of Hooksett's high school students, which provides for a 10-year term beginning on July 1, 2019 and which contains no minimum commitment of the number of students to attend Manchester from Hooksett but allows all students from Hooksett to attend Manchester at a tuition to be charged that is equal to the tuition charged by Pinkerton Academy to Hooksett students

during the term of the agreement; and further to authorize the School Board to take such other and further actions that are necessary to carry the tuition agreement into effect, including the adoption of minor amendments to the agreement from time-to-time during its term without further action by the School District meeting?

None money article

J. Pieroni read the following article in to the record:

(5) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$95,500 to be added to the Construction and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in March of 1990. NOTE: This is the second payment of a four year plan to acquire the funds needed to replace the roof on the Fred C. Underhill School.

No comment or questions

J. Pieroni read the following article in to the record:

(6) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment at the Fred C. Underhill School.

No comment or questions.

J. Pieroni read the following article in to the record:

(7) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund established in March of 2001? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. No amount to be raised from taxation.

No comment or questions

(8) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to authorize the Hooksett School Board to accept from the Manchester Sand, Gravel & Cement Co., Inc., on such terms and conditions as the Hooksett School Board determine are appropriate, the vacant property known as Lot 14-2 as shown on Plan No. 2218, recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds containing approximately 81 acres of property?

None money article

(9) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained may only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergencies to be approved by the Department of Education under RSA 32:11.

None money article

(10) Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14? (Submitted by Petition)

None money article

J. Pieroni read the following article into the record:

(3) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$31,541,578? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$32,384,729, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hooksett School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

M. Miville: This number also includes the Federal and Food Service funding. That money must be appropriated and later received.

J. Pieroni: We should disclose that there are three (3) budgets presented. The default budget, the budget proposed by the School Board and Budget Committee Budget.

Kathy Bobay, 45 Sherwood Drive: I am the parent of two (2) boys and I ask you to seriously reconsider your proposed cuts. Read statement into record.

J. Hyde: There are few things referenced that the Budget Committee does not control. There are no lines in this budget called Field Trips; if there is we didn't cut it. Where is the money going to come from? The Administration and School Board decide where it comes from, the testimony given and discussions we had, there were what I felt were inefficiencies and opportunities in other areas to fund those lines. This way the Administration has the ability to pick and choose where to fund. We do not set policy. With that said, the transportation with the buses, my response is based on the data we got relative to the number of students and times on the routes, there was an opportunity to combine routes. This budget that the committee proposed is still going up 2.33%. In the past 4 years the budget was up 2.34% in 2012, 2013 up 2.37%; 2014 up 7.08%. In 2011 and 2012 the increase isn't listed however \$800,000 was returned. In 2013, \$716,000 out of the approved budget which 2.72% in 2013-14 only \$102,599 was not spent. In 2014-15 \$559,000 went unspent. My point is a 2.33% increase vs the proposed 5% increase is consistent with where we've done in the past and I think the money is there to fund what we need in the town. Another inefficiency is a color copier which is a want vs a need. This is an additional copier. We are trying to drive change in the way things are handled the best we can. It is more money than is being funded now.

C. Morneau: All athletic were not cut. That was funded last week at our meeting. I want the public to watch all the meetings and get all the information.

D. Pearl: The reason for the motion to cut one million is because I don't think the community can sustain this type of increases. I represent the taxpayers as well as the school district. I think we struck a balance with a 2.3% increase while leaving a dollar in the line to allow the Administration to fund where they see fit. We need to think of all of the people in the community. We tried to do this so your professionals could do the cuts.

Kathy Bobay: How can you fund sports if you cut transportation?

C. Morneau: The lines were not zeroed out. They just have to reallocate the funds. There are other lines where the money can be moved from. We tried to ask the professionals and we got no answer.

S. Peterson: We were looking at a little over a 5% per year increase. Where will we be in 5 years?

K. Bobay: I understand, but the high school and Special Ed costs are not changing. So the cuts are coming to the K-8 programs. Our community is a draw and now we are cutting programs.

S. Peterson: There are two sides; people don't want to come to the community if the taxes are too high.

A. Boilard: You did put money back into the athletic program but it was taken back out of high school tuition line. The reduction remains a million dollars.

