

1 **WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING & JOINT SESSION**
2 **Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. in the WLC MS/HS Conference Room**
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4 **Committee Membership:** Karen Grybko, Chair, Leslie Browne, Vice Chair (Facilities Committee Rep.),
5 Lisa Post, Secretary, Pam Altner, Mary Guild (Facilities Committee Rep.), Edwina Hastings, James Kofalt
6 (School Board Rep.), Ellen Pomer (School Board Rep.), Christine Tiedemann, Harry Dailey (WLC School
7 Board Rep.).
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9 The Agenda was as follows:
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- 11 1. Call WLC Budget Committee to Order
- 12 2. Public Comment
- 13 3. Preparation for Public Hearing
- 14 4. Review and Approval of January 10, 2017 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
- 15 5. Other Business:
 - 16 a. **Period for Filing for Elective Office: January 25 – February 3, 2017**
17 The follow individuals need to file if interested: Leslie Browne, Christine Tiedemann (seat term is 2019), Ellen Pomer, Lisa Post and
18 Edwina Hastings (seat term is 2019).
 - 19 b. **Schedule Next Budget Committee Meeting**
20 **The Public Hearing** is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at WLC MS/HS (Snow Date: February 10, 2017 at 7:00
21 p.m.).
22 **The District Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. WLC MS/HS (Snow Date: Monday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at
23 WLC MS/HS).
- 24 6. FY 2017-2018 Budget – **Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**
 - 25 a. Final Draft Preparation for Public Hearing
 - 26 b. Warrants
- 27 7. Adjournment of Budget Committee
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30 **Attendance:** Karen Grybko, Leslie Browne, Lisa Post, Pam Altner, Mary Guild, Edwina Hastings, Ellen
31 Pomer, Christine Tiedemann, Harry Dailey.
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- 33 1. **The Budget Committee was called to order** by Leslie Browne at 6:35 p.m. and recommended that we
34 proceed with the approval of the meeting minutes of January 17, 2017 (date corrected from agenda) prior
35 to public comment.
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- 37 2. **Public Comment: Lyndeborough resident Fran Bujak** was in attendance and expressed his concerns in
38 reference to the proposed 17-18 budget and said that if the School Board continues to carry a balance that
39 both Boards need to talk about having two separate accounts and going to rolling averages like the towns
40 have. He stated that this district has a disproportionate amount of bonds for the next few years and he is
41 reluctant to recommend cutting the school budget since once the bonds are paid the budget will be
42 \$300,000 less per year. He supported the two new positons and felt that it would help the students who
43 need it. He expressed concern over test scores and that it is a challenge to get 11th grade students to take
44 the standardize testing seriously as their scores do not count toward their graduation and are not reported
45 to colleges and that we need to find a way to make them count. He stated that it was difficult to prepare a
46 budget 18 months in advance and that 2% built into the budget was reasonable in the event of under
47 estimated revenue and/or additional special education student enter the district.
48
- 49 3. **Preparation for Public Hearing:** Edwina Hastings was concerned that the Budget Committee was not all in
50 agreement and asked if it was possible to vote again. Chair Grybko suggested that it might be best to revisit
51 this after the Public Budget hearing. We discussed the repurposed positions Lisa Post stated that she felt we
52 needed to keep the taxpayer in mind and is concerned that “repurposed” positions are not a staff
53 reductions and felt that with the lower enrollment numbers there should be some reduction. Mr. Dailey

54 said these positions will be posted and candidates must meet the criteria. Karen Grybko felt that she would
55 give the benefit of the doubt to Superintendent Lane that he could improve student achievement with the
56 methods he is putting into place. Ellen Pomer stated that this was the first time this was addressed. Leslie
57 Browne felt we have been years improving our buildings and now that the building are in good shape it is
58 time to address student achievement. Pam Alter felt that the budget has been increasing by relatively
59 small amounts each year and over the years it is that mindset of acceptance has led to nearly a million
60 dollars in increase and that needs to be addressed when student enrollment numbers have been declining
61 and proficiency is low. Karen Grybko said it is important to provide our student with a good education. Ms.
62 Grybko also stated that she attended the Lyndeborough's Budget Meeting and that they would like a
63 breakdown by town and grade for the enrollment numbers. Harry Dailey said that when the articles of
64 agreement come due that we should move to a 3-year rolling average.

65
66 ***The Budget Committee briefly recessed at 7:03 p.m. to attend the Joint Session and resumed at 7:06 p.m. (Pam***
67 ***Altner excused herself from attending the Joint Session)***

68
69 ***School Board Attendance: Geoff Brock, Matt Ballou, Mark Legere, Carol LeBlanc, Alex LoVerme.***
70 ***Superintendent Bryan Lane, Business Administrator Lise Tucker, Principal Tim O'Connell and Clerk Kristina***
71 ***Fowler.***

72
73 **4. FY 2017-2018 Budget-Joint Session with School Board at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Room**

74 a. Final Draft Preparation for Public Hearing

75 Chair Brock stated that his tax rate was the highest it has been since living here and understands
76 Lyndeborough residents' frustrations. He felt this upcoming budget was well-thought out and that we have
77 fixed the school buildings and spent a lot of money doing so without a big increase in taxes. Although there
78 is concern over the test scores and student achievement, he felt that Superintendent Lane's
79 recommendation for a reduction of two staff and addition of a Curriculum Coordinator and an Integrationist
80 and Response to Instruction Coordinator will make improvements. He recommended that \$16,431.00 be
81 taken out of the proposed budget. The proposed budget along with the bond and Collective bargaining
82 agreement will be \$1.00 less than the previous year's budget. We don't like blanket cuts but let
83 administration figure it out.

