

**Minutes of the Sanborn Regional School District Deliberative Session
February 6, 2014 (Due to Snow Cancellation on February 5, 2014)**

The Meeting was called to order by Moderator, Richard Russman at 7:04 PM, held at the Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium at 17 Danville Road in Kingston, New Hampshire.

Moderator opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and welcoming the public. Moderator introduced Attorney Sharon Summers, Carol Coppola, and Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent, School Board Members, Dustin Ramey, Rebecca Hallisey Wendy Miller, Nancy Ross, Jan Bennett, John Leblanc. Also the School Budget Committee, Barry Gluck, Chairman, Tom Gasse, Patricia Stephan, Paul Brisson, Roger Clark, Allen Felisberto, Beth Scanlon, and Melissa Fowler, Interim School District Clerk.

Moderator announced that all non-registered voters must be seated in the upper balcony. Also there would be no discussion on Article 1 and Article 2 and both would be moved forward to the ballot as printed.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following School District Officers:

School Board:

- One member from Kingston for three years
- One member from Newton for three years
- One member-at-large for three years
- One member from Newton for two years

Moderator:

- One elected for one year

Budget Committee:

- One member from Kingston for three years
- One member from Newton for three years
- One member from Newton for one year

ARTICLE 2: General Acceptance of Reports

Shall the reports of school district agents, auditors, committees, or officers chosen be accepted and placed on file?

Moderator read ARTICLE 3: Operating Budget

Shall the Sanborn Regional School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted

separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by vote at the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Thirty Four Million One Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Six Dollars (\$34,158,126)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Thirty Three Million One Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Five Dollars (\$33,199,985), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Sanborn Regional School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in any other warrant article.)

Motion made by Barry Gluck seconded by Nancy Ross

Barry Gluck first thanked everyone for coming and then presented a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Operating Budget from the School Budget Committee. Mr. Gluck expressed how challenging the budget was to put together this year, because of all the decreases of State funding. He quoted Dr. Blake as this year being the perfect storm.

Mr. Gluck continued to speak about the history of the Budget Committee and what their responsibilities are as committee members. He wanted people to understand that the Budget Committee does not have the authority to tell administration to increase or decrease, or remove a position; the committee takes the data from administration and puts together an educated projected budget for the coming year and recommends or not recommends that budget.

Jan Bennett, School Board Vice Chairperson, took the podium and made a motion to decrease the budget by \$699,215.00, seconded by Nancy Ross.

Jan Bennett presented the items that the School Board would like to remove from the budget and how they reached the \$699,215.00.

Tammy Gluck spoke on her support on amending Article 3 on what the School Board has presented.

Kevin Hall asked the question on why the projects offset by a grant would be cut.

Dr. Brian Blake answered, because it did not make sense to do some and not all, the District would not benefit by only some of the projects being completed.

Peter Broderick commented on the Budget Committee authority of removing a line item and that isn't true that a special warrant article could be submitted for those items that were not included in the Budget.

Barry Gluck reiterated on what he already stated and added that Budget Committee is to recommend or not recommend the Budget and that is what they have done.

Cheryl Gannon spoke on her support on amendment to Article 3 and asked if it would be voted on tonight.

Dr. Blake answered yes the motion on the floor will be voted on tonight by the voters that are present.

Lynn Gainty asked the Budget Committee why they include the Capital Improvement line item in the Budget. Why don't you remove that line item as the Town does and let the voters vote on that separately?

Tammy Gluck answered Lynn Gainty's question as she remembers it. The Budget Committee would put in separate article but it would not pass and capital improvement projects would not get done.

Moderator asked for a vote on the amendment on Article 3 from the registered voters, all in favor by stating "I", all not in favor by stating "NO", overwhelming I's have it, the motion was passed. Article 3 will be amended by 699,215.00, making the new operating budget \$33,458,911.00.

With no further discussion on Article 3 the Moderator declared that Article 3 will move forward to the ballot as amended.

Moderator read ARTICLE 4. Fund Balance Retention

Shall the School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue source for emergency expenditures and over-expenditures under RSA 32:11 or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate, all in accordance with RSA 198:41-b, II?

Motion made by Dustin Ramey and seconded Allen Felisberto

Dustin Ramey spoke in support of Article 4 shall the School District vote to authorize, indefinitely until rescinded, the retention of year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5% of the current fiscal year's net assessment, for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue source for emergency expenditures and over-expenditures under RSA 32:11, or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate, all in accordance with RSA 198:41-b,II.

- The Towns of Kingston and Newton have always had the financial security of being able to retain year-end surplus for future use.
- The amount is limited to 2.5% of net appropriations (the amount that is raised in property taxes) which is determined annually and is not cumulative.
- The retention of unreserved fund balance does not increase the school district's ability to expend funds beyond the amount appropriated by district voters.
- Upon approval of this warrant article the School Board can in any year decide to apply all or a portion of the unreserved fund balance as revenue in the coming year to reduce property taxes.

Roger Clark asked what the return would be this year.

Dr. Blake answered we do not know what the return would be this year until the end of the year but we could use last year.

Dr. Blake expressed that other Cities and Towns carry over the 2.5% balance presently. There are many reasons why Cities and Towns currently carry over balances and couples of examples are to level the tax rate, and emergency funds on those critical situations that Districts cannot plan for.

Cheryl Gannon asked what the difference is this year comparing to past years with the Capital Reserve Fund. How much is in the Capital Reserve Fund at this time?

Carol Coppola answered that this is a new law passed for Districts to be able to keep the carryover

which was not the case in the past, and she was not sure of the balance but would find out the answer.

No further discussion on Article 4 the Moderator declared Article 4 will move forward to the ballot as printed.

