

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

June 5, 2017

5:00 P.M.

Room 203

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

Councilor Tanner moved, second by Councilor Pollard, to approve the minutes of the 5/30/17 meeting. Motion passed.

Remarks from the Public:

Wills Pike of Pheasant run stated that the committee should ask the BOE specific questions regarding the education budget. He stated the school budget has increased 25% over the past 14 years.

Hart stated that after a discussion with CCM she feels that the Town needs to decrease the Municipal Revenue Sharing grant by \$578,000. The Mayor concurred with this. There is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding the rest of the State revenue

The Superintendent stated that he has received similar information regarding the revenue for the school. Chairman Mitchell stated that he has heard the State will not pass the funding of the teacher's retirement through the Towns but it may be phased in.

Discussion of the 2017-18 Budget:

Superintendent Brian Levesque, Business Manager Kathy Lamoureux and BOE Chairman Bob Mitchell were present to discuss the school budget. The Superintendent explained that the BOE reduced the school budget by \$230,000 in April due to teacher's retirement. He stated that a 0% increase would reduce programs and a \$1 million cut would mean reducing staff by 20 members. With this reduction in staff, there would be about a \$600,000 savings, which would offset some by unemployment. There was also a discussion of closing an elementary school. The Superintendent stated that currently students would not physically fit in two schools. He also informed the committee that a study is going to be done that analyses class size and enrollment. Councilor Caron asked the Chairman about the outsourcing of the buses. There was a lengthy discussion regarding having the BOE have a special meeting to rescind the original vote. The Chairman does not feel he has the votes to accomplish this. Councilor Tanner stated that she

feels the BOE is not being fiscally responsible. If the school was to outsource the buses there would be a savings of \$993,000. There was also a discussion regarding the cost of the drivers' union contract especially the cost for medical insurance. Councilors Tanner and Longton stated that if the BOE votes to outsource the busing that they would not approve a \$1 million cut to the education budget. They feel the BOE must decide whether they want a major impact on the school budget that will devastate the quality of education or accept a change in the way they provide transportation.

Remarks from the Public:

Kristen Forde of Raymond Hill Road stated that she felt that after reading the Montville Forum she needed to come to a meeting to see what was happening with the budget. She felt the Forum was egregious. She supports the school budget and feels keeping the class size down is important. She stated that she feels the outsourcing of the transportation should go to another vote.

Wills Pike of Pheasant run stated he attends all the meeting so that he is informed. He feels the Montville Forum has no useful information and that it is nasty and derogatory. He stated that the Superintendent will do what's necessary regarding the cuts to the school budget. He feels the BOE not supporting the outsourcing of the transportation is not in the best interest of the Town and the students. He feels the BOE should take another vote immediately on this issue.

Councilor Tanner thanked everyone for attending the meeting. She was glad people came to the meeting instead of relying on the Montville Forum. Councilor Pollard thanked the public for their comments and urged the BOE to take another vote on the transportation issue. Councilor Longton feels the BOE should take another vote on transportation in order to preserve the quality of education.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance