



# TOWN OF BOW

## Budget Committee

10 Grandview Road, Bow, New Hampshire 03304

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## Bow Budget Committee Bow School District Unapproved Minutes January 29, 2020

Mark Zerba, Chair	P	Melissa Radomski	P
Jeffrey Knight, Vice Chair	P	Kathy Garfield	P
Bob Arnold, Secretary	P	Benjamin Kiniry	P
Christopher Nicolopoulos (Selectman Rep.)	P	Jennifer Strong-Rain (School Brd. Rep)	P
		June Branscom (School Board Alt.)	P
Dr. Dean S. T. Cascadden , Superintendent of Schools	P	Duane Ford, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration	P

\* P = present; A = Absent

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

### II. Approval of Outstanding Minutes – None.

### III. School Budget Discussion

The Committee reviewed the follow up items requested from the Board of Selectmen concerning the town properties that were in the budget to go out to bid for a mowing contract. The Committee also reviewed the HRA Analysis that Finance Director Geoff Ruggles created which would spread the decrease in the liability fund in increments over time. The Committee was satisfied with both.

#### Budget Committee Recommendations

Overall the Budget Committee is recommending \$200,000 in budget adjustments. Among the staffing changes discussed from the last meeting the Budget Committee recommended removing the proposed 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher position. The committee recommended reducing the natural gas by \$35,000, reducing the Student Activities Fee to \$50,000 and reducing maintenance by \$20,000 to \$30,000.

#### Software

There was some back and forth discussion concerning software, Assistant Superintendent Ford stated the school is moving away from iPads and will be purchasing touch screen Chromebooks, that seems to be the direction a lot of schools are going in.

#### Health Insurance

The committee discussed the Town and School having one plan. Assistant Superintendent Ford stated the School plan is better than the town currently, he went onto explain, that currently the school district has two plans, one for those individuals who are not in the bargaining unit (which is similar to the Town’s plan) and one for those that are part of the bargaining unit. It would be hard to price out a plan that would incorporate the town as well, however, HealthTrust has offered to price it out should the Town and school want to consider that.

Warrant Articles – The Budget Committee recommended switching the warrant articles 3 and 4 and change the amount right now Article 3 reads *would seek to put one million dollars into capital reserve* and Article 4 reads *to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from capital reserve for further work in analysis and design of the proposed project*. The Budget Committee recommended making Article 3 the withdrawal of up to \$100,000 from capital reserve for further work in analysis and design for the proposed project and make Article 4 requesting to put \$1,000,000 into capital reserve.

There was some back and forth discussion concerning the design fees of the Bow Elementary Renovation. Some of the concerns would be spending \$700,000 from the CRF on design fees and then having the project not go through then that money has been wasted. There was also some discussion about how to get the facts out to the public about the needs of BES.

There was some back and forth discussion concerning the \$250,000 fund balance, there were concerns it was too low, an alternative amount would be \$350,000 to \$450,000.

There was a brief discussion concerning uniforms and how they are funded, and tied in with the Title 9 regulations.

#### **IV. Other Business**

The committee will cancel the February 3, 2020 meeting on the School Budget and will meet again with the School Board on February 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Bow High School, Room 1311.

#### **V. Adjourn**

##### **Motion:**

Ben Kiniry moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM. Motion was seconded by Kathy Garfield and carried by unanimous vote of the Committee.