

MINUTES

Town of Goshen BUDGET COMMITTEE Meeting January 7, 2025

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Present: Barbara Paronto, Chairperson (2025)
Ashley Cleary Haslam (2027)
Trish LaBossiere (2025)
Renee Frost (2027)
Doug Frost (2027)
Steve Belden (2026)
Ernie Dennis (2026)
Bonnie Belden – School Boar rep
Dianne Craig – Select Board rep

Absent: Alicia Baker (2025)
Robin Brigham (2026)

Agenda: 6:00 - DRA Presentation of Municipal Budget Law
7:30 - Review and Approve School District Budget and Warrant Articles

Jamie Dow, Municipal Accounts Manager at the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration was in attendance to present information to the Budget Committee about the duties and responsibilities under NH RSA 32 and to answer questions pertaining to how certain projects and purchases should be funded and appropriate language to use in warrant articles.

Barbara Paronto, Dianne Craig and Melissa Salinardi, Administrative Assistant, had several questions for Ms. Dow regarding specific budget and warrant article questions. Ms. Dow described various scenarios and how to properly address them on the Town's warrant.

The Q&A session with Ms. Dow ended at approximately 7:20 p.m. as members from the School District arrived for their 7:30 presentation of the proposed 2025 Goshen School District Budget and Warrant Articles.

Dr. Gail Paludi, Superintendent of Schools, Jim Fenn, Business Administrator, and Sarah Vogel, Special Education Director, spoke on the proposed 2026 Budget for the Goshen School District, SAU#102. Also in attendance was Jim Carrick and John Scranton, members of the Goshen School Board.

Dr. Paludi explained that the proposed budget was based on 75 students, 70 of which had already been enrolled and allowing for an increase of five students. Dr. Paludi explained that enrollment numbers are very fluid - in the past week four new students had been enrolled, bringing the total number of students to 74. She noted that the number of students fluctuates up and down throughout the year emphasizing the importance of having the Tuition Stabilization and Special Education Expendable Trust Funds well funded.

The proposed budget of \$1,737,912, down from the previous budget by 9.27 percent, or \$177,561, was well presented. Claremont serves as Goshen's anchor school and transportation is included in the contract. Newport also provides transportation to students attending their schools. Parents are required to provide transportation for students attending other schools.

The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the proposed 2026 School District Budget of \$1,737,912.

The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the Tuition Stabilization Expendable Trust Fund warrant article: To see if the Goshen School District would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$45,000 to be added to the Tuition Stabilization Expendable Trust Fund from June 30 fund balance. The current balance in that trust fund is \$267,202.95.

The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund warrant article: To see if the Goshen School district would vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$45,000 to be added to the Tuition Stabilization Expendable Trust Fund from June 30 fund balance. The current balance in that trust fund is \$324,843.67.

The Budget Committee voted unanimously to approve the Legal Expendable Trust Fund warrant article: To see if the Goshen School District would vote to raise and appropriate up to \$10,000 to be placed in the Legal Expendable Trust Fund: further to name the Goshen School Board as agents to expend from the fund. The current balance in that trust fund is \$10,000.00.

Dr. Paludi announced that the public hearing on the School Budget, which must be held by the Budget Committee per discussion with Ms. Dow earlier in the evening, was scheduled for January 20 at 5:45 p.m. Originally posted to be held at the Grange building, Dr. Paludi will revise the posting to change the location to Town Hall. Barbara Paronto stated that she would revise the Budget Committee's Meeting Schedule to add the public hearing prior to their scheduled work session on the Town budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Paronto, Chair