

Town of Montville
Finance Committee Special Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 28, 2025
ROOM 203 6:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Chairman May called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Chairperson Tim May, Councilor Kate Southard (filling in for Councilor Joe Jaskiewicz), Councilor Kevin Lathrop. Also, in attendance Finance Director Julie Chapman, School Superintendent Dianne Vumback, Board of Education Chair Wills Pike and Board of Education Acting Business Manager John Spang

- 4. Discussion of Mayor's Proposed Budget with the Board of Education –** The Superintendent led off the discussion that she had just laid off seven special education teachers before the May deadline. Superintendent had also explained that she has not informed the BOE of letting the teachers go but that she will inform them during the BOE Special Meeting on April 29, 2025. She also explained that when she proposed her budget of a 4.49 percent increase, she had shared with everyone that it was a maintenance roll-over budget and that she had already eliminated four and a half certified staff members, taking an initial cut of over \$500,000. Thirty four percent of her budget increase involved wages, twenty three percent involved employee benefits, twenty-eight percent involved tuitions and special education magnet schools, five percent for electricity increases, five percent for technology replacement, two percent for liability insurance and four percent for service and maintenance contracts. Superintendent mentioned that while searching for a new Superintendent, the community spoke out requesting more programming and smaller classroom sizes. Chairman May sympathetically explained that budgets cuts are happening all throughout the entire Town of Montville. He went on to say that the Finance Committee is meeting with the biggest departments and going over their entire proposed budget, line item by line item. Chairman May indicated that he is adamant about levying taxes on solid figures to keep the taxes as low as possible. Unfortunately, this is having an impact on every department. He sympathized with her concerns and explained how the cuts are still ongoing. He explained that between the Veteran's benefit and the recent Motor Vehicle tax law, the estimated loss is around of \$600,000 for the town. Superintendent and Chairman collectively agreed to explore ways to lessen the impact of the budget cuts in their department but it is too early to tell what the outcome will be.

5. Adjournment 6:55 pm.

Cindy J. Breton, Executive Assistant to Mayor Leonard G. Bunnell, Sr.