

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 15th 2017

Regular Members

Others

Present

Y John LaPorta (CHM)
Y Lisa Lansing (arrived at 7:38)
Y Celia Senzer
Y William Hurlburt
Y Janet Sanders
Y Jack Preston

Gordon M Ridgway, First Selectman
Barbara Herbst, BoF Clerk
John Green - Treasurer
Mike Croft, CCS Principal
Anne Kosciusko, BoE Clerk

Alternate Members

Y Joseph Pryor
Y Darilyn Woods

Call to Order

7:33 p.m.

Chairman asked Joseph Pryor to sit for Lisa Lansing.

1 - Additions

None

2 - Mike Croft

CCS Principal Mick Croft presented updated staffing information. Two documents he provided are appended to these minutes labeled Appendices One and Appendices Two.

General discussion ensued, questions were asked and answered covering the Board Clerk position, the Custodian positions, the Paraprofessional positions and the number of students per grade.

3 - Minutes

Minutes for the February 8th and the February 15th meetings were provided to all members via email as well as distributed at the meeting.

Motion

Janet Sanders Made a motion to approve both sets of the minutes as presented.

William Hurlburt Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously

#4 - Correspondence

A letter received from Judy and Kim Herkimer was reviewed and is appended to these minutes labeled Appendices Three. It was noted during the discussion that the concern raised in the letter has already been addressed by the Selectmen and the appropriate level of funding has already been included in the proposed FY '18 Budget for the Geer Dial-A-Ride.

5 - Reports

Board of Selectmen

First Selectman Ridgway reported that he has been attending meetings in Hartford where funding issues affecting Municipalities are being debated as part of the State budget process. There is a lot of opposition to the proposals made by the Governor and if said proposals are adopted, they will have a significant impact on the FY'18 Budget for Cornwall.

Finance Director

No report.

6 - FY 2017 - 2018

Proposed Budget

Chairman LaPorta started the discussion by reviewing the plan the BoE had set forth previously for addressing declining enrollment and rising costs. The plan (which paraphrased) is; to be patient, expect to realize cost savings through natural attrition and to provide the best education they can with the resources provided.

The Chairman expressed his desire for the Board to formulate and adopt a consistent strategy that can be applied now as well as in the future that will address funding issues of proposed budgets. Questions to be considered include: What is a reasonable cost per student and is the current cost per student acceptable? What effect should the projected enrollment have on the proposed budget and future budgets? What effect the proposed budgets will have on the resources of the town if they are not modified in any way by this Board. Does the planning and saving for Capital Projects need to be augmented? All questions were considered and discussed.

Motion

Joseph Pryor Moved to reduce the CCS portion of the BoE budget by 3.75% or \$98,649.

William Hurlburt Seconded the motion.

Discussion: Discussion was lengthy and included the direct impact this cut could have on staff, the effect this could have on the perception of potential newcomers to the community, the desire of some Board members to know how the BoE will address this reduction and if a 3.75% on top of reductions already made by the BoE was reasonable or even enough.

Motion **Joseph Pryor** Moved to amend his motion and change 3.75% or \$98,649 to 3.5% or \$92,072.

William Hurlburt Seconded the motion.

Those in favor: John LaPorta (CHM)
Lisa Lansing
Joseph Pryor
William Hurlburt
Jack Preston
Janet Sanders

Those Opposed:
Celia Senzer

The Motion to amend the motion passed.

Chairman

Called the vote of the amended motion.

Those in favor: John LaPorta (CHM)
Lisa Lansing
Joseph Pryor
William Hurlburt
Jack Preston
Janet Sanders

Those Opposed:
Celia Senzer

The Motion to reduce the CCS portion of the BoE budget by \$92,072 passed.

Motion **Joseph Pryor** Moved to approve the Selectmen's portion of the budget as presented.

Janet Sanders Seconded the motion.

Discussion: Discussion included the format of the budget documents, the timing of the final State decisions that will impact the budget, the timing of final figures for the proposed bridge project funding and the desire of the Board to have the most up-to-date information to approve and present to the Town at the Budget Hearing scheduled for 4/21/2017.

Motion withdrawn **Joseph Pryor** withdrew the motion.