Dave Levesque, 29 Morrill Road: As a watch the proceedings, the sad part of the process is there is such distrust on this Board. You say you are not the professionals but then you don't trust the professionals. I understand the 5% but 10 lbs. of mail doesn't cost the same today as it did 5 years ago. I would be the first to say I don't want my taxes to go up. We all have a responsibility. We want to hire a consultant for GIS yet we are laying off Media Specialists. Not once did anyone consider that the teacher may have spent their own money to make a classroom what it is.

If we are going to be a community that prides itself on its schools, we need something. I and my wife are teachers; do you know how much we spend of our own money. I hope you reconsider the million dollar cut. Get the community together, and if we want these things for our community, let's make it happen.

D. Pearl: The committee for the GIS was a committee and not to hire anyone. This Board is very professionally and it is difficult and we serve our community and we act like adults.

S. Peterson: I also read a lot of the social media and it is uncalled for.

D. Levesque: You talk about 21st Century learning and you cut the two (2) specialists that teach technology.

D. Levesque: The default budget is higher than the proposed budget. I understand this Board is not happy with that process and is looking to prepare that budget.

D. Pearl: This Board had no official filing of the petition. I submitted that petition. This Board never discussed that petition.

Kellie Martineau, 1465 Hooksett Road 214: Read a statement regarding the cuts and how they will affect the K-8 population.

Jennifer Morasco, 10 Laurel Road: What items do you feel we can take money from to fund these items? There are too many items that need funding like field trips and co-curricular. Our K-8 students are affected by the increase in the high school and Special Ed. Why not cut the Para Professionals rather than the highly qualified Media Specialist?

D. Pearl: I would rather have the Media Specialist but I don't think it is detrimental if we don't. I think if we cut it, it can be filled by the one media specialist. I do feel we have to cut somewhere. I also feel that when those that are more needy need more, others must take less. This is a time when Special Ed increases and some kids must sacrifice for the good of all. I don't see this as a bottomless money pit and there are families on the brink of keeping afloat. We are still asking for 2.3%. I cut the Specialist vs the Para because looking at the line and the cost, the value of the specialist is more and our teachers are much more media savvy. When you ask us to justify a cut, it is not up to us to say how to teach school, I think we can cut without a Media Specialist.

Jennifer Morasco: I think you could take and cut 3 to 4 Paras and still keep the Media Specialist. I understand Special Education is what it is but why should we take away from our K-8 children and they deserve the education and they are our leaders of tomorrow and they are our future and we shouldn't cheapen their education.

D. Pearl: What you propose for the Para can be done. We have to look at the taxpayer. I believe we are in a stagnant economy and yet the school has increased. I'm looking for innovation and change to make education more efficient. Unfortunately the changes I made on the School Board were undone. That is what prompted me to make a cut to make things happen and 8 people agreed with me.

J. Hyde: I know it is easy to say cut; it is not a cut, it is a reduction in a rate of increase. It is not a cut to the budget. We did not cut the bottom line of last year. It has still increased from last year by 2.3% which means taxes will still go up. Some of us can make accommodations to pay for this. A 2.33% increase will result in "x" amount of taxes plus the cost of the warrant articles.

M. Miville: We are hearing from citizens on how to manage once the cuts are made. We don't manage once the cuts are made. I agree that maybe the Para's can be removed rather than the Specialist. We are looking at discretionary spending. I focus on not just the school constituencies but the entire town. There are seniors in town that I talk to and ask me to take care of their taxes. As the Town Council Rep. I must keep their concerns

in mind. The proposed budget was a \$1.39 increase and the proposed is .82. The town is going up .15%. The town is going to be below \$15,000. They have level services. That is what we are looking for here.

D. Pearl: This Board constantly has the policy debate. Is what we are doing changing policy? That is the reason for adding the \$1.

D. Boisvert: As a representative of the senior citizens collecting social security, my increase this year is zero. I have to go back into my budget and adjust what I'm paying for. We are trying to not say you can't have anything, just not what you asked for.

David Levesque, 29 Morrill Road: I understand the price of operation and your own budget. Our value of our property will go up. If our houses keep going up, we can continue to invest in the town because it pays dividends. If I don't like your number or the default number I can re-instate the million dollars at the Deliberative Session?

D. Pearl: I don't want to give you advice. At the Deliberative Session, the body can make motions and there are limitations under the law.

You should seek out the Town Clerk and Moderator.

J. Pieroni: You cannot change the purpose of a warrant article. Any article can be amended. The only limitation is the 10% which is it cannot be increased more than 10% of the Budget Committee Budget.

