

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL DELIBERATIVE SESSION

February 5, 2022

Moderator Dino Scala opened the meeting at 1:05pm. He introduced Ann Kebler, Interim SAU Administrator, Mike O’Neill, Finance Manager, Greg Im, School Attorney, the School Board Members; Bob Ouellette, Mary Collins, Relf Fogg, Caitlyn Gelinas, and Sheena Robbins. Mr. Scala also introduced the Budget Committee Members; Jerry O’Connor, Peter Kasprzyk (Sanbornville Water Precinct Representative), Connie Twombly, Priscilla Colbath, Dave Mankus, Howie Knight, Elizabeth Conner, Denny Miller, Tom Daniels and Paul Romano. School District Clerk, Valerie Ward.

Phil Twombly made the “Bill Twombly” motion. I move that the session the School District Warrant be adjourned by 4pm and that no article be taken up for consideration after 3:50PM. In the event that all articles in the warrant have not been acted upon, the Moderator is authorized to reconvene this session at a date, time and place which meets the approval of the majority of the voters present. Relf Fogg seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Moderator continued, reading Article 2.

ARTICLE 2:

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Wakefield School District and the Wakefield Teachers’ Association, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2022 – 2023	\$87,611
2023 – 2024	\$85,320
2024 – 2025	\$87,321

“and further to raise and appropriate EIGHTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED ELEVEN DOLLARS (\$87,611) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing level?” (Majority vote required.). Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.08

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$87,611 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$87,611 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Sheena Robbins seconded the motion. The chair recognized Ms. Robbins. She explained there are 42 members in the bargaining contract. They met in October and November. The goals of the Teachers Association were to have all members on the correct step and to increase the salaries to be more competitive with area districts. The goals of the District was to negotiate multi-year contracts to plan ahead like the town does with their budget and to keep the cost items at 3%, to increase salaries to become more attractive in the area. She went on to explain the percentages of the increases over the next three years and stated these figures were all ratified by the Teachers Association and the District. There was no more discussion on this article.

ARTICLE 3:

Shall the School District, if Article 2 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 2 cost items only?

Article was moved by Bob Ouellette. Caitlyn Gelinas seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

ARTICLE 4:

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Wakefield School District and the Wakefield Paraprofessional Union, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increase</u>
2022 – 2023	\$ 32,018
2023 – 2024	\$ 28,156

“and further to raise and appropriate the sum of THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND EIGHTTEEN DOLLARS (\$32,018) for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels?” (Majority vote required.). Estimated Tax Impact: \$0.03

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$32,018 by a vote of (4-0.)

The Wakefield Budget Committee does not recommend \$32,018 by a vote of (5-5.)

Article was moved by Bob Ouellette. Sheena Robbins seconded the motion. She explained there are 29 bargaining members in the Paraprofessionals Union. The Union and the School Board Representatives met in October. The Unions goals were to raise the salaries so they are competitive in the area and maintain their current health plan. The goals for the District were to go for a multi-year contract, to keep the costs around 2.5% of the current cost and to make the salaries competitive for the area. She explained the percentage increase for each year and stated these were all ratified by the Union and the School District.

Mary Soares stated that there is a shortage of teachers and paraprofessionals and asked if the five Budget Committee Members that voted against this would explain why the voted that way.

Mr. Scala stated that these articles have all been introduced at a public hearing so the five can answer the question if they want to but do not have to. Mr. Knight stated the reason he voted against it was he sees no reason that the paraprofessionals get better health care insurance than the teachers and the town employees. Ms. Colbath and Mr. Miller both stated they voted no because of the health plan also.

Ms. Robbins explained that the Paraprofessionals knew how much money there was to spend and they could have gotten a better salary but chose to stay with the health plan instead. She explained that the insurance has a higher premium but they are only offered a single person plan. They cannot do two people and they cannot do family. It was stated that the 5% increase is 4% on the District and 1% on the Paraprofessionals. No more discussion.

ARTICLE 5:

Shall the School District, if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 4 cost items only?

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Caitlyn Gelinas seconded the motion. Discussion on the cost of a special meeting should be disclosed. There is a budget line for advertising.

