



**Joint Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes October 27, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
Franklin School District – SAU Office**



In attendance: Councilor Vince Ribas (Chair), Councilor Dzujna, Councilor Blake, Deb Brown (Co-Chair), School Board Chair Tim Dow, School Board Vice Chair Delaney Carrier

Absent: None

Others in attendance: City Manager Judy Milner, Finance Director Pessy Gaudette, Superintendent Dan LeGallo, Business Administrator Jefferson Braman and members of the public.

Deb Brown (Co-Chair) opened the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Agenda Item I.

Consider the minutes of the April 13, 2022 Joint Finance Committee Meeting:

Motion was made by Delaney Carrier to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2022 minutes with correction. Seconded by Councilor Vince Ribas.

Deb Brown asked if there was any discussion.

Move Deb Brown from Absent to Present; Motion to table the minutes should read 2021 not 2022; Snow budget needs a does instead of des; Agenda item 3 – remove put at the end of the sentence; Page 4 3rd paragraph delete the work in. Page 2, need an extra zero on SPED budget.

6 in favor: motion passes.

Agenda Item II.

FY23 Budget Status Update:

Business Administrator Braman stated that their budget has been pretty consistent over the past few years. 96% of the Budget has been spent or encumbered. He reviewed items that made up the revenue the District will be receiving. We will be getting more funding from the State of NH. We will be getting more money as follows: \$92,215.00 (7.5% of total contributions to retirement fund) and \$8,054 for education assistance Education Funding Phase out Grant. This is a formula based grant related to Education Freedom Accounts and the associated loss in adequacy aid from students no longer attending Franklin. It allows for 50% of the loss from this year, 25% of next year and then the program is completed. Franklin had 4 students. Mr. Braman spoke about the ESSER 3 Grant and that there is potential for an 18-month extension for these funds.

Councilor Dzujna asked regarding the ESSER 3 Funds if all the funds have been spent. Mr.

Braman indicated there is still a construction project being completed. Councilor Dzunjna asked about the 4 students, that seems pretty low. Mr. Braman indicated that it's based off last year's numbers. Councilor Ribas spoke about the State of NH website showing the progress of ESSER spending. Mr. Braman indicated that those numbers do not include obligated funds. There was a discussion of how the spending happens over time.

There was also an extended discussion regarding learning loss over the COVID period and Franklin has a lot of work to do in learning recovery. Tim Dow noted that because of the National Test scores have been so low that the Federal Government is considering more funding going forward. Valerie Blake questioned how students are being advanced by grades with these learning loss. Superintendent LeGallo reviewed that the issues prior to the pandemic still exist in this community. The behavior and social issues are still over shadowing the academic issues. In the High School we have over 10% of our students' court involved. There was further discussion about accountability and the impact of behavioral interventions.

City Manager Milner reviewed that the City Tax Rates have not been set yet. The State has only set five towns to date. It will be late December before we know what Franklin's rate is. Budget update for fiscal year 2023. The City has had a lot of building expenditures. We are close to freezing the budget.

Agenda Item III.

Revenue Discussion and Moving Forward:

City Manager Milner reviewed some of the April meeting questions that she was looking into. The Stevens Mill Project: Assuming the assessed value and using the current tax rate. Estimating this project at \$25million and using the current tax rate of \$23.21, there is a potential of \$580,250 in additional tax revenue. There is a 79E on this project giving a seven years' abatement. She explained the TIF District and spoke about the potential for that additional revenue to be used for Capital projects City wide. Tim Dow wondered what kind of impact this new housing will have on the School District. Most of the units are studio and one bedroom. There was discussion regarding collecting fees for building projects that bring more families in to the City. Delaney Carrier is hoping for a formula that can project new revenue and costs associated with any building projects. Tim Dow noted that for every 10 kids that move in to the City, it adds a potential \$160,000 to the School Budget. Consensus was reached that this type of analysis and process should start at this committee. This committee needs to develop a five year rolling cycle revenue projection as it relates to costs for the schools and other municipal services.

Motion was made by Delaney Carrier to set four meetings a year on the second Thursday of February (9th), April (13th), August (10th) and October (12th) for the Joint Finance Committee. Seconded by Tim Dow.

6 in favor: motion passes.

Agenda Item IV.

Other Business:

Suggested the following agenda items:

- a) Working as a group for the entire City
- b) Comparative numbers for tax rates by students to set a baseline
- c) How do we raise revenue in order to cover programs instead of cutting services?
- d) Tax Cap discussion – How to raise taxes without removing the Cap?
- e) Setting service priorities

The City will host February and August and the SAU will host April and October and the hosting entity will be responsible for minutes.

There was no other business to discuss.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Dow and seconded by Deb Brown. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Conway
School Board Clerk