

**Auburn Budget Committee Meeting
November 17, 2022
Auburn Village School
Media Center
7:00 PM**

Members Present: Peter Miles, Chairman, Dan Carpenter, Joanne Linxweiler, Paula Marzloff, Kevin Downing, David Wesche, School Board Representative Janice Baker and Selectman Representative Keith Leclair

Others Present: Superintendent William Rearick, Assistant Superintendent Marge Polak, Principal Lori Collins, Adrian Newton, Jason Tyburski, Alan Villeneuve (@6:38 PM), Tracy Griffenhagen, Student Services, Cory Izbicki, Business Administrator, Jen Bordis, Math Coordinator, Adam Hollins, Director of Technology, Scott Dube, Maintenance Director, Road Agent Michael Dross, Selectman Michael Rolfe, Finance Director Patricia Rousseau, Finance Assistant Mimi Friolet, Parks & Recreation Coordinator Amy Lachance, Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, and Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary

Chairman Miles called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- November 10, 2022

Mrs. Linxweiler motioned to approve the November 10, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Budget Presentations

Finance Director Rousseau provided updated financials for the budgets being presented.

- Highway Roads/Road Reconstruction – Road Agent Mike Dross

Road Agent Dross presented the proposed FY 2023 budget for Highways & Roads in the amount of \$1,143,600 which is a four percent increase from last year. He noted shimming was up 11% with increased asphalt prices expected. Advanced held their prices this year. He noted increases to the Road Striping line resulting from paint costs and that \$3,000 expended was for striping the Town Hall parking lot. Finance Director Rousseau indicated the Highway Winter Salt expenditures represented some encumbered funds and this year's expenditures are \$187,590 to date. Salt is up to \$20/ton and is expected to stay that high if not higher for the next three to four years.

Mr. Carpenter asked about snow plowing and Road Agent Dross indicated that will depend on the number of storms and the price of fuel.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve the FY 2023 budget for Highways & Roads in the amount of \$1,143,600. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Road Agent Dross presented the proposed FY 2023 budget for Road Reconstruction in the amount of \$460,000. He noted that the Selectmen cut \$140,000 from the \$600,000 budget presented to them as there is a one-time Block Grant from surplus. He indicated work will begin on Dearborn Road from Copley to Bunker Hill next year and that there is a lot of ledge, and it will be expensive.

Mrs. Linxweiler asked if the new 55 and over development would have Town roads and Road Agent Dross indicated their roads will be private.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve the FY 2023 budget for Road Reconstruction in the amount of \$460,000. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

- Parks & Recreation – Parks & Recreation Coordinator Amy Lachance

Parks & Recreation Coordinator Amy Lachance presented the proposed FY 2023 budget for Parks & Recreation in the amount of \$96,476. She noted this does not include salaries which will be presented at the December 1st meeting.

Mrs. Lachance indicated the cost of fertilizer is up from \$6,000 to \$8,850 reflected in the General Maintenance line. Trash removal was added as it was discovered that Waste Management had been donating their services for the past 20 years. Little League covered it last year and they will contribute to the cost with Soccer. Chemical toilets are increased this year.

Mrs. Lachance reported that the Severance School lines are new, adding approximately \$35,000 to the budget and are broken down into Utilities, Wi-Fi and Janitorial.

Mrs. Baker asked if the Severance School programs had opened yet and Mrs. Lachance noted they are a couple of weeks away. They have started pay for heating costs but the programs will start in January.

Mr. Carpenter asked if anyone had talked to Andrew about trash removal and Mrs. Lachance indicated they would be charged for the barrels so it wasn't practical.

Mrs. Linxweiler asked about the rent and if it was a fixed rate. Mrs. Lachance noted there was a \$50/mo. escalation clause annually.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the ice rink coating and Mrs. Lachance reported that Advanced had donated the coating for the Pickleball Court.

Mrs. Baker asked about the ski program and Mrs. Lachance reported buses were hard to get and so it was done without transportation this year.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve the FY 2023 Parks & Recreation budget in the amount of \$96,476. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Mr. Carpenter asked about improvements to Wayne Eddows field. Mrs. Lachance indicated \$25,000 was originally proposed to be budgeted in FY 2023 but the Selectmen funded the improvements through the Property Rehabilitation Land Improvement Fund. Mr. Leclair noted it had a balance of approximately \$47,000.

