

Meeting Notice

Allenstown Municipal Budget Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 14, 2016

6:00 P.M.

ARD School

Agenda:

- [Call To Order:](#)

Present at the meeting: Carol Angowski, Fern Bissonnette, Dave Coolidge , Mike Frascinella, Melaine Boisvert, Tiffany Ranfos, Keith Klawes, Kris Raymond (School Board Rep), Deb Carney, Chad Pelissier, Mike Wilder, Larry Anderson, Fran Severance, Dave Eaton (BOS Rep)

Town: Shaun Mulholland, Karen Simmons

School: Mark D'Angora (ARD principal), Anthony Blinn (AES Principal), Kathleen Murphy (SPED Coordinator), Dr. Gail Paludi (Superintendent), Amber Wheeler (SAU Business Administrator)

Town/Public: Tom Irzyk, Kathleen Pellissier, Yaya Hamidou-Oumarou

- [Introductions](#) : introductions of the board made and Pledge of Allegiance made
- [Presentation of School Budget:](#)

Kris Raymond presented the 17/18 proposed School Budget.

Presentation of School Budget:

Ms. Raymond states everyone has a copy of the presentation as well as a copy of the budget spreadsheet. Mrs. Raymond states that teachers, employees, and staff have expressed frustration with the level set budgets. There has been little support of the teaching and administrative burden that has been placed on them. Over the past 2 years there has been teachers retire and those positions have not been filled.

Ms. Raymond states that they felt they should ask administrators to present the school board with an optimal budget. She feels they are optimally staffed based on normal class size. With that said they did consider pushing back a few things to future budgets.

Ms. Raymond states that she is aware of the town's frustration of increased tax rates, not just in Allenstown but surrounding towns as well. Not in only town taxes but school taxes as well; for example, Epsom school tax increased by \$1.39. Every school in the SAU53, Allenstown, Pembroke, Chichester, Deerfield, and Epsom, everyone saw increases to the school rate.

Ms. Raymond says she understands the tax frustration and they had three meetings regarding this budget. There are two schools being managed in Allenstown which are Pre-K through 8th grade, whereas Epsom, Chichester, and Deerfield only have one.

Ms. Raymond states that there is a default budget of \$10,028,068 and what is being proposed is \$10,392,853. The number of kids in Allenstown that are being paid for in that budget is 570, ages 3-21. That includes the special education students. The number of AES students is 210, the number of ARD students is 157, and the

number of students at PA is 179. Additionally the PA alternative schools, Pace Academy and out of district placement is around 24 students.

Ms. Raymond states that the number of special needs students make up about 20% of the student body.

Kindergarten had an incoming class size of 45 students, highest enrollment they've seen. The average class size is 15 students per class. The average class size at the elementary school is 19. Average class size at ARD is 21. Since the positions of the recently retired teachers have not been back filled the class sizes are a little larger than previous years.

Allenstown Elementary school is a designated title one school. This means they can use funds for the special needs kids, as well as the rest of the schools population.

Ms. Raymond states that the Allenstown School is a school in need. Allenstown was chosen as part of NH Department of Education Initiative called PACE (Performance Assessment Competency Education). Not the Pace Academy on Route 28. This gives us a better view of how the students in Allenstown are performing.

Current math assessment, the Smarter Balance Assessment is the new common assessments standardize testing, used to be the NECAP. Over two thirds of Allenstown students aren't at the math achievement level. Showing this is reason behind wanting to add a math specialist to the school system.

Ms. Raymond states they have identified three staffing needs. The first is a kindergarten teacher, since enrollment was higher than normal. This teacher has already been hired and has been in the classroom, they voted as a board when they saw the high enrollment levels. The second staffing need is the math specialist. The third staffing need is an additional special education teacher. That member has already been staffed and is in the classroom.

Tuition of other districts is a driving factor of the increase. There are 179 students at Pembroke that have been paid for this year, last year was 165 students. ARD had the highest 8th grade class last year of 58 students. They are now at Pembroke Academy, which contributes to the increase as well. Tuition at the Pace Academy is a factor in the increase, at \$42,000 and Allenstown has the highest percentage of students over there.

From an SAU53 perspective we have a portion of those costs. All five of the SAU53 districts voted to hire a Director of Curriculum. The Director will take a look at all five towns in terms of what are all the students focusing on for curriculum. So when students reached 9th grade at Pembroke Academy all students would be on the same education level.

Ms. Raymond spoke about early retirements as it has been brought up in the past. The board decided to add in early retirement buy out and has been used with two teachers. The reason behind this is savings, for when they backfill those positions, they'll hire a less-costly teacher.

The NH pension increased from 15.767% to 17.36%. NH healthcare increase was at 3.2% increase which was better than expected.

Ms. Raymond spoke about some of the decreases that were worked into this proposal. Last year there was a Media Specialist reduction of a 1.0 down to a .50. She stated that there were very few applicants for that role and it was not filled. Ms. Raymond stated they removed the 0.50 and the technology integrator, a technology

teacher, can get certified to be a media specialist. She agreed to do so. That changed her position from a .8 to a 1.0 so the \$32k could be removed for a Media Specialist.

A 1.0 Budget Secretary was removed and a SPED secretary changed from a 1.0 down to a half a position. This was to pay for the new SPED teacher hired on.

The SRO position was in the '16-'17 voted at \$78k. We removed it from the '17-'18 proposal.

End Slideshow.

The Chair opened up a question / answer.

Woman Speaker: On the math assessment results, that's grades 3-8?

Ms. Raymond: yes – the kids in 1st and 2nd grade don't take it.