Dr. Littlefield: Regardless of what the budget is or if we agree or not, I appreciate the manner in which I've been able to interact with the Budget Committee while I was here. One member made fun of me about the way I speak and the way I say youngster. I disagree with a lot of this but I appreciate the way I was treated by the group. We may be chasing the wrong tail. At some point we may want to collaboratively as a community and talk with our legislatures and the impact it has on our community. The Hooksett Community was part of the Londonderry case which was a spinoff of the Claremont decisions. The decision was they had to cost out an adequate education, they had to come up with a way of funding it, and a way of assessing it. That is what the Supreme Court said. WE may be victims of inaction. I think we need Media Specialist, without them our schools won't be approved and because it is in the ED rules it is part of an adequate education. If \$13,000 is the cost of an adequate and the state pays \$3400. To full fill the Supreme Court mandate, they pay \$3400. At some point, there may be a summit with all of us to bring to the legislatures a plea. The other thing I offer to the Budget Committee is I have the luxury of dealing with Budget Committees in 3 communities and have a sense of how they function. In the other communities, the municipal finance act is interpreted differently. In those communities, they build a budget and they don't reduce them. They go line item by line item and sometimes at the end the increase is higher than they would like. It may be something you might want to consider the interpretation of what that is. I live in Bedford and my taxes increase more than 5% and home value increase as well. We are on the same team and we have to unite to deal with the underfunding of schools in NH. It can't be on the back of the property tax payer forever.

Laura Vanwagner, 21 Fieldstone Drive: I have three (3) children in the school system. I'm not that savvy about school budgets but I do know the Media Specialist at Underhill; I don't know the Media Specialist at Memorial but last year we were one of three (3) towns nominated for the top libraries in the State. Part of that is because of our Media Specialist. The thought of losing that and my two children in Kindergarten not get the same experience my third grader got; I think maybe the Para professionals should be cut to keep the Media Specialist.

Phil Denbow, 8 Nancy Lane: We talked about going through the budget line by line. The whole bottom line budget is a non-starter. You cut the maintenance from the three schools. We had a glycol issue at Cawley that cost \$90,000. Some of these other things cut in the budget are things that must be maintained over a long period of time. Each of the Board members had a book to go through and sat down with the manager and went page by page and looked at what could be cut. I don't think this was a hap/hazard effort. At the end of the day, no one likes their taxes to go up. There are discretionary and non-discretionary items but there are a lot of non-discretionary items like benefits and Special Ed. I don't get the whole concept of sharing the pain. We cut \$600,000 before the budget got to you and a million dollars is too much pain.

M. Miville: We all got the budget books; they were all scanned so everyone could see all the budgets. We examined every book and every line and did our due diligence. I have no regrets. My concern this year was collaboration. We sat here a few weeks ago and after the reduction we asked the Administration to help us see what that reduction would look like. We sat here for an hour and half and finally when the presentations happened, our attempt for collaboration didn't happen. We heard more tonight from Dr. Littlefield than we heard through the process. Collaboration goes both ways. We tried to collaborate with the School Board and the Administration. The School Board Rep. decided to take the information to the School Board at their next meeting. I went to that meeting. There was no budget discussion at that School Board meeting. We are still waiting for information on official motions from this committee. We acted on information we had.

D. Pearl: We did propose to the School Board at the beginning of the session to do a tuition lock box and would fully fund the tuition if they guaranteed any unspent funds would go back to the general fund.

Meghan Hanna, 7 Burbank: You mention that there are people that don't want their taxes going up. You mentioned that there are people barely hanging on. There is a new study that kids from lower income families need to be supported. Please do not cut the fundamental literacy programs.

D. Pearl: I also worry about the parents that work two jobs and are not there for their child. We didn't cut reading specialist or teachers. Media Specialist is a newer position.

K. Salvias: The drivers of our budget are not going away, we need to acknowledge that. We need to meet the needs of all our children. How we do that is the question. How do

you define integrity? Mr. Hyde, this wife went back to work, as most women do. I would continue to work whatever hours to support my children or your children because that is our job; to come back as responsible adults. The comments heard in recent weeks and tonight and the value of professional development and how you value a certified teacher and the value on a welcoming classroom is nothing but ignorance. You don't understand what goes into a classroom, that is a level of misunderstand of defining integrity. I'm glad I have a vote and this is your last chance to change your cuts. I hope the rules are clearly posted and the community will take care of it from there.

