



Town of Griswold

Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 30, 2021
6:30 PM
Via Teleconference
MINUTES



1. Roll Call/Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

Board of Finance Members Present:

Scott Davis– Chairman
Alex Grzelak- Vice Chairman
Valerie Grills
Gail Rooke-Norman
Dan Webster
Steve Mikutel
Amanda Brycki

Also Present:

Erik Christensen, Director of Finance
Sean McKenna, Superintendent of Griswold Schools
Glenn Labossiere, Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
Chris Champlin, Director of Special Services
Alisha Stripling, Director of Business Operations
Erin Palonen, GHS Principal
Kenneth Bomba, Recording Secretary
16 Oher People

2. Old Business

a. Discussion and possible action on FY21-22 budget.

S. McKenna presented the Board of Education budget. The proposed budget has an increase of \$708,652 which is a 2.49% increase from the previous years budget. Contractual obligations have an increase of 3.3% which has been offset by addressing supplies for next year in this year's budget. Also moved \$165,946 from original capital improvement via line-item transfers from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. He noted they increased the revenue projection for tuition by \$140,000. There was further discussion on projected tuition revenue and number of students from Preston and Norwich. S. Mikutel had some questions on the distance learning model, and the challenges post pandemic. S. McKenna discussed how well the remote model went but believes it is still not as effective as in person learning. The testing of students shows some learning gaps due to the pandemic, and by utilizing grant money, the school will be offering families summer learning programs. S. Mikutel questioned how the American Rescue Grant money could be used to help offset future tax burdens. S. Mckenna stated that they would look for opportunities to use the grant in upcoming capital and custodial needs related to the pandemic. G. Rooke-Norman had a question on funding for the music and theatrical productions and the process of funding for the next year being generated from the ticket sales from the current year and what is the Board of Education's plan to fund that program. G. Labossiere replied that music

enrichment will be part of the summer program. There had been a proposal to having the students perform the play in a virtual setting, however that generated little interest with the students. The company that provides the play is working with them to minimize any royalty related losses. The music department is putting together a 5-week music program for the summer. E. Palonen added that the changes in the program due to required safety protocols contributed to the lack of enthusiasm of the students to perform in a virtual setting. D. Webster had a question on what is driving the 52% increase or vendors in contractual obligations. A. Stripling replied that the primary increases are in transportation, medical insurance, and MERF retirement. S. Davis had a question on the permanence of cuts for supplies. A. Stripling replied that many supplies needed for next year have been purchased in this year's budget. In the future the supply lines will have to be increased again as supplies are used. S. Davis also had a question on the 6.2% increase in special education. C. Champlin replied that the majority of the increase comes from contractual salary obligations.

3. **Adjournment**

MOTION: D. Webster made a **motion** that was seconded by S. Mikutel to adjourn the meeting at 7:14PM. All in favor; **motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth Bomba
Recording Secretary