Woman Speaker: Okay, so who takes this test? Everyone whether or not their special needs?

Ms. Raymond: yes it goes across the board.

Woman Speaker: does that impact scoring at all?

Ms. Murphy: Some students have accommodations outlined by the IEP to support them to take the test.

Woman Speaker: and on the proposed increases, the kindergarten teacher and the math specialist the 85k and 86k I imagine that this includes all the costs of employment?

Ms. Raymond: Yes, benefits, compensation, pension, everything.

Woman Speaker: The NH retirement system increase, went from 15.7% to 17.36% for a total of 58k budgeting. Is this mandated or is this contractual? Is it part of the teacher contract or is it's something NH...?

Ms. Raymond: We're part of the NH retirement system therefore we have to follow whatever rates

Woman Speaker: okay so this is dictated, it's mandated

The Chair: I believe that's mandated by the state that teachers, fire, and police have to be a part of that.

Ms. Ranfos: We discussed the state that was cutting the 4%, is that in this budget anywhere?

Ms. Raymond: No, what we're showing you here is all expenses

Ms. Ranfos: So we don't have a revenue report of 2016?

Ms. Raymond: Yes you do, it's in your packet.

Ms. Ranfos: I don't have a packet, I lost it. (Gets handed a packet) Okay so it ends up being \$26k, so that's the 4%?

Ms. Raymond: The department of ed just released those numbers a month ago, so I know they were re-working the numbers. My guess with all the conversation about stabilization it is included in that. I can reach out to make sure that's the case.

Ms. Ranfos: We should definitely reach out, I'd hate to do all this and then not have that revenue.

Woman Speaker: I have a follow up question to that for clarification. The adequate education grant is down \$26,105 according to this proposal, I'm confused as to how you mentioned this would happen for the next 6 years. Which would come out to \$156,630 being depleted at this level each year...I thought it would totally get eliminated at some point?

Ms. Raymond: Yes its 20 years, the stabilization 4% decrease is 20 years.

Dave: its 25 years at 4%

Ms. Raymond: no 4% annual cut under the state formula for adequate education.

Woman Speaker: So they're not taking away 4% of our budget? They're taking 4% of whatever their number is.
Multiple people: correct

Woman Speaker: oh well that changes the number a ton

Woman Speaker1: What does ECIA mean under federal resources?

Ms. Murphy: That's the title one and title two grant.

Woman Speaker1: So what is the consolidating grant under 94;142

Ms. Murphy: That grant off sets SPED teacher salaries

Woman Speaker1: How many students we're coded within the Allenstown schools?

Ms. Murphy: 112 age 3-21

Woman Speaker1: Do we send some of them out of our school district?

Ms. Murphy: yes

Woman1: and we provide transportation?

Ms. Murphy: Yes

Woman1: So we've eliminated the homeless transportation since we're under the impression we have no homeless students?

Ms. Murphy: that's correct

Woman1: in the future there could be a family that meets that criteria, we have nothing in place...

Woman3: Title 1A sets aside a portion of our funding in that grant, which is provided at the federal level to the school district. Some of those funds are allocated and the other portion is set aside for transportation.

Woman Speaker: Is this the year teachers negotiate new contracts, both the teachers and the parents?

Ms. Raymond: Yes I was going to bring that up afterwards, that is still an open item. We're doing both, the parent contract and the teacher contract. We're still in negotiations so I couldn't finalize the dollars for tonight.

Woman Speaker: So the increase in teacher salaries around \$46,700 that's not part of the contract?

Ms. Raymond: No that would be a warrant article for each of the teachers.

Male Speaker: The health increases of 3.2%, what percentage of that do the teacher's pay?

Woman Speaker: It's 80/20

Male Speaker: We're asking the tax payers to pick up 3.2% what was added on to the teachers? What was the actual health increase?

Woman Speaker: No we're not asking the population to pick up 3.2%, 3.2% is the school care increase. So between the '16-'17 rates and the '17-'18 rates school care the health insurance went up 3.2%.

The Chair stated to start looking through the budget.

Mr. Anderson: How come there's no revitalize surplus this year?

The Chair: On the revenue?

Mr. Anderson: Yes

Woman Speaker: It's the \$279,975. We don't have a surplus for '17-'18 yet.

Woman Speaker: We don't determine that until June – July of next year.

Woman Speaker1: Is there a way we can keep this instead of returning it to the town? Take a penny off my taxes

Woman Speaker2: No depending on the district there's a certain amount, there's 2.5% that we can retain.

Whatever's left from the surplus minus 2.5% you have to return it to the town.

Woman Speaker1: So this is not taking the 2.5% right now this is the total?

Another Woman: No so we did, we retained \$100k so that \$279K was really \$379K.

Woman Speaker2: To clarify a retainage can only be used if you have a deficit. So if you have any surplus, even if it's only \$1 you may not use retainage. Only when it's in a deficit can it be used because it's considered an emergency.

Woman Speaker: Correct me if I'm wrong, that 100k only sits in there for one year then it gets re-calculated next year.

Woman Speaker: So you'd have to use that 100k in the 17-18 year?

Woman Speaker1: Nope we'd have to use it this year because we voted on it for the 15-16 year. But it's only if you run out of your budget and have a catastrophic event.

Proposed Budget

Woman Speaker: Page one of the budget. Teacher salaries are still an open item because they're still in negotiations. This is what is definitely going to be the teacher's salaries. Top two lines of the teacher salaries, plus the educational assistant salaries. We're up \$50k is that because we added teachers?

Woman Speaker1: No what you're seeing is our kindergarten teacher that's in, the math specialist that's in, the SPED teacher that was hired. There's another teacher line for the SPED teacher line. Their health and benefits are included and are on the very last page.