Mrs. Lachance reported the project will increase parking by 30-40 spots and get cars off the road. Fences will be at 200/165 and 80/100 where the backside parking is.

Mr. Carpenter asked if the left side of the parking lot was being used and Mr. Leclair indicated it was not practical. There would be a trail needed and Stantec estimated the cost to be \$100,000 with all the wetlands, culverts, permits and lighting.

- Proposed Insurance – Finance Director Patricia Rousseau

Finance Director Rousseau presented the proposed FY 2023 budget for Insurance in the amount of \$157,598 which is a seven percent increase from last year. She reported a premium holiday for Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance. The negative number in expended Insurance Retention is due to a couple of claims not paid yet.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve the FY 2023 budget for Insurance in the amount of \$157,598. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

- Auburn Village School Board

Mrs. Baker presented an introduction to the budget being proposed for next year. She noted enrollment was stable with 939 students in K-12 and 653 students in this building. She indicated Pinkerton enrollment is decreased by 22 students from last year with 253 students down from 286. She discussed the strategic planning process the Board is using to innovate, change and adapt. She noted teacher staffing has had a lot of turnover the past few years with 20% last year. Older teachers are retiring, and less expensive teachers are coming on. State retirement contributions are down 1.38% after being up the past couple of years. They are seeing increasing demands for SPED at the preschool level with autism and hearing support needs. Five or more students need transportation. There is at least one student with an out of district placement. Technology has been stable with a four-year cycle for replacement devices and firewall and antivirus improvements.

Mrs. Baker noted some of the drivers of the proposed \$16,460,650.12 budget include Pinkerton tuition which has no final number. Mr. Rearick noted they are voting tonight but an increase of nine to ten percent is expected. The cost per student is up from \$14,238 to \$16,000 which Mr. Villeneuve noted doesn't include transportation or SPED. Mr. Rearick indicated the drivers are utilities and teacher salaries however there are 70 fewer students.

Mr. Leclair asked if any other districts voiced their concerns and Mr. Rearick indicated he met with Mr. Powers and Mr. Villeneuve attended the Trustees meeting but found the Trustees not to be receptive to questions. He questioned whether the Social Studies building will be planned for next fall. Pinkerton had their debt bond reduced and \$15 million approved at the same rate.

Mr. Leclair asked the length of the contract and Mr. Rearick indicated the contract was ten years with a 4-5 year window to leave negotiated every five years. Mr. Leclair asked if sending school contracts were staggered so there would not be multiple contracts opting out at once. Mr. Rearick indicated Derry and Hooksett were one year, Chester was the year before, then Candia and Hampstead. Mr. Leclair recommended engaging with other sending districts for leverage and looking at a cooperative school district.

Mrs. Baker reported the school bus contract has been challenging and SPED is increased \$83,150. Health Insurance has an expected 10.5% increase. Increases are expected in utilities such as propane and electric.

Superintendent Rearick indicated the School Board reviewed the proposed budget on November 8th and reduced the budget by \$221,000. He noted increases in Speech, OT and PT as well as behavioral support.

Superintendent Rearick reported the paraprofessionals will become part of a union. In the spring the Board made an effort to make salaries of paras and support staff competitive as well as starting level custodians. Upper management salaries were also reviewed to offer competitive salaries with the surrounding area.

Mr. Leclair asked about the current SPED and CIP fund balances and what was returned the last two years. Superintendent Rearick reported that while Esser Funds don't go back to the Town as of 6/30 the unassigned fund balance is \$977,930 and SPED is \$154,535.

Mrs. Baker noted the previous year was \$1,405,595 which Mr. Villeneuve noted was an anomaly was the amount is usually between \$400-\$600,000.

Mr. Leclair noted the teacher contract is being negotiated for the next three to five years.

Mrs. Linxweiler asked about retirement and Mr. Rearick indicated there was one announced by the deadline.

