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LONDONDERRY BUDGET COMMITTEE (draft) Minutes January 14, 2010

The Budget Committee meeting was held in the Moose Hill Conference Room, 268B Mammoth Road, Londonderry NH 03053.

Committee Members Present: Richard Dillon, Tom Dolan, Jay Hooley, Todd Joncas, Don Jorgensen, Deb Nowicki.

10:10 PM I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dolan at 10:10 pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. General Overview of the Budget Calendar:

- a. Next Meeting – January 18, 2000 at 6pm prior to the next Town Council Meeting
- b. No meeting will be held on January 28, 2009.
- c. Jay Hooley inquired whether or not we would move forward / vote on the Articles in the absence of the Chairperson, Mark Oswald. Vice Chair, Tom Dolan indicated that we will move forward with voting and can convey Mark Oswald's input, however proxy voting is not permissible. Tom Dolan further offered that if the Committee wants to, the Budget Committee can reconsider its votes at a subsequent meeting when all are present.
- d.

B. A motion was made by Todd Joncas 2nd by Jay Hooley to approve the minutes of December 14, 2009. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas			X	
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	5	0	1	1

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C. A motion was made by Todd Joncas 2nd by Deb Nowicki to approve the minutes of December 15, 2009. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

D. Warrant Article 2: A motion was made by Don Jorgensen to support Part A for the General Fund Operating Budget for \$63,472,328 of Article 2, 2nd by Todd Joncas. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

Special Commentary:

Part B of Article 2 is the “default budget” and cost the tax payers more at \$63,814,172 and that the Budget Committee’s support of Part A is an attempt to saves the tax payers \$341,844.)

E. Warrant Article 3: A motion was made by Jay Hooley to support Article 3 for the AFSCME Local Bargaining Agreement 2nd by Rich Dillon. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas			X	
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	5	0	1	1

Discussion and Commentary:

There were 2 votes taken on Article 3: the 1st vote resulted in a 4 to 2 in favor of supporting the Article with Ms. Nowicki and Mr. Dillion against. After discussing the Article and Evergreen contract meaning detail among the committee, Nate Greenberg, Superintendent and Peter Curro, School District Finance Director... a second vote was offered if anyone wanted to reconsider their vote. The Committee re-voted with a result in favor 6-0 of supoprt, indicated in the table above.

Key Discussion Points, Q/A:

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Q: Deb Nowicki: If the voters vote against this bargaining agreement does that mean that we are not obligated to pay the \$60,727?

A: Tom Dolan: Correct. What would happen is that the current agreement with its financial obligations would continue instead.

Q: Rich Dillon: This year costs \$60,727. What will the next year cost the tax payer?

A: Peter Curro: This contract is for this year but is an “evergreen” contract. This means that if nothing else happens, next year step raise will occur as normally. Those already at the top of their steps would not receive a raise. This bargaining agreement is for basically part-time and/or lowest paid personnel in the School District.

Q: Deb Nowicki: What does the \$60,727 represent?

A: Peter Curro: Only the incremental costs associated with such items as the step raises (which is 1.6% for each.) It should be noted that step raises stay the same year after year unless renegotiated, i.e., evergreen. If any other changes were to occur, e.g., benefits or cost-of-living increases, etc., they would have to be addressed in a separate warrant article.

Other Commentary:

Don Jorgensen objected to not allowing/supporting Article 3. Don further stated that this is for the lowest paid group of personnel in the district. “We shouldn’t ‘punish’ the lowest paid workers because of an ideology”.

During this discussion it was asked by Jay Hooley who would address the Budget Committee’s positions, etc... during the School District’s Deliberative session coming up in February.

Tom Dolan indicated that, if the committee agrees, that the Chairperson should represent and speak for the Budget Committee.

F. Warrant Article 4: A motion was made by Don Jorgensen 2nd by Jay Hooley to support Article 4 to authorize a special meeting should Article 3 fail at the poles. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

G. Warrant Article 6: A motion was made by Rich Dillon 2nd by Don Jorgensen to support Article 6 for school lunch program. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			

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Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

H. Warrant Article 7: A motion was made by Todd Joncas 2nd by Deb Nowicki to support Article 7 to raise and appropriate \$550,000 for the Maintenance Trust. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

Special Commentary:

It should be noted that the current Maintenance Trust level had been \$450,000 and was found to be inadequate given the amount of maintenance costs for the various projects necessary to maintain the facilities. By increasing to \$550,000 and maintaining this level, we avoid adding debt by way of 10 year bonds to repair and maintain the facilities.

A. Warrant Article 8: A motion was made by Todd Joncas 2nd by Deb Nowicki to support Article 8 to support LHS Robotics. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley		X		
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	5	1	0	1

Key Discussion Points, Q/A:

Q: Rich Dillon: Would the \$7K be an addition to the \$3.3K stipend they currently receive?

A: Peter Curro: Yes

Other Commentary/Discussion:

Nate Greenberg: If this warrant article passes, the \$7K becomes part of next years budget. However, there is a down side to having this as a Warrant Article. Legally, if it fails, the School District cannot shift funds from other parts of the budget to support “them”. ... There is an up side (if it passes) but there is a down side (funds can’t be shift to cover it if it fails). Other items not added as a result of a warrant article could have funds shifted towards it that may have been allocated for something else... This is why we sometimes find items on the budget for only \$1.00. Because if it’s on the budget (even at only \$1.00) funds could be transferred to it if needed.

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Don Jorgensen asked if the \$7K could be added into the budget separately for next year? Ron Campo of the School Board indicated that he would not want to add something into the budget *IF* the voters were to vote “no” (by way of voting it done). Ron Campo further indicated that we would have to get approval of the voters first, before adding it to the budget.

Nate Greenberg indicated that it wouldn’t be illegal to add this into the budget, but historically, the town would want to have it voted upon prior to adding something in that had been voted down.

After and inquiry from Deb Nowicki, Ron Campo explained that stipends are based upon a formula that is based upon amount of hours that the various clubs meet.

I. Liaison Reports.

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

None.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

B. A motion was made by Don Jorgensen at 11:15pm to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Jay Hooley. The vote on the motion was as follows.

Member	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Richard Dillon	X			
Tom Dolan	X			
Jay Hooley	X			
Todd Joncas	X			
Don Jorgensen	X			
Deb Nowicki	X			
Mark Oswald				X
Totals	6	0	0	1

RSA: 91-A:2 Meetings Open to Public. –

II. All public proceedings shall be open to the public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings of those bodies or agencies. Except for town meetings, school district meetings and elections, no vote while in open session may be taken by secret ballot. Any person shall be permitted to use recording devices, including, but not limited to, tape recorders, cameras and videotape equipment, at such meetings. Minutes of all such meetings, including names of members, persons appearing before the bodies or agencies, and a brief description of the subject matter discussed and final decisions, shall be promptly recorded and open to public inspection within 144 hours of the public meeting, except as provided in RSA 91-A:6, and shall be treated as permanent records of any body or agency, or any subordinate body thereof, without exception.

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