Woman Speaker: So this could go up even more based on what you guys do for contracts?

Woman Speaker1: Correct, that includes the paraprofessional association and the teachers association.

Woman Speaker: Do we have an estimate? What's the worst case scenario it could go up?

Woman Speaker1: I don't have dollars for you, and I'm not at liberty to say a percentage increase.

Deb: I know you had 45 new kindergarten kids, you might not have 45 kids next year. Is that teacher going to be able to jump grades to deal with the increase of 1st grade, 2nd?

Woman Speaker: Yes that is the thought going forward. That teacher could be going into 1, 2, 3, or 4. However if we see another class of 45 going into first grade we're going to be in déjà vu figuring out how to support that.

Woman Speaker: Where are they going? I know there's not a lot of land I live up through the park and some are in my neighborhood. But I feel like the bus fills up by Highside Drive and there's not a lot of extra housing in town, I'm wondering where they're all coming from.

Woman Speaker: We are selling in Allentown and we just added eight more condos

Woman Speaker: Are they renting?

Woman Speaker: These are on the market to sell, three of which are active and pending.

Tom: Question on the hiring that's going on, the numbers in the presentation isn't adding up to what's on budget. Where did the funding for the SPED teacher come from? Same for the kindergarten teacher.

Woman Speaker: The SPED teacher was a combination of reducing that SPED secretary and decreases in terms of the budget secretary.

Tom: Well even from the 1200 line, the SPED teacher salaries still don't come up to the same cost. There's a \$40k increase and a \$47k increase, it's like the numbers don't balance for what you're showing.

Woman Speaker 2: If you look down at the special ed interventionist line at 102, I eliminated an interventionist at ARD to cover the special ed teacher position. So there's a decrease in that line to help offset the increase in the other line. When looking at comparing 16 -17 voted to 17 – 18 proposed, there was also a salary split between two lines last year. That was voted and removed completely to the 101 line, so that created the increase

there. We have a known retirement at 101 as well; we're planning to fill with a lesser cost employee. And at 102 it showed the decrease because in 16 -17 that position had been split. That \$40k is half a position that is no longer budgeted at 102.

Woman Speaker: So for the kindergarten teacher, we have no SRO, so there are some funds we could take look at.

Anthony: We had 9 or 10 new hires this past school year, and they were lower cost employees. So when we looked through the roster it freed up enough money for that new teaching position.

Tom: The increase in educational assistance, is that just more positions?

Woman Speaker 2: yes that's more positions, we have IEP driven positions that are needed at 101.

Mr. Frascinella: I'm getting more upset over the fact that this budget is so huge. It will be a bitter pill to swallow for most tax payers, especially ones who are on fixed incomes such as myself. Where are people like myself who don't have optimal incomes going to come up with this money for the increase? Allenstown is decreasing in population. The state of NH is very limited in its work opportunities, it's all down in Mass now. How can we pay these increases when we can't find good work?

Woman Speaker: That would be a question for our representative because it affects the entire state of NH. My concern is that, yes, population is decreasing. However we're seeing an increase in school aged kids.

Mr. Frascinella: So why are we attracting more children into this town if we can't afford to educate?

Woman Speaker: I don't know how you say we're attracting more children, we're not doing anything to advertise to them.

Mr. Frascinella: No I'm just saying, you just said we're getting more children in this town but a decrease of adults who are paying taxes in this town.

Tom: Years back we did a survey and this was when our school population was around 700. We were talking about building a new school and so forth. If you look at that report, we'll be on the rise for the next four to five years; the population is going to increase. If that study they did is correct. And with the increase we're seeing I think that survey is true still. I have that report at home and it's amazing how accurate it is when it was forecasted out 15 -20 years.

Woman Speaker: Did it say why people were leaving and there was a school drop?

Tom: It was ages, as younger people start moving in and having families you're going to see that population shift. Also with school aged kids that have moved on you'll see a burst of new ones coming in.

Dave: How old is that report?

Tom: It's probably 10 years old.

Dave: there was a survey done on the town of Allenstown and several other towns that the next 10 – 15 years we're actually going lose population. That survey was done this past spring, it had something to do with the census. It was done by the feds and the state. They're saying Allenstown in the next 10 -15 years population will drop down to somewhere near 3,035.

Woman Speaker: What was the reason behind that?

Dave: that we're aging up

Woman Speaker: If we're aging up then someone is going to buy that house

Dave: well yes and no, good friend of mine is in the real estate he said the problem buying in Allenstown is the taxes. So they give incentives like I'll take a year or two of taxes if you take this house off my hands.

The Chair: We're getting a little off topic. Back to Tom's point, that's not something we can control in our budget committee meeting. That comes to the state legislator.

Woman Speaker: On the opposite side of what you guys are saying, as a parent and part of the younger generation and still having a working income, I get what you're saying. On the other side you have to look at if

we don't do these improvements to our schools or town we're not going to get other people to come in. We have high taxes, yes I get that, so let's put in the extra effort working on our schools and getting more business and getting people in here. If nothing changes and we don't do this to help get families in here it's not going to change, it's only going to go up.

Dave: Yes but me and other people 65 and older have already paid to put 4 generations through the school system. How much longer do you want to bleed us?

The Chair: Let's come back to the budget

Woman Speaker1: I'm looking at page 5, the SPED budget, I want clarification on what SPED contracted services represent.

Woman Speaker2: 101 represents pre-k through 4 and 102 represents all students 5 -12 and those receiving transition services as well. So students in PA needing services is coming out of that line as well.