7 - Public Comment

None

8 - Adjournment

Motion

William Hurlburt Made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Janet Sanders Seconded

Motion passed unanimously

9:35 PM,

Barbara E. Herbst, Board Clerk

Submitted:

Note: Minutes remain "Draft" until accepted at the next regular scheduled meeting, please see subsequent meeting minutes for any corrections to these minutes.

Proposed Staffing Plan CCS 2017-18

Principal	1.00
Secretary	1.00
Head Custodian	1.00
Custodian	1.31
Ed. Para	0.88
Library Ed. Para	0.88
Board Clerk	0.80
Nurse	0.84
Teachers	14.00
Totals	21.7

In short, 14.0 teachers, 1.0 principal, and 5.71 non-certified staff=21.71 total staff
 Does not factor long-term substitute for sabbatical as this is a financial savings for 17-18 and is for one year only.
 14 Teachers accounts for reading teacher, even though approximately \$20,000 of cost is paid by Federal grant

FTE based on 8 hour work day for all staff except teachers; 6.75 hours per day = .84375
 Teachers FTE based on 7 hour work day.

Appendices One

Some Clarification

- the correct "custodian" FTE for CCS is 1.31, not 1.5
- the budget proposal includes .88 ed. para., not 3.75
- the budget proposal includes .80 board clerk, not .88
- CCS has 14.0 FTE teachers, not 14.5
- the budget proposal includes 21.70 FTE, not 25.3
- Regarding the board clerk, I think that the most accurate way to look at that position is in combination with the secretary position, because secretary and board clerk responsibilities are similar and are divided differently across the Region. Looking at it that way, Kellogg has 1.25 secretaries/board clerks, CCS 1.80, Kent 2.38, NC 2.51, Salisbury 3.01, and Sharon 2.70

Appendices Three

March 7, 2017

Town of Cornwall; Board of Selectmen

RE: GEER DIAL-A-RIDE ANNUAL MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION

Dear Gordon, Heidi, and Richard,

We strongly support the requested additional funding for the vital rural senior transportation service which is competently administered through the Geer Adult Day Center in Canaan. The Dial-A-Ride drivers are fully trained, and highly skilled in escorting frail elderly clients, and reliably provide extraordinary door-to-door service.

Since 2006, our parents (Dad died in 2009) have been fortunate to use Geer's Dial-a-Ride service. This provides access to medical, social, nutritional, recreational, spiritual, family, and personal ADL needs. Our mother's life, and those of other elders citizens in our area, would be dramatically altered in a negative way if this bus service ceased, or even decreased operations. If this elder bus service was not available when our father was living, he unquestionably would have required placement in a long term care skilled nursing facility.

Preserving ways to help older adults remain as independent as possible, and stay engaged in productive and enjoyable activities, is an important component of successful aging. Not only have such social networks been linked to positive physical and mental health outcomes, but also to a higher quality of life. We believe it is critically important to support ways to try to reduce the amount of isolation older people experience – even those with supportive families. In our rural area, that can be a challenging task for elders who no longer drive. Similar to the municipality, we support an “aging-in-place” model. In order to implement that model, elder services need to be supported and funded. Otherwise, we revert to the wholesale warehousing of elders.

From Cornwall's 2010 Town Plan of Conservation and Development:

“...More opportunities are needed for both teens and seniors to keep them engaged with the community. [this ranked 2nd of 3 priorities identified under Community and Cultural Resources] [pg 33] ...There are many concerns for Cornwall's elderly population. A special focus is on housing needs...and the need for better access to elderly services and support programs. Many older people in the community would prefer staying in their homes but worry about the cost of up-keep and the need for more social interaction. [pg 37] ...Most all of this was directed at the need to pay more attention to the social and practical needs of seniors...” [pg 80]

Please accept our appreciation for increasing the contribution by \$1000 to the Geer's Dial-a-Ride transportation service in Cornwall's annual budget process.

Sincerely,
Judy & Kim Herkimer
P O Box 264
Cornwall Bridge, CT 06754

cc: Kevin O'Connell, Stacy Nicholas, Lori Neil (Geer)
John Green, Barbara Herbst, John LaPorta (Town of Cornwall Finance)