



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 10, 2020
7:00 PM
Senior Center
MINUTES



1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Board of Finance Members Present:

Brian Baker – Chairman
Scott Davis– Vice Chairman
Alex Grzelak
Valerie Grills
Gail Rooke-Norman
Dan Webster

Board of Finance Member Absent:

Steve Mikutel

Also Present:

Julie Marcotte, Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Jeannette Bell, Recording Secretary
41 Oher People

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on FY20-21 budget.

S. McKenna presented the Board of Education budget. The proposed budget has an increase of \$1,107,618 which is a 3.98% increase from the previous years budget. The total dollar amount requested for the Board of Education is \$28,956,129. He noted there would be additional students coming from Norwich Schools as well as possibly Preston Schools which would bring in additional revenue. Student enrollment levels are maintaining with potential new students attending due to new tuition relationships with other towns as well as new housing developments. He stated the need to stay competitive in order to continue to attract students to Griswold. He also noted the Preschool Development Grant and the reduction of Title I funds have forced Griswold schools to absorb salary and benefits costs which were once fully or partially funded by grants. There has also been additional costs for repairs and maintenance with the installation of the new heating infrastructure. The Board of Finance voiced their concerns with the lack of budgeted expenses for the repairs to the HVAC system as discussed at the previous Board of Finance meetings. Once again they felt the Board of Education is not taking the repairs needed for the infrastructure seriously. There was much disappointment with the Board of Finance members in regards to the Board of Education not including the money needed for these repairs in their budget. They were expecting to see all the dollars needed for the repairs added to the budget as well as a concrete plan in place. S. McKenna stated the quote for the repairs to the infrastructure came in at approximately \$158,000.00 to which

he stated he did not know how to fund the repairs. The Board of Finance asked S. McKenna to email all Board of Finance members a copy of the quote from NESC for the repairs. It was also noted to have the Board of Education present a revised budget with the appropriations for the needed HVAC repairs added with a line item for existing repairs and a line item for maintenance for the HVAC system. The Board of Finance had also asked for reassurance from the Board of Education that the repairs would be done to the infrastructure if the budget were to be cut.

J. Marcotte presented the following budgets:

4201 – Uncas Health District increased by \$1684.00 due to a rate increase.

7101 – Emergency and Contingency: 5850- Exchanges increased to \$90,00, 5801- Contingency BOE reduced to zero due to the BOE absorbing the Special Ed Teacher in their budget.

7201 – Fringe Benefits increased \$1967.00 from the previous year.

8101 – Debt Retirement increased \$177,517.00 from the previous year due mostly to the infrastructure bond interest due.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S.Davis to adjourn the meeting at 8:37PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeannette Bell
Recording Secretary