84 Chair Grybko shared that the Budget Committee discussed reconsidering their vote to approve the budget
85 but that they have decided to wait until after the Public Budget Hearing. There have been concerns over an
86 increase in the budget without having any advancement in achievement scores and having one of the
87 highest per student cost with proficiency scores below the state average. The poor return on investment is
88 why we are reconsidering. Ms. Grybko asked Superintendent Lane if could recommend areas where the
89 budget can be cut further. He stated that at this time he has nothing to bring forward and discussed
90 apportionment swings. He also discussed that he felt with the new curriculum, addition of the Curriculum
91 Coordinator and Integrationist/Response to Instruction Coordinator positons, the student will quickly be
92 brought to state proficiency standards. He stated that he has high expectations that if you raise the bar,
93 people will reach it. His goal is 80% proficiency in math and reading in two years. He is concerned how the
94 district will be affected by the change in Governor and Commissioner of Education and what testing will be
95 used. He plans to use internal assessments looking at step-by-step progress. They will begin screening
96 Kindergarten students over the summer and getting them working over the summer.

97 Matt Ballou offered that it took months for data to be returned after state test were administered and that
98 it didn't provide a means to address students that fell short and that with these new tests, he has seen
99 principals get scores are immediately able to effect changes. That is the power of real testing.
100 Superintendent Lane offered that testing means nothing to 11th graders but is hopeful with the addition of
101 the SAT that will make a difference.

102 Harry Dailey commented that the new Commissioner of Education lives in the district. He said we should take a
103 serious look at a rolling average, a 3-year rolling average to level out these issues, and we need to get the
104 funding formula right. Superintendent Lane will look into that. Mr. Dailey said that a Public Hearing is required
105 to make changes to the Articles of Agreement. Geoff Brock commented that if there had not been a
106 consolidation it would have been much worse for Lyndeborough. Karen Grybko stated our concern is that it is
107 time that we focus on getting our children a better education and taxpayers a better value for their money. She
108 was glad the Superintendent has a plan and is aggressively addressing it.

109 b. Warrants

110 Chairman Brock discussed the CIP Warrant that was voted by the Budget Committee to recommend
111 \$55K/\$60K/\$60 over three years. He directed the Facilities Committee to look at the numbers to see if they
112 are good numbers for what we eventually need. We are spending the same amount over the next three
113 years. The CIP is important, it is important to conserve money, and important to agree with that.

114 ***A Motion was made by Alex LoVerme to accept Warrant Article #7 to add \$55,000 for the Building/Equipment***
115 ***& Roadway Capital Reserve Fund, Harry Dailey seconded. Voting: All Ayes. Motion carried unanimously.***

116 Chairman Grybko confirmed that the Budget Committee recommended the CBA, Warrant Article #5.

117 ***A Motion was made by Harry Dailey to reduce \$16,461 from the budget resulting in a new operating budget of***
118 ***\$12,514,604 and seconded by Alex LoVerme. Voting: All Ayes . Motion carried unanimously.***

119 ***A Motion was made by Leslie Browne to support the new budget number of \$12,514,604 presented by the***
120 ***School Board, seconded by Ellen Pomer. Voting: Six Ayes, one nay (Lisa Post) and one abstention (Harry***
121 ***Dailey). Motion carried.***

122 Karen Grybko commented to Superintendent Lane that they would be absorbing the snow plowing costs into
123 the operating budget and he replied "yes." Leslie Browne added there has been a lot of discussion regarding
124 Lyndeborough taxes and we've all become educated on it and hope that we have the facts and figures to
125 present. Chairman Grybko asked for a breakdown by town and grade and basic discussion of how we set the tax
126 rate with equalized evaluation so that everyone has a thorough understanding. Mr. Roemer was present and
127 was asked if he remember a swing like this before and he replied "no."

128 ***A Motion was made by Christine Tiedemann, seconded by Leslie Browne to recess the Budget Committee***
129 ***Session at 7:41 p.m. Voting: All aye, motion carried unanimously.***

130 ***The Budget Committee reconvened at 7:43 p.m. in the Conference Room***

131 The discussion revolved around the state achievement tests and the newly created positions to address student
132 proficiency and achievement. Karen Grybko focused on the preparation for the hearing and the processes we
133 went through to get to this budget and how we came to agree on these numbers. She felt it important to let the
134 public know that we were concerned that we weren't able to have larger staff reductions but happy that we are
135 addressing higher student achievement that provided a better return on investment.

136 5. The Budget Committee Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

137 ***A Motion was made by Leslie Browne to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Mary Guild. All in favor. Motion***
138 ***carried unanimously.***

139
140 Respectfully Submitted,

141 Lisa Post

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FINAL