ARTICLE 6:

Shall the Wakefield School District vote to 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 of the first session, for the purposes set forth

therein, totaling TEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS (\$10,720,981). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be ELEVEN MILLION, SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED TWELVE DOLLARS (\$11,017,512) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Wakefield 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? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact Proposed Budget: (\$0.01). Default Budget: \$0.29.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$10,720,981 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$10,720,981 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Mary Collins seconded the motion. Ms. Collins explained that this budget went down by 0.4%. She explained that the High School went up, Special Ed went down, and Staffing went down and continued to explain differences in line items. The Superintendent will be a full time position. The Business Administrator will be part time because some financial duties have been passed on to others that work in the SAU. Discussion on the difference between the current budget and the default budget ensued.

ARTICLE 7:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000) to be added to the Educationally Disabled Children Expendable Trust Fund previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$50,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$50,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Caitlyn Gelinas seconded the motion. Ms. Gelinas explained that there is currently \$51,356.00 in this fund and it will be used for unanticipated cost of Special Education.

ARTICLE 8:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$45,000) to be added to the Transportation Trust previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$45,000 by a vote of. (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$45,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Caitlyn Gelinas seconded the motion. Ms. Gelinas explained this would be used to purchase buses in the future. There is currently \$111,742.97 in this trust.

ARTICLE 9:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FORTY-FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$44,000) to be added to the Gym Floor Capital Reserve Account previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.04.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$44,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$44,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Mary Collins seconded the motion. She explained that this would be used to replace the current floor. The cost of the project is \$165,000.00. There is currently \$120,223.34 in the CRF (Capital Reserve Fund). If this passes the project could get done this summer.

ARTICLE 10

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$23,000) to be added to the Building Renovation Expendable Trust Fund previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.02

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$23,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$23,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Caitlyn Gelinas seconded the motion. She explained this is to renovate all eight of the main bathrooms that have not been renovated since 2011. The cost of the project is \$46,000.00 and there is currently \$24,739.97 in this Trust Fund.

ARTICLE 11:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) to be added to the Parking Lot & Sidewalk Maintenance Capital Reserve Account previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$15,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$15,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Mary Collins seconded the motion. She explained that the catch basin is broken and the sidewalk is uneven, cracked and falling apart. Estimated cost is \$40,000.00 there is currently \$24,829.64.

ARTICLE 12:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$75,000) to be added to the Replacing Boilers Capital Reserve Account previously established? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.07

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$75,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$75,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Relf Fogg seconded the motion. Mr. Fogg explained that this would be used to replace the five air handlers. They are getting to the end of their life expectancy. The project cost is \$285,000.00 and there is currently \$54,532.30 in this CRF.

ARTICLE 13:

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Judy Nason Memorial Capital Reserve Account (2) under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of designing, constructing and maintaining a memorial bridge at Paul School and to raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Wakefield School Board as agents to expend from said fund. ? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$10,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$10,000 by a vote of (9-1.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Relf Fogg seconded the motion. This would establish a new CRF. Mr. Fogg explained that there is \$10,036.51 of donated money. The donated money and the money raised and appropriated would be separate Capital Reserve Funds. Foot Bridge would be near the maintenance building. A comment was made that we would like this to pass but Judy Nason would vote no.

ARTICLE 14:

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Well Replacement Capital Reserve Account under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of installing a well at the Paul School and to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Wakefield School Board as agents to expand from said fund? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.01.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$15,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$15,000 by a vote of (10-0.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Mary Collins seconded the motion. Mr. Ouellette explained this would replace the well for the irrigation system. Estimated cost is \$30,000.00. This is a new CRF. The Town Water cost is around \$13,000.00/year. There was discussion of getting water from the Branch River and have a powered pump to spray it 150'. Joe Williams feels that the Branch River has not had much water in it. Peter feels it is necessary to check out other options.

Mrs. Twombly made a note that many parents showed up for Parks and Rec article but there is only one parent in the audience for the school warrant articles.

Principal Kristen White was introduced.

Mr. Scala thanked Max and Michelle for doing a great job with recording the meeting and zoom meeting.

ARTICLE 15:

To see if the School District will vote to establish a Maintenance Building Replacement Capital Reserve Account under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of replacing the current maintenance buildings at Paul School and to raise and appropriate the sum of THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$30,000) to be placed in this fund. Further, to name the Wakefield School Board as agents to expand from said fund? (Majority vote required.) Estimated Tax Impact \$0.03.

The Wakefield School Board recommends \$30,000 by a vote of (4-0.)
The Wakefield Budget Committee recommends \$30,000 by a vote of (11-0-1.)

Bob Ouellette moved the article. Relf seconded the motion. This is a new CRF. This is to replace the current building with a single building with three bays. The cost of the project is \$135,000.00.

Budget Committee needs to meet after the meeting today.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Ward
School District Clerk