Mr. Leclair asked about substitutes and Mr. Rearick indicated when teachers substitute and give up their planning time, they are reimbursed \$25 per class.

The Board presented Line 1100 Regular Education in the amount of \$4,333,748.40.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 1100 Regular Education in the amount of \$4,333,748.40. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1105 Regular High School in the amount of \$3,711,846.60.

Mrs. Linxweiler motioned to approve Line 1105 Regular High School in the amount of \$3,711,846.60. Mr. Wesche seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted nay, the motion passed 7-1-0.

The Board presented Line 1200 SPED in the amount of \$2,674,927.32.

Mr. Leclair asked if there was a new out of district placement and Mr. Rearick indicated yes.

Mr. Rearick indicated a \$95,910 change in the Other Professional Services line due to the board-certified behavior analyst, BCBA supervised, and Orton Gillingham trained reading teacher, dyslexia and dysgraphia services and assessments. Mr. Rearick indicated the district is required to provide services from age 3-22.

Mr. Miles asked how many have IEPs and Mr. Rearick indicated 35 are projected at Pinkerton. Mr. Villeneuve noted this includes a specialist for preschool and kindergarten and AVS did not qualify for state aid. There are 92 students with an IEP from preschool to eighth grade and 27 at Pinkerton increasing to 34 next year. There are four out of district students this year.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 1200 SPED in the amount of \$2,674,927.32. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1230 Extended School Year in the amount of \$75,181.40 indicating increased need due to COVID. Mr. Leclair asked if the number of students was known or a placeholder.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 1230 Extended School Year in the amount of \$75,181.40. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1260 English Language Learners in the amount of \$35,598.88.

Mr. Leclair asked if ELL had paras – no. Mrs. Griffenhagen noted there were two additional students.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 1260 English Language Learners in the amount of \$35,598.88. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1270 Advanced Learner Tuition in the amount of \$12,000.

Jen Bordis the Math Coordinator discussed the advanced math program. She noted five students remote in and one is driven to advanced distanced learning. She noted she works

with teachers and students sometimes in small intervention groups and some students who are significantly above and more able to work on their own.

Mr. Leclair asked if there were a math coordinator in the budget last year and Mr. Rearick indicated no, the coordinator morphed into the assistant upper-level principal.

Mr. Leclair asked if there were potential to eliminate the distance learning expense and Ms. Bordis summarized the pre-testing procedure and hopes that the scores will reflect students passing the placement exam at Pinkerton. Mr. Villeneuve noted the cost is \$1,900 per student, three times a year.

Mrs. Linxweiler motioned to approve Line 1270 Advanced Learner Tuition in the amount of \$12,000. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1410 Cocurricular in the amount of \$30,781.76.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve Line 1410 Cocurricular in the amount of \$30,781.76. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1420 Athletics in the amount of \$41,559.16.

Mr. Villeneuve congratulated the AVS Soccer and Cross-Country Girls Team for the championship and being number one in the state with the number one runner.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 1420 Athletics in the amount of \$41,559.16. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 1430 Summer School in the amount of \$9,749.75.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 1430 Summer School in the amount of \$9,749.75. Mr. Wesche seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2120 Guidance in the amount of \$202,094.65.

Mrs. Linxweiler motioned to approve Line 2120 Guidance in the amount of \$202,094.65. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2120 Nurse in the amount of \$135,706.33.

Mr. Leclair asked if the nurse had an assistant – yes.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 2120 Nurse in the amount of \$135,706.33. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2140 Psych in the amount of \$68,175.18.

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Line 2140 Psych in the amount of \$68,175.18. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2150 Speech Services in the amount of \$251,305.39.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 2150 Speech Services in the amount of \$251,305.39. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2160 Therapy Services in the amount of \$139,402.82.

Mrs. Griffenhagen outlined some of the services provided such as audiologists, teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing, communication devices, and assessment. Mrs. Linxweiler asked about OT and PT and Mrs. Griffenhagen indicated for a visually impaired teacher and while not this year it would include feeding and swallowing spec.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 2160 Therapy Services in the amount of \$139,402.82. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2210 Staff Development in the amount of \$6,706.65.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve Line 2210 Staff Development in the amount of \$6,706.65. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2220 Media in the amount of \$180,184.35.