Woman Speaker1: Oh so we're paying for PA...

Woman Speaker2: Yes the special education students at PA

Woman Speaker1: so it includes transportation?

Woman Speaker2: No it does not. Contracted services include speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, services of reading specialists and PT.

Woman Speaker1: Could it also include students who have ESL?

Woman Speaker2: ELL is a different line, another service at this line is a BCBA which is a board certified behavior analyst who support students with autism.

Woman Speaker1: So when working on the budget you do an all-inclusive? I assume it's a one year contract and if the need arrives for them to continue or you need less people...Then you re-negotiate the following year

Woman Speaker2: correct

Ms. Ranfos: On this budget, there's a couple of different lines for supplies for reading, there's a line for books for reading, and there's a bunch of stuff for reading. The first couple of them are up quite a bit.

Woman Speaker: Can you give me a page number?

Ms. Ranfos: yes the first supplies for reading are on page 2, it's up \$4100. Then the bottom of that page, fifth line up, it says books for reading is proposed to be up almost \$13k.

Woman Speaker: That \$13k is to support the common core reading program.

Ms. Ranfos: What does that entail? What do we have to purchase to support that?

Male Speaker: Classroom libraries, so kids have access to reading material at their reading level. Also textbooks if necessary.

Ms. Ranfos: Is there a way that we could get it out there that we're looking for age appropriate books and fund it that way?

Male Speaker: We can absolutely do that. Last year we applied for a literacy grant, although we did fall short and we will apply for it again. It was a \$25k grant.

Ms. Ranfos: This doesn't take away from the actual library right, this is just to have it in the classroom?

Male Speaker: no it does not take away from the library.

Woman Speaker: On page 5, it looks like we have more students in higher level grades that we're sending out for special placement.

Woman Speaker1: yes that represents a portion of those lines, it also represents we participated in some shared SAU programs that are lower cost than sending kids out. So the 101 line that includes some of our students who need intensive preschool.

Woman Speaker: Are those kids in different districts?

Woman Speaker1: They're from our district in special programs shared amongst the town, but their portion of that is out of this line.

Woman Speaker: So on ARD this line also includes...

Woman Speaker1: out of district placement, shared middle school SAU program called Bridge Program, and in the high school level it's for kids in special programs. It's a different student to staff ratio as well as different curriculum.

Woman Speaker2: I'm glad this was brought up, I heard the comments to send everyone private. But to do so our costs would triple, so we're trying to do as much internally as we can.

Ms. Ranfos: Page 4 Row 118, I'm assuming we're buying new computers for ARD

Male Speaker: we are, this would be a replacement plan. We've reached our max of 3 -5 years of wear and tear of the computers.

Ms. Ranfos: How many are we replacing?

Woman speaker: 25. The board came to the conclusion of a replacement cycle rather than buying all in one year and not the next. We're trying to level set this line and keep it stable.

Ms. Ranfos: on 15-16 and 16 -17 it shows one dollar. So we're actually bumping up this line to \$15k

Male: it was sent out of surplus. The idea of keeping a number there is to keep the line item open.

Tom: Not sure about the increase in salaries in the nurses and library aid. As well as covered in custom meals salaries are up, could you explain that?

Male: So nurses salaries on page 7, each one is 160 but that's covered under a contract. Not sure why that would be part of a warrant article. Same thing with library salaries, on page 9. (hard to hear)

Woman: from the nurses perspective there's no changes in FTE but from a custodian's perspective there's no FTE change. In last year's budget the proposal was to have one director of facilities and then have 3 custodians. That was glaringly not working, the schools were awful. We heard complaints from the school board as well as teachers. This year we moved to two head custodians and two assistant custodians. At AES it is working out so well.

Tom: So do you know what the other increases are with the nurses and library salaries? And get you to follow up on page 11 the secretarial...

Woman: The secretary we reduced by the one FTE, the other thing that was looked at was the .2 secretary over at AES that we did last year. That was not working so that went back up to a 1.0. We still have the one district secretary, the one here at ARD and the one at AES.

Tom: is there no longer an administrative assistant at AES?

Male: there's a district administrative assistant at 1.0 for both schools. There's an ARD secretary and an AES secretary.

Unable to hear other woman conversation, too low.

Tom: The administrative assistant used to be listed separately in the budget, but it doesn't show up that way now. I'm assuming if you split that administrative assistant budget between the secretaries you did that down the middle.

Woman: Yes

Tom: So two full time secretaries at ARD and AES and a part time SPED secretary?

Woman: yes

Woman getting back to Tom on info for the Library and Nurse salary.

Carol: Page 8 line 216 and line 217. Can someone remind me what this is?

Woman: This is our school psychologist services, this includes the total compensation for these individuals. They're SAU employees, you'll notice a decrease over those two lines because I have cut some of that being under the impression that some of the SPED teachers will fill that.

Carol: how many folks are these? We're talking \$155k and \$158k just for our portion

Woman: and these are total compensation numbers, salaries and benefits. We contract with the SAU for them, so their health insurance doesn't come out of our health insurance lines. We have an FTE school psychologist across both buildings. We also have access to two school psychologist at the high school. Also a portion of an occupational therapist across the SAU as well.

Carol: how many people are we talking about in this line?

Woman: estimate 2.5 across those two lines.

Carol: so theirs 2.5 bodies in total for these two schools AES, ARD and Pembroke. That we're paying \$300k

The Chair: and that's shared across 5 districts

Carol: No that's our portion

The Chair: that's our portion but what I mean is we're paying \$300k

Woman: So it's our portion and it equates to about 2.5 to 3 positions that we are getting, we are receiving school psychologists on staff. But she's getting paid for out of this appraisal. We have to have to have someone available k – 8 in both of these buildings. It's not just special education that person works with, it's all students.

