

Town of Montville Finance Committee

Special Meeting Minutes for

November 29, 2017

4:00 P.M.

Room 203

Councilor Pike called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. He also led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present was Councilor McNally, Mayor McDaniel and Finance Director Hart.

Remarks from the Public: Barry Ellison, 8 Jamies Way in Oakdale, stated Town and Board of Education need to come together to solve the budget issues.

Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to approve the minutes of the 11/21/17 meeting. Motion passed.

The committee discussed the 2017-18 Budget including the BOE Budget. Councilor Pike gave some background regarding the school budget. He explained that after the last Finance meeting he had a productive meeting with the Superintendent. They also met again today. Superintendent Levesque explained the school has been on a spending cycle in which they purchase items for the new school year out of the previous year's budget. This process has existed for many years. He has reviewed this and, while he's not recommending permanently cutting the funds, he did have some areas in which he could make cuts in the 2017-18 school budget. Some of these items include liability and workers' compensation insurance, textbooks, software licenses and maintenance contracts. These cuts would total \$1 million.

He stated that the BOE has applied for an EPA grant for the purchase of new school buses. He would like to use funds in the non-lapsing account for this. He also said he would like to add a portion of the balance remaining from the 2016-17 budget to this account so that there is a balance of \$100,000. He would also like to use the non-lapsing account for the purchase of capital items instead of the operating budget. Councilor Pike suggested the BOE bring up the issue of outsourcing the buses again. Councilor McNally stated that he appreciates all the time spent by the Superintendent and his staff on the budget issue. He feels they have done a fantastic job but more work will still need to be done as this is a short term fix to a long term problem.

The Superintendent also mentioned that he looks forward to working with the Finance Committee on next year's budget and hopes that they can meet earlier in the budget season. Councilor Pike and McNally agreed with this.

Councilor McNally moved, second by Councilor Pike, to recommend the Town Council reduce the 2017-18 BOE budget by \$1 million and make adjustments to the incoming revenues accordingly. Motion passed.

Remarks from the public: Chuck Longton, 31 Laurel Drive in Oakdale, asked if this budget reduction would reduce the mill rate. Hart explained that the changes in expense and revenue lines would not affect the mill rate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Theresa Hart, Director of Finance