

March 21, 2011

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present:

Members: Michael Jackson, Rex Swain, Craig Schoon

Alternates: Liddy Adams, Keith Templeton

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Nick Solley

Guests: Tony Bedini - Region 12 Board of Education

Liddy Adams and Keith Templeton were seated for the meeting.

Minutes:

The Board approved the Minutes of the February meeting as submitted.

Education:

The Board noted their concern about the decreasing population of the three towns and agreed there is no short-term answer to this problem and its effect on Region 12's costs. Tony Bedini reported he had spoken with Dr. Ann Stuhlman, Director of Curriculum for Region 12, who will make a presentation to the Board regarding her concerns regarding this problem, especially at the high school level, and the future ability of the Region to continue to provide Advanced Placement courses. She felt elimination of these courses would not only be detrimental to the Region's curriculum, but the school population would continue to decrease due to students leaving the District to seek these courses elsewhere. In an attempt to provide a solution to both the curriculum and population problems, Dr. Stuhlman may suggest consideration of adding two or three post-graduate grades to the school curriculum (Grades 13, 14, 15) to provide advanced placement courses similar to college prep or community college courses. Dr. Stuhlman also suggested that many times elementary students from very small classes have a difficult time transitioning into larger classes. She felt the elementary students would benefit from being in one building. Tony felt it would be very worthwhile to ask Dr. Stuhlman to meet with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance. The Board agreed that a dialogue should begin on these matters.

Tax Collection:

Year-to-date numbers indicate the collections have not fallen off. There are a few more people on a payment plan and they are making payments on a regular basis. The Tax Collector's Report was accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Accepted as submitted.

Current Year's Budget:

Mark Lyon anticipates the Winter Maintenance section of the budget will exceed that line item by approximately \$45-50,000 due to the many storms and resulting road and property repairs, especially to scenic and dirt roads. They are looking at ways to address these costs with Town Aid Road funds.

Proposed 2011-12 Budget:

Work continues on the proposed budget for next fiscal year. State revenues and health insurance costs are not yet available. Salaries will not be addressed until this information is received. Pension cost concerns were also noted, which are currently 16% of the payroll. A request for increased funding for the Gunn Library/Museum is anticipated due to required maintenance and upkeep of the buildings. Representatives of the Gunn will be invited to meet with the Board on April 4th to detail their concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gollow
Finance Secretary