Woman1: are we allowed to break down what that one person makes for a salary out of this \$300k. What is their salary for the year?

Woman: I would have to find that

Woman1: okay then the rest would be the people we share with the other districts?

Woman2: if you take these amounts, add it together, divide by 2.5 people, the total benefit package is \$125,200 per person

Woman1: So is this one person getting \$125,200 and then we're paying \$125,200 for the other

Dave: Are they here at a full time basis?

Woman: yes, they are full time. I would need to look at the budget for the breakdown for individual salaries.

Woman1: Can we get a breakdown of what these two lines entail?

Woman: yes

Further questions ensued but couldn't be specifically answered due to lack of information.

Dave: Page 12 line 356 SAU53 went from \$90k to \$101k it jumped \$11k, what kinds of a percentage rate are you supposed to get?

Woman: a big driver of that was the addition of the new position at the SAU level. The percentage raise is 2%

Tom: How many SAU's are there in NH?

Woman: about 90.

Tom: on page 14 there are a large number of repairs...?

Woman: yes so the 444 is a new scrubbing cleaner over at AES, the 455 the \$8k increase over at AES is an issue with a first floor door that needs total replacement. It's a side entrance door, we tried to repair it and it didn't work. Over on the ARD side Mr. D'angora has some budgeting for a new flag pole out front, some room divisions, the gym ceiling has some issues.

Mr. D'angora: yup those are the three big items, in particular the ceiling. We had some flooding back about 5 -6 years ago and the roof is starting to sag. Also in the SPED office the ceiling is sagging. The flag pole hasn't been in action for a few years, it's costly but we'd love to fix that.

Male: Line 454 from \$5k to \$12k is there a major repair going on over there?

Male: we have plumbing issues, we spent almost \$15k over the past couple of years.

Mr. D'angora: Room divisions were also mentioned, we're trying to cut up classrooms to utilize space more efficiently. Also for students who need it.

Dave: What's the capacity of this building and the other building?

Mr. D'angora: I'm not sure, I'll find that out.

Woman expressed concern about the over capacity of the schools. Her son got moved and said "was completely forgotten about when it came to other activities such as sports."

Another woman stated that because of the large incoming pre-school class space is tight everywhere.

Ms. Ranfos: Page 18 line 509 for the athletic transportation – is there a reason it's going up \$2500

Woman: Yup, one of the things is the amount of enrichment and extracurricular clubs that the teachers have been doing on their own time like the Glee club, recycling club, cheer club. One of the things we had was a cross country club and we had a large amount of kids participate, we had almost 20 kids. This was done with 0 funds. We've seen a shift, we saw baseball decline so we got rid of some of those teams and a rise in cross country which is fairly cheap. So we put in funds so these kids could compete with other middle schools.

Ms. Ranfos: Why are we not putting an emphasis on the three sports that we do have soccer, basketball and baseball?

Woman: we are going purely on trend, baseball is declining in not just our school but other's as well. Baseball we just don't have the numbers. If we're not seeing the numbers in these sports the budget committee is not going to like us putting money into something that's not getting used.

Mr. D'angora: I see this being popular next year as well, it's an inexpensive sport and it's nice for kids to get out and run.

Woman: It's also open to 5th graders as well but it's at a middle school level.

Ms. Ranfos: Do we have an option to create clubs for soccer or basketball for 5th grade?

Woman: we're not going to get the numbers for the clubs, and that may be taking away from a teacher who may be doing another club such as Glee. We'd also be butting up against the town rec league so we're not going to be able to do so.

Woman: What was the idea behind the form that went around asking who would be interested in baseball?

Male: we don't have the money

Woman: but you had the money you we're going to put in for track

Male: well we could consider baseball a club for sure, but we don't have money currently for baseball. We'll see what the numbers look like this year and if need be we can put some money back into this program.

Dave: The bottom line... what are we looking at \$1 \$2?

Male: \$3.74

Woman: there are still some changes to that budget though, last year it was a \$2.30 at the end of the day it was a dollar increase. So I don't want to run with this 3.74.

Woman1: I feel like there are a lot of things being added this year when in years past they were a little more conservative with the budget.

Woman: We've heard from parents, teachers, and support staff that they are really stretched to the max. So the thought was to have a budget that starts to incorporate some of the rumblings we've heard about.

Woman1: yes but there are other rumblings that aren't being address, like families on fixed incomes.

Woman: Agreed and the point of the FEC was to balance those two rumblings out.

Woman1: but the 3.74 more that's almost \$34 to every 1000.

Male: can the school board talk to Shaun and the town about the meeting that took place about state funding and the possibilities of another law suit with the state?

Woman: So the stability funding issue?

Male: Yes

Woman: Unfortunately that was the same night as a school board meeting otherwise I would have been there.

Dave: Did you know this was coming? How did state legislators get this past without anybody noticing?

Woman: I didn't find out until recently.

Woman: It was only 1 meeting so far, going forward it was decided to have electronic meetings or discussions. I already told Shaun that we will be involved from here on out. Draft legislation has already been proposed by Londonderry or Derry

Dave: It's Derry

Woman: So the next step is me following through with our reps to make sure they're fully engaged. But there's been very little activity I've been able to go to.

Male: So it's just starting to kick that process off?

Woman: yes but the problem is 2017 is done, we cannot change the stability decrease for 2017, and it's already in place. What's needed to be fixed is 2018 and forward.

Male1: What's our contingency? What are we going to do for next year and the year after?