D. Pearl: As a former School Board member, I was concerned in the first month of your term when you gutted three committees that would look at efficiencies at no cost. You not only got rid of the committee you didn't discuss them.

K. Salvas: I wasn't on the Board when they were established. We are finding our own efficiencies, and maybe we don't agree.

D. Levesque: I started my earlier comments with the trust, the tone. The new chair of the Budget Committee has problems with how the current School Board is operating. You are looking to stick it to them. Then you try and limit the discussion on the points. It is very clear and you are not helping the trust issue but making a bigger division. I challenge you to do right by the kids of our town and the dissension is clear.

D. Pearl: I am disappointed with the School's Board progress. I am not mad. I am disappointed because they are not looking for efficiencies and I am not trying to stick it to anyone.

J. Hyde: This Board was made up of nine (9) members. The Chair does not drive the bus. It is not a one person show. The limitation of debate, in respect to the Chair, he didn't do it to protect himself, he did it to keep the meeting from getting out of hand.

J. Pieroni: Mr. Pearl only became the Chair tonight. I think the budget process his year was very poor. Before the Administration presented, we made a cut in the tuition line where we are obligated to pay. In the RSA, it doesn't say bottom line budget. We are charged with creating a budget and a series of appropriations. We receive a budget from the School Board and we create it by developing a series of appropriations. We copied the School Budget budget and then reduced the tuition line by a million dollars. It is our job to say where those appropriations should be. I made the motion to reduce the athletics and put it back in the tuition because we have a legal obligation. This was a way of showing the impact of the cuts. It is our job to make the lines. The reason the process was bad because we were going after things to get to the million. I am a great advocate of education. To take and put all reductions on the K-8 is wrong. I am opposed to these reductions. The term bottom line is used and it comes from RSA 32:10 if changes arise in the year. We should create a meaningful budget that will provide for the education of our students. The first money shifted back was athletic, I found that interesting because it was popular. I have heard a lack of respect for educators because they are not willing to drive somewhere for a number 2 pencil. Also to say we shouldn't be training and educating our

employees is wrong. There was an attempt to zero out all workshops. I think that is a lack of respect.

Teachers care and they have a very difficult job and I don't think they were treated with the respect they deserve. Any reduction I made was to show the million dollar cut, it is cuts. The other thing that has happened is with high school more of our students are being educated in public high school. We had 60-80 a few years ago. That is bad for the taxpayer but good for the community. We have choice in high school and therefore we need more buses and that has made us a better community. We should not be impacting the K-8 students and therefore I am opposed to this.

A. Boilard: I agree with Mr. Pieroni. I have been stressed since the motion to cut million was made and was made too early. It is important that the columns stay intact historically.

K. VanHorn: I am also disappointed with the Budget process. I looked at this 5.6% increase and looked at why it was there. It was high school and Special Ed. If we take that away, the increase was 1.9% which is benefits, transportation, and therapies.

As a community, we went to the ballot box and voted for the high school. WE knew there would be cost increases and as a community we voted for it. We voted for the teacher contract which is also reflected in budget. I empathize. I don't want the taxes to go up and I don't want people on fixed income to be hurt. Now we are looking at this budget and don't feel good about 5.6% and we are here to develop a budget that will provide an education. We are not here to correct past decisions of the community. A big part of that increase was voted on by the community and it isn't up to us to fix that.

Jennifer Morasco, 10 Laurel Road: Can we make a motion to add a million dollars back into the budget?

D. Pearl: This Board has the power to add money back into the budget.

Jennifer Morasco: I ask you to please put the one million dollars back in the budget.

John Hanna: 7 Burbank Way: Based on the discussion, three (3) members have said they disagree with the cuts. If they leave the proposal, they run the risk of that being defeated and the default budget being in place which is higher. If the town votes down your budget, then the default kicks in which is considerably higher?

J. Pieroni: There are few openings on the Budget Committee. We need a mix of views so please consider serving.

D. Pearl declared the public hearing closed at 9:01 pm.

Recess to 9:06 pm

Review Warrant Articles

(2) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hooksett School Board and the Hooksett Education Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels over the amount paid in the prior fiscal year:

Year	Estimated Increase
2016-2017	\$193,855

and further to raise and appropriate \$193,855 for the current fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels.

The Board discussed whether the \$2500 is added to the step and if that amount will remain in the step next year.

Is the \$2500 a wage increase is added to the base in lieu of step?

