

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

April 26, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Montville High School Conference Room

Councilor Longton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Councilor Tanner, Councilor Pollard, Mayor McDaniel and Finance Director Hart. Also present were Councilors Jaskiewicz, Caron and May.

Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Longton, to accept the minutes of the March 29, 2016 meeting; motion passed.

Ray Occhialini, Fire Marshal, explained that he would like to use the \$15,000 in the Radio Receiver Benjamin Court line for the radio system redundant loop. This would provide a 911 back-up if the microwave fails between Chapel Hill Tower Oakdale Fire House. There is no room on Benjamin Court receiver. Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to recommend the Town Council allocate the \$15,000 in the Radio Receiver Benjamin Court line (#30999-54057) for the radio system redundant loop. Motion carried.

Superintendent Brian Levesque and Business Manger Kathy Lamoureux were present to discuss the Board of Education budget. The committee asked Levesque what effect the \$425,000 cut by the Mayor would have on the school. He explained that there have already been seven positions eliminated and he feels there would have to be more. He stated that the Town Council endorsed the union contracts two years ago. By reducing the budget, he feels it goes against this endorsement. He stated the administrative positions would not take an increase including himself. There was also a lengthy discussion about special education and funding it with excess costs revenue instead of budgeting the entire amount in the school expense line.

Councilor Longton asked about year-end encumbrances. Lamoureux explained that items such as contract services and supplies are bought once a year. This is done at the end of the year for the upcoming school year. Levesque stated this helps to prevent a budget freeze if the items were purchased in the beginning of the year.

The committee decided to hold a budget meeting on May 10, 2016. They would like to meet with department heads to discuss following budgets: IT, Public Works, Dispatch and Police.

Remarks from the public:

Wills Pike of Pheasant Run stated that he read in the newspaper that Groton was reducing their budget by using funds in the HSA account. Hart and Lamoureux explained that this would not be possible with the Town's medical reserve fund surplus. He stated that he thinks the special education budget should be in the Town's hands and a purchase order should be cut in the beginning of the year by the Town to the BOE. He feels the BOE should try to get to a zero increase.

BOE member Sandra Berardy explained that in 1991 there was a school budget freeze and that's when the BOE decided to purchase items at the end of the year for the upcoming school year.

Councilor Caron asked if purchase orders can be transferred to purchase different items. Lamoureux explained that this could not be done. If the purchase order is not used, it is closed.

Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to adjourn at 5:57 pm.

Theresa Hart, Finance Director