Woman: No

Dave: The answer is to pressure the legislator and start a telephone campaign for our three legislators.

Male: is this an every year test or assessment?

Woman: Yes, the kids go through this every year, these are the 15-16 results they haven't posted the 16-17 results yet. I don't expect to see drastic changes.

Male: how do we improve these numbers?

Woman1: and have they've been going down or up consistently?

Woman: Let's remember Smarter Balance Assessment is new

Woman1: So in comparison to the NECAPS

Woman: They're not the same test so it's not an apple to apple comparison, so I can't pull those numbers for you. So to chad's point, how do we fix this? This has been an issue since my kids started in this school system 8 years ago. Math has always been a focus; we tried to do as much intensity in terms of getting those scores up. The math specialist is something we've talked about for years and we're finally doing it. Something we've used as sort of a Band-Aid is a Math Consultant, that person is only looking at 7th and 8th grade.

Male: We hired a math consultant for this year to work with our math teachers for 5, 6, 7, and 8th. We're the only school in the SAU district that does not offer algebra 1. We hired the math consultant to work 6 full days to work with the teachers on planning and being creative with the students. Math is very specialized and we have a lot of students who are in very different places. So we have two teachers working very hard to address 157 students math needs. So we're hoping this math consultant and math specialist will help the overall math scores in our district. We need to be competitive in math and reading, reading is the next one down the road.

Male1: We're putting all this emphasis on math, what about the other subjects?

Male: if we we're talking about focusing on all subjects we'd be looking at some increases, but we're really focusing on math right now.

Woman: Have we thought about pursuing the students at PA coming down on an after school basis to help these other kids? As a tutoring thing, giving them the community service that they need but also helping these kids on a non-staffing basis.

Male: Can you explain the math specialist? What's they're job?

Male1: The math specialist would be shared between both schools, so .5 for each school. Each school has different needs, the math specialist at the middle school level would work with the two math teachers over there. They're going to help with curriculum as well as math programs, programs that make sense from 5 -8.

The Chair: That math is a nationwide issue, it's not just an Allenstown issue

Male1: Yes this is part of the Capital Improvement Plan, this goes further than this town.

Mike: The best way to fix a problem is to identify the cause of the problem... (Inaudible)

Male: I think we need to get back to being competitive in math, which means tweaking to make us more competitive. There isn't a specific reason I can say as to why this is happening, but consistency makes a lot of sense. If there's a specialist in the building every day and students and teachers can see him, that consistency will be very important.

Mike: To go off of Tiffany's point, the method of tutoring has been around for decades and I think it's a really important thing to utilize.

Male: and that makes sense and I will definitely consider that.

Ms. Ranfos: The method of solving math problems have changed since we've been in school. I work with my sixth grader on division problems and she does a whole work around thing rather than what we learned. That's part of the issue, when she comes home and I try to help her I can't. I don't know how they're supposed to get to the answer how the SBAC wants it.

The Chair: We're getting off topic a little bit, it's moving away from the budget. Any other questions?

Woman: Is this adequate education grant is what is referred to as foundation aid money?

Woman1: I don't know if it used to, to be honest.

Woman: I was on the school board years ago and it was all about foundation aid. If you're school wasn't in compliance and it needed improvements you risked losing foundation aid money. I was wondering if this is one in the same.

Woman1: That's a new terminology, we'll ask.

Woman: My other question, school in need of improvement. What does that mean? And what are the negative effects? Are we at risk of jeopardizing other revenues?

Hard to hear... Multiple people talking at once.

Male: We used more to supplement that specific skill, so that's what we're using the grant money for.

Carol: Is it also some kind of formula being used to become a title one school?

Male: that's separate, you have to be above 40% for a reduced lunch rate. That's what qualifies you.

Carol: It's still similar to a formula in order to submit for that?

Male: Whatever NH gets for a pool of money they take out our percentage.

The Chair asks if there are any other questions.

Woman: you said we couldn't do anything about the 2017 budget?

Woman1: no about the stabilization. The \$26,105 is done, we're losing that.

Woman: Didn't someone say the budget was there but we can't do anything about what's being spent out right now?

The Chair: I don't understand your question.

Woman: So after that is there something that can be done to help keep the taxes down for people?

The Chair: I think there has to be something that can be done to keep the taxes down. I think there's more we can do as a budget committee in the months of January and February instead of letting those months go by without meeting. We can help put plans in place, a 5 year plan for replacement costs and different kinds of things. And try to keep those costs under control.

Woman: I'm all for the education of the kids, they're going to be running the country one day. But is there a way of keeping the school budget down, somehow or some way?

The Chair: the school budget is one of the biggest at just a little over \$10 million, then the town is just a little under \$4 million. I don't know right off the top of my head of what can be done.

Woman: Do all the teachers get a raise every year? Or every three year?

Multiple people: it's up to the contract

Kris: So we don't have the ability to establish capital reserves because the best thing we could do would be to put the surplus into these capital reserves. But the state government has made it clear that we cannot do that.

Woman: Why though? I don't understand the logistics behind that?

Woman1: Every town must go through the same thing, right?

Carol: It would be trust, but it would have to be geared towards something very specific.

The Chair: We gave back \$200k to the town, why wasn't some of that used to by the laptops, to buy the flag pole?

Woman: It is

Carol: that was the \$100k we kept right?

Woman: No, we do go through a surplus exercise. Once Amber closes out and lets us know where we're going to be, we do have a surplus discussion. We do use it. The AES new windows are all surplus. We do think long and hard about what we're using for surplus, what's being returned to the town, and what will be used for retainage.

