

**Regional School District #7
Board of Education Minutes
District Budget Hearing
April 11, 2006**

Amended and Approved 4/25/06

PRESENT: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Lanctot, Mr. Griffey, Mr. Gregor, Mrs. Yard, Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Lafave, Mrs. Kenneson, Superintendent Dr. Ohotnicky, Director of Finance and Operation Newbury.

Chairman Thomson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ORDER

Chairman Thomson opened the meeting stating that cost of electricity and fuel has increased significantly.

Chairman Thomson explained that the following cuts have been taken: 4 coaches, middle school secretary, .8 of a teacher, benefits for these positions, capital items, some textbooks, special education transportation, maintenance, liability insurance, club advisors, summer curriculum work and mentors.

Total decrease is \$191,158 to the assessment. This includes \$40,000 in revenues (\$20,000 from the Italian Grant and \$20,000 from Special Education Tuition).

He also pointed out increases in the following areas: Salaries increase 3.78%. Special Education increase if 8.56%, Administration increase 5.76%, Transportation increase 16.86% (including cost of fuel), Library Media .14% increase in the book account, maintenance increase of 22.84%, including electric, fuel and lockers. The total budget increase is 4.78%.

Several members of the audience posed the question about the increase cost of electricity. Mr. Roger Newbury addressed this by saying that over the years Region #7 has worked with CL&P on 4 different plans to have energy efficiency within the school.

There was a question and answer period between members of the audience. Dave Moulton of Barkhamsted commented that