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Line 2220 Media in the amount of \$180,184.35. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2310 School Board Services in the amount of \$47,373.65.

Mrs. Baker indicated they opted out of dues and fees to NHSBA which is a reduction of \$4,500.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve Line 2310 School Board Services in the amount of \$47,373.65. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2320 SAU Services in the amount of \$413,738.

Mr. Carpenter asked how the percentage was determined and Mr. Villeneuve indicated the 28.46% formula is in the statute and Mrs. Baker noted it was 27.05% the previous year.

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Line 2320 SAU Services in the amount of \$413,738. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2410 Principal Services in the amount of \$665,071.44 (adjusted).

Mr. Leclair noted that someone was omitted from the Secretarial Services line. The line was adjusted.

Mrs. Marzloff motioned to approve Line 2410 Principal Services in the amount of \$665,071.44. Mrs. Linxweiler seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 2600 Maintenance in the amount of \$881,255.08.

Mr. Wesche proposed reducing the line by \$170,000 to zero out the Building Improvements line as the CIP has a balance of over \$900,000 and it is unfair to ask more from the taxpayers. \$750,000 was from the sale of the land.

Mr. Leclair agreed that with the adjustments in 2410 the bottom line was going the wrong way. Mr. Dube noted the improvements were for window replacements facing the courtyard and \$21,000 to repair the automation in the gym. Mr. Leclair noted how the Road Agent's budget had been reduced and the Wayne Eddows project funded from a fund.

Mr. Villeneuve disagreed and felt the Trustees would have discretion to allow the maintenance to be done from this line which included painting. Mr. Leclair noted he had no issue with the repairs themselves, just the funding. Mrs. Baker expressed concerns that the Trust language would prohibit the funding. Mr. Villeneuve indicated the fund was for emergencies and Mr. Leclair took issue with having such a balance in an emergency fund. Mr. Villeneuve noted the open space area would eventually have four classrooms added. Mr. Villeneuve requested that the cost of repairing the gym automation \$22,000 be left in. Mr. Wesche disagreed, noting the taxpayers generously funded the last few years and this year is tough. Mr. Leclair noted it is not irregular to find a surplus and believed the school could find \$22,000.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 2600 in the amount of \$711,255.08. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Downing and Mrs. Baker voted nay. The motion passed 6-2-0.

The Board presented Line 2700 Regular Ed & SPED Transportation in the amount of \$1,212,498.40.

The Board discussed the challenges with the bus contract this year.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 2700 Regular Ed & SPED Transportation in the amount of \$1,212,498.40. Mrs. Marzloff seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Mr. Leclair voted nay. The motion passed 7-1-0.

The Board presented Line 2840 IT in the amount of \$271,757.53.

Superintendent Rearick noted the replacement of Chromebooks for Grades 3 and 6. Mr. Hollins indicated the budget didn't allow for extra enrollment and additional teacher replacement devices were underbudgeted. Mr. Rearick noted there was trouble filling a 20 hour a week part-time position.

Mr. Wesche motioned to approve Line 2840 IT in the amount of \$271,757.53. Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 5110 Principal of Debt in the amount of \$745,000.

Mrs. Baker will email the bond payment schedule.

Mr. Leclair motioned to approve Line 5110 Principal of Debt in the amount of \$745,000. Mr. Wesche seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

The Board presented Line 5120 Debt Service Interest in the amount of \$432,110.

Mr. Carpenter motioned to approve Line 5120 Debt Service Interest in the amount of \$432,110. Mr. Wesche seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed 8-0-0.

Mr. Leclair noted what is not included is the new contract which will be a separate warrant article.

Mr. Izbicki noted the new bottom line is \$16,408,772.75.

Other Business:

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall

Adjourn

Mrs. Marzloff moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM, seconded by Mr. Carpenter. A vote was taken; all were in agreement, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary

Note: Any person with a disability who wishes to attend this public meeting and needs to be provided a reasonable accommodation in order to participate, please call the Town Hall (603) 483-5052, or contact the Committee Secretary so that arrangements can be made.