Woman1: This is a projected surplus correct? And you wait until the end of the year to allocate those funds?

Woman: we do not spend surplus until we are the end of the year; which is why June 30th when the books close, is when we have those surplus discussions.

Woman1: Things we already know need to get done, the books, can you spend that money in surplus before we make this budget?

Woman: No. But I see where you're going with that, so by the end of the year we have a pretty good idea of what we need, flag pole, room dividers, why couldn't we buy those things?

Woman2: We're not guaranteed that surplus, it's a big gamble.

Woman: I understand it's a gamble, but when you have those meetings in May or June you have a pretty good idea of what you're going to need in September. So why can't funds be incumbent and spent?

Woman1: We kind of do that, get to May or June and we knew that there were things that were cut from the prior year so for example, the new book for the common core at \$12k. If that is something that's ending up cut, we keep a running list so come June of 2017 we'll know we need that still.

Woman2: To eliminate some of the stress of the school budget, why can't we as a school say we need this and that before you bring us this budget? I understand that some of this budget could come out of surplus

Woman: We don't know what that it as this point. We're planning a year ahead, so we don't know if we'll even have any money at the end for those things. It's really like rolling the dice.

Woman2: The people in the town aren't seeing that the money is already used the money could have possibly gone to the budget. Like the windows, that was a discussion...

Woman: it was in the budget. So the windows or the surplus spent is the approved budget.

Woman2: right but they didn't put that money in the budget for the windows. They put it in for something else and they just didn't use it for that. It was then used for something that needed to get done, but that information doesn't reach the town.

Woman: I'm not sure how I could do that, maybe the minutes

Woman2: You say there were other little things, but forgive me but I don't have time to go on the website and look at everyone's meeting minutes. Just behind the scenes stuff that the average Joe wouldn't know.

Woman: I can't remember a time we have no turned back surplus money, it's all the time. I think the first year it will be hard to bite the bullet, but going forward it would be better. So take that money, and do it there's no line item so who cares?

The Chair: Have that want list

Woman1: Oh what you're saying is we have \$379K to spend the whole thing. No way will the town never let us do that. And as a board we would never want to do that.

Woman: I think we should spend some of it

Woman1: I hear what you're saying, but as a board we have the three dependencies of how to spend that surplus.

Woman2: But you said the town wouldn't be happy with this budget today anyways, so I think if we took a little more to buy new computers that would be an easier pill to swallow

Woman: Agreed. That's how we bought computers the last few years. And the budget today is half of what we originally asked for in hopes we could do the other half in surplus.

Ms. Ranfos: is there a way we can work towards, if there's a way we can do a trust fund of sorts, for technology?

Multiple people: we have one already

Ms. Ranfos: okay we have one already so is there a way that we can do the warrant articles to say can we put this much money into our trust fund because in three to five years we're going to need another 25 computers?

On an every year basis we don't do that, so if we do a little bit in the next three to five years then when we need the money we can just pull it from that?

Woman: So the trust statements that Larry sends us, you can see the schools trust has been brought way down to nothing. We're doing article 1 for the school budget, we're doing article 2 for the parent contract, and we're doing article 3 for the teacher contract and we're doing the SRO. We're doing four warrant articles. So the problem with doing a warrant article is the town is going to see many school warrant articles.

Ms. Ranfos: I'm not saying to do it this year, because we are throwing a lot at the town with the school budget. So next year when we've already spent that money, when we go back for another year's budget that would be the time to say what warrant articles do we have? Does it make sense to throw two up there? More of a preventative and looking forward method.

Woman: no one approved the budget thinking they were going to get a surplus back, they approved thinking you're going to spend this much. But the staff knows what they need in coming years.

The Chair asks if there's any remaining questions.

Carol: The requested budget of \$10 million, I'm assuming the estimated revenues has not been subtracted from here.

Woman: They're two separate things

Carol: But if I'm going to vote on a budget, the school budget it would be this much money or the requested budget less revenues.

Woman: We look at that like the tax income piece

Woman1: but the tax income piece is the difference

Carol: When I go voting I do not go on appropriation I go on budget. So you're budget would be appropriation plus your revenue.

Woman: So really if you take the budget and you less out the anticipated revenues the school budget over \$5 million coming out of tax dollars.

Carol: We were looking for some answers on the \$300k line, how many people?

Woman: I'm not going to be able to get that information tonight.

The Chair states he wishes to meet again in January before the public hearing. The boards of Selectman are going to vote on the warrant articles and are meeting on January 9th. The Chair suggests meeting on January 12th which is the second Thursday and the Thursday before the public hearing.

Everyone is in agreement for a meeting at the community center on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6pm. All questions to Kris have to be into Keith by December 30, 2016.

School Administrators exit.

- **Review of Minutes:**

Several members did not have a chance to review, and the hour was late, so the decision was to table review of minutes to next Jan 12 meeting. **Action Item: Mr. Klawes directed the MBC to send any edits to him before the Jan 12 meeting.**

- **Review of Expenditure and Revenue Reports:**

Town Revenue Report:

Mr. Mulholland gave a brief overview. Cannot fill in Property Tax Revenue line on the report (01.3110.10.000) because we do not know it as yet. Several factors that affect Property Taxes (eg: County Appropriations; Overall Valuation) can change such that we cannot estimate property tax revenues yet. Mr. Mulholland indicated the Town is in pretty good shape as seen in most lines of Revenue. Revenues projected of \$1,242,000 (without Property Tax) versus what we're seeing of \$1,300,350 shows we are in good shape. State Budget has not been set and won't be until January. We don't know several items such as: State Education funding; we don't know Meals and Tax. Many items still to be determined with the new governor. HB1 is the bill that will go through votes that will be passed in January. Further commentary was directed to the MBC that the committee's job is to make sure the Town is projecting revenues properly.