A. Boilard: Yes

J. Hyde motioned to recommend Article 2 as written. Seconded by A. Boilard.

J. Hyde: I will not support this because I do not support public sector unions.

M. Miville: The tax rate impact is .12

Roll Call

A. Boilard Yes

S. Peterson Yes

J. Pieroni Yes

C. Morneau Yes

M. Miville Yes

R. Boisvert No

K. VanHorn Yes

J. Hyde No

D. Pearl Yes

Vote 7:2 motion carried

(3) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$31,541,578? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$32,384,729, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Hooksett School

District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Will reconsider and make recommendations at the next Budget Committee meeting.

(4) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to approve a tuition agreement to be entered with the Manchester School District for the education of some of Hooksett's high school students, which provides for a 10-year term beginning on July 1, 2019 and which contains no minimum commitment of the number of students to attend Manchester from Hooksett but allows all students from Hooksett to attend Manchester at a tuition to be charged that is equal to the tuition charged by Pinkerton Academy to Hooksett students during the term of the agreement; and further to authorize the School Board to take such other and further actions that are necessary to carry the tuition agreement into effect, including the adoption of minor amendments to the agreement from time-to-time during its term without further action by the School District meeting?

No action by the Budget Committee

(5) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$95,500 to be added to the Construction and Equipment Capital Reserve Fund established in March of 1990. NOTE: This is the second payment of a four year plan to acquire the funds needed to replace the roof on the Fred C. Underhill School.

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend Article 5 as written. Seconded by S. Peterson.

The tax impact is .06.

Roll Call

M. Miville Yes

S. Peterson Yes

D. Pearl Yes

C. Morneau Yes

K. Van Horn Yes

A. Boilard Yes

R. Boisvert Yes

J. Pieroni Yes

J. Hyde Yes

Vote 9:0 motion carried

(6) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000 for the purpose of purchasing and installing security equipment at the Fred C. Underhill School.

C. Morneau motioned to recommend Article 6 as written. Seconded by S. Peterson.

A. Boilard: This is to increase our safety. We are starting with Underhill. It is all building security and this is based an audit done by Homeland Security.

J. Hyde: Is it for surveillance or is it anti-theft? As a taxpayer I would like to know specifics.

A. Boilard: The details were discussed in non-public.

R. Boisvert: Is there a maintenance cost associated with this equipment?

A. Boilard: Yes. The first year it is in the \$37,000. The future costs will be in the budgets.

J. Hyde: It sounds like these are not hard costs. I'm not comfortable with the estimate.

J. Pieroni: We should be able to know what it entails short of specific locations. We would like some idea of what we get for this money.

C. Morneau: What are they monitoring? What is the monitoring fee? The \$37,000 to install it isn't the issue. It is how much it will cost to monitor.

***J. Pieroni motioned to table. Seconded by C. Morneau.
Vote 8:1 tabled***

(7) Shall the Hooksett School District raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$40,000 to be added to the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund established in March of 2001? This sum to come from June 30, 2016 fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2016. No amount to be raised from taxation.

J. Pieroni motioned to recommend. Seconded by S. Peterson.

A. Boilard: We started the year with \$220,000 and removed \$38,000.

M. Miville suggested putting an explanation in the voters' guide.

***M. Miville motioned to table. Seconded by J. Pieroni
Vote 8:1 tabled***

(8) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to authorize the Hooksett School Board to accept from the Manchester Sand, Gravel & Cement Co., Inc., on such terms and conditions as the Hooksett School Board determine are appropriate, the vacant property known as Lot 14-2 as shown on Plan No. 2218, recorded at the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds containing approximately 81 acres of property?

No action taken by the Budget Committee

(9) Shall the Hooksett School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year,

2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment, in accordance with RSA 198:4-b, II. Such fund balance retained may only be used to reduce the tax rate or for emergencies to be approved by the Department of Education under RSA 32:11.

No action taken by the Budget Committee

(10) Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:14-b to delegate the determination of the default budget to the municipal budget committee which has been adopted under RSA 32:14? (Submitted by Petition)

No action taken by the Budget Committee

Review Default Budget

No action

School District Budget

J. Pieroni: I would like to end the meeting here and give everyone an opportunity to review the comments of the hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vacant Board positions

PUBLIC INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

*J. Hyde motioned to adjourn. Seconded by J. Pieroni
Vote 8:1 motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan