

Final Approved Minutes

HB Coop BudCom meeting Monday 25 January 2010

6:18 PM, Call to order

Attendees: Steve Pucci, Lorin Rydstrom, Doug Davidson, Forrest Milkowski, Ray Valle, joined later by Greg McHale after the vote on motion 2 below.

Fred Hubert was in attendance from the School Board to brief the Committee instead of Dan Peterson, the School Board member of the BudCom.

Motion 1 – To accept the November minutes as amended to correct typo. Made by Forrest and seconded by Lorin. Passed 4-0-1.

Motion 2 – To accept the December minutes as amended to correct typo. Made by Ray and seconded by Forrest. Passed 4-0-1.

Motion 3 – To accept the January minutes as amended to correct typo and to change “Q1 numbers” to “administrations latest proposed budget and the December spend report”. Made by Ray and seconded by Doug. Passed 5-0-1.

Public input.

Marie Degulis asked if the Budcom has received the requested information from the SAU. Steve said that it has been, and continues to be, a struggle to get that information in a timely manner. Ray said that we have gotten more information than in prior years but we are still waiting for most of the information. Doug said that the response was not timely or appropriate for a private enterprise.

Steve discussed lighting improvements for \$182K, with possible grants on a per building bases, that would result in a predicted savings of \$2,500 per month. There would be a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour savings, which at 1.5 million kilowatts would amount to \$45,000.

Forrest noted that this might be funded through savings in addition to the grant. Fred remarked that another alternative would be to just do what the funding covered. Doug cautioned that we need a full view of the cost/benefit. Steve noted that to maximize the savings we would need to have and use appropriate protocols. Forrest stated that we could also consider applying some unreserved funds to cover costs beyond the grant. He also noted that there might be a warrant article for this at each of the three School District Meetings and both Town Meetings and that March 10th is the grant date so would have the final figures before any of the meetings. Doug asked why we could not use similar strategies of an outside manager to address expendable supplies.

Steve then noted that Bob Kelly was looking at a possible \$80k grant and we have not gotten the promised status update. Forrest said that a meeting next week should “make it happen.”

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Steve then noted that all parties approved the support staff contract and the professional contract was verbally approved but we lack the level of detail. Forrest said the lead negotiators on both sides signed it. The committee was informed that the support contract would cost \$32k and the professional \$186k and the School Board had approved a sabbatical leave.

Steve reviewed the calendar and there were a few issues where further clarity was needed. Specifically the deadline for the petition warrants and if the public hearing was properly timed if the deadline was the close of business on the 8th and 7 days notice was needed. As notice could be posted till the 9th, seven days would depend on how the days are legally counted. Steve will verify with the SAU and notify the Committee.

Motion 4 - The order of the warrants was discussed and a motion was made by Ray and seconded by Steve that the BudCom urges that the 2 warrants for the negotiated settlements appear and are voted on before the budget warrant is. Passed 4-2.

Discussion followed on the proposed contracts. Doug noted that we need to look at the fully burdened lifetime cost and not just at the salary cost for year one or any specific year, and that that ought include a mode individual as an example so that the compounding effect can be better understood. Steve said that he would coordinate with Dan to get that info to the Committee. Fred explained the prior and proposed agreement with steps that would be subject to evergreen and a COLA that would not. Ray questioned how there could be a COLA increase when the COLA is negative. Fred said the COLA was not related to the CPI and then added that it actually was a negotiated wage increase and was not on the chart, so it was able to avoid the evergreen provisions.

Steve then asked a sense of where each member now stood on the zero max and -3% goal or target. Lorin said he supported zero. Forrest said zero. Ray said he supported the approved position and needed justification to move beyond -3%. Doug said -3%. Greg said zero. Steve said that he wanted to be more cautionary and staring from zero needed to consider the unreserved fund balances over the past years and anticipated \$18,919 in this FY, which is more than -3% so he would consider subtracting the unreserved fund balance and adding a \$2K contingency. Ray noted that if the Committee used past formulas of CPI and student enrollment, since both provided negative numbers this year, the budget under past formulas would be less than zero. Fred said that he expected a zero overall budget from the School Board including all negotiated settlements.

Forrest said that the contract calls for a 2.42% increase in 2011-12 and a 2.49% increase in 2012-13.

Steve opened the meeting to public input for a discussion of how taxpayers saw the unreserved fund balance.

Lorin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Doug. Passed 6-0.