Mrs. Ranfos: How are back taxes tracking? Mr. Mulholland: Looking pretty good with revenue collections. Mrs. Ranfos asked clarifying question that if someone is paying 2014 in 2016, does that go to 2016 Revenue? Mr. Mulholland replied that it will get posted when received.

Mr. Mulholland: Zoning Fines – line 01.3504.15.000 - \$50K – that was a fine charged to Allenstown Aggregate. We'll lose that revenue as it ends in 2 years. It will drop from \$50K down to \$24K next year. This will become lost revenue that has to be made up some other place.

Mr. Klawes: What is income from Fire Dept? Mr. Mulholland: Gas permit fees; Fire pit fees.

Mrs. Ranfos: Fines from Courts – line 01.3504.10.000. What are these and how are they projected? Mr. Mulholland replied that they are things such as OHRV violations; Alcohol Violations. Projection is fairly unknown.

Mr. Klawes asked in general how does the town project revenues. Mr. Mulholland replied that it is all different. Sometimes we have to know projects. Sometimes it comes from fines. Rooms and Meals Tax – State has projected to increase these. State Law says they are supposed to give us a certain percentage, but they never give us that percentage. Mr. Mulholland went on to say that he has to watch what goes on in January at the State House to determine what will have revenue projection impacts. Motor vehicle registrations – we project that on what the market does. When the economy does down, we'll project down. As economy goes up, these will project up. Planning fees – developments that are being developed we get fees for that.

Mrs Ranfos: Welfare Reimbursements – line 01.3509.10.000 - What does that entail? Mr. Mulholland: Prior to 2013 with previous Town Administrators, we were not going after people that had a property tax lien and was on assistance from the town. We are now aggressive at going after those that received welfare benefits and now have jobs yet still don't pay their property taxes. We put liens on their property.

Mrs. Ranfos: Dog fees – lines 01.3290.10.000 and 01.3290.20.000 – these are going down, why? Mr. Mulholland: We have no animal control officer anymore to go after those that don't license.

Sewer Revenue Report:

Mr. Mulholland: This is the first time we've presented this report in this format as Sewer is on the new accounting system. Their revenues are projected well.

Mrs. Ranfos: Sewer Rents – line 20.3403.52.100 – big difference seen in budget versus current. Mr. Mulholland: They are getting used to the lines and where they should go so there are some discrepancies attributed to getting used to the new system.

Mrs. Ranfos: 2 lines both say grant reimbursement, but their accounts are different. 52 and 57 (seen in the account number on the report) are different sub functions. 52 is Allenstown Collection System. 57 is Septage Haulers.

Action Item: Mr. Mulholland / Ms. Simmons will show the report in the Sub Functions so that we can see the sub categories. Mr. Mulholland will send it out to the committee tomorrow.

Mrs. Boisvert: Comment made on the Sewer Tour that was taken by some MBC members on 11/21/16 – Mr. Frascinella put together an article that is a beneficial read to all. It is posted on his personal website.

Town Expenditure:

Mr. Mulholland reported the Town is tracking well. 5.2% left until the end of the year. How large the surplus will be depends on the projects being considered at the next BOS meeting. Typically, there is very little left in Town Expenditures. We will get Workers Comp credit remainder of the year adding to surplus. We have to replace an HVAC unit in Fire Dept. We already appropriated funds for this. A second HVAC is broken as well and we need to replace. Building is not that old and they shouldn't be failing already. It is long past warranty. Question on manufacturer of the units, but it is unknown. Mr. Mulholland mentioned they are running on their last (third) HVAC unit.

Mrs. Boisvert: General repairs – line 01.4194.10.435 – is that the Rebricking? Mr. Mulholland replied yes.

Mr. Klawes: Overall, are you going to be under budget? Mr. Mulholland replied yes.

Mrs. Ranfos:– Finance contracted Services - line 01.4150.10.330 – No budget yet we've spent money? Mr. Mulholland replied that remember that our Finance Director left and we needed to fill the gap.

Mr. Mulholland ended with mentioning the County Budget. A variety of bills are impacting the town, but they are unknown. Mr. Mulholland has been asked in the past to testify on behalf of the board. Mr. Mulholland said we need to have a strategy with the school to testify on the Stabilization issue that was discussed in Nov 17th

MBC meeting. The board has to authorize Mr. Mulholland to act on the Town. Next steps are that Mr. Mulholland is working with Dr. Paludi and Mrs. Raymond from the school board on the issue. As Legislative Hearings come up on the Stabilization Issue, Mr. Mulholland will inform the MBC of those dates as the more MBC members we can get to go to Concord to be present, the better.

- [Old Business](#)

None.

- [New Business](#)

None.

Meeting adjourned at: 9:15 Ms. Severance motioned for meeting to end. Mrs. Ranfos seconded.

Next Budget Committee Meeting: Thurs, Jan 12 at Allenstown Community Center at 6pm.

- *Meetings may be taped audibly and or by video for the purpose of written minutes.
Special accommodations for individuals with disabilities are available upon request*

(Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990).

TOWN OF ALLENSTOWN
Budget Committee
16 School Street
Allenstown, New Hampshire 03275

Signature Page

Original Approval:	
KEITH KLAWES, CHAIRMAN	DATE

Amendment Approvals:		
Amendment Description:	Approval:	Date:
	<i>Keith Klawes</i>	9/21/2017

	KEITH KLAWE, CHAIRMAN	DATE
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