Moderator read ARTICLE 5. Recorded Votes and Numerical Tally

By petition of 25 or more registered voters, Are you in favor of requiring the Sanborn Regional School Board to include on the warrant all votes of the governing body relative to budget items or any warrant articles shall be recorded votes and the numerical tally of any such vote, pursuant to NHRSA 32:5, V-a?

Motion made by Jim Doggett and seconded by Roger Clark

Jim Doggett spoke in support of the article 5 suggesting that it should be easy to obtain.

Nancy Ross explained that at this time the School Board is not required to do this but if the article passes then they will be required to do so.

No further discussion on Article 5 the Moderator declared Article 5 will move forward to the ballot as printed.

Moderator read ARTICLE 6. Estimated Tax Impact

By two petitions of 25 or more registered voters: Shall the Sanborn Regional School District vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the SRSD governing body (School Board), shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article per NH RSA 32:5, V-b? The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to approval by the governing body,

Motion made by Jim Doggett and seconded by Mary Reardon

Dustin Ramey presented the following information for the voters as follows:

- Passage of this warrant article will require the School Board to calculate the estimated tax impact of all warrant articles which appropriates funds.
- The School Board will also need to estimate the assessed valuation for each community as part of the calculation.
- Upon passage of this warrant article the estimated tax impact of any appropriation will be required beginning with the 2015-16 year.

No further discussion on Article 6 the Moderator declared Article 6 will move forward to the ballot as printed.

Moderator read ARTICLE 7: Rescind Senate Bill 2(SB2) (RSA 40:14-VII)

By petition of 25 or more registered voters, Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2), as adopted by the Sanborn Regional School District on March 12, 1996, so that the official ballot will no longer be used for voting on all questions, but only for the election of officers and certain other questions for which the official ballot is required by law? (3/5 majority vote required)

Motion made by Barry Gluck and seconded by Dustin Ramey

Dustin Ramey presented information on Article 7 as follows:

- Approval of this warrant article will do away with ballot voting and switch to a School District Meeting for review of the warrant.
- Senate Bill 2 allows residents to decide on warrant articles and the school budget at the same time they submit their votes for the school officials during ballot voting in March.
- 3/5 or at least 60% of the voters must approve the rescission of SB2 to bring back the traditional School District Meeting.
- Passage of this warrant article will still allow voters the right to vote on warrant articles at the School District Meeting.
- Passage of this warrant article will be effective beginning with the 2015-16 year.

Rick Fortin spoke against Article 7 stating it would be an injustice to pass.

No further discussion on Article 7 the Moderator declared Article 7 will move forward to the ballot as printed.

Moderator read Article 8: Tax Cap

By petition of 25 or more registered voters, To see if the Sanborn Regional School District will adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body of the Sanborn Regional School District shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes based on the prior year's actual amount of local taxes raised by more than 2.5%? (3/5 majority vote required)

Motion made by Roger Clark and seconded by Peter Broderick

Tammy Gluck spoke against Article 8 expressing her concern that this article would not be good for the school or the children's education.

Peter Broderick spoke in supporting Article 8 suggesting that special warrant articles should be entered and let the people decide.

Corey Masson spoke against Article 8 expressing that he feels the people should be informed but does not agree with putting a tax cap on the school spending. Mr. Masson is also concerned that the district does not have special education projection in the plan.

Sabra Leek spoke against Article 8 concerned if we start capping the budget we will not have funds for things we need, and that would not be good for the district.

Dr. Blake commented that the documents presented on the PowerPoint presentation concerning Article 8 are correct and accurate. Dr. Blake also wanted to comment on a concern of a previous speaker that the District does have a Special Education Trust in place. This fund has \$226,000.00 currently as a balance to support the Special Education Programs.

Peter Broderick spoke in supporting Article 8 citing from the “The Basic Law of Budgeting”. Mr. Broderick invited the public to read the information from the book if they wished, he would be available if anyone had question for him.

Lynne Merrill spoke against Article 8 explaining she has been voting in this Town for over 40 years and does not like her right to choose which would be taken away with this Article passing. Tax caps like this usually make the funds to pay salaries but then the infrastructures suffer. Ms. Merrill is strongly against Article 8.

Mike Salar spoke against Article 8 suggesting that this cap is below the cost of living increase and 2.5% is way too low for any cap.

Mary Marshall made a motion to increase Article 8 to be amended to 6% and seconded by Rick Fortin.

Jason Faria spoke against Article 8 or any article that suggest a tax cap like this.

Jan Bennett commented on her 15 years on the School Board, how exciting it is to see people support the children of this district and that is why she continues to serve as a member. Please let us always continue to put the kids first.

Patty Stephan commented on the low turnout of attendance in the crowd and to please share what you heard tonight with others that are not present so they can make an educated vote come Election Day. Ms. Stephan also added that one of her goals as a member of the Budget Committee is to get the community more involved.

Kurt Baitz spoke against Article 8 praised the School Board and the Budget Committee on their hard work and dedication to this district. Mr. Baitz commented on his many years on the School Board and understands how hard it is to do this job. Please respect these people we elect and understand they are putting the best budget forward for this school district.

Tammy Gluck made a motion to increase the tax cap to 10% and seconded by Mary Marshall.

Moderator announced if there is nothing new from the floor, on Article 8 we will vote on amending the amended 6% to 10%. All those in favor of increasing Article 8 to 10% please stand, overwhelming amount of people stood. All those not in favor please stand, with a 4 to 1 ratio stood. The yes votes have it by an overwhelming support.

Moderator announced that Article 8 will be amended on the ballot to 10% not 2.5%.

Motion was made from a registered voter to adjourn the meeting and seconded by several registered voters.

No further discussions from the floor the Moderator adjourn the meeting at 9:14PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Fowler".

Melissa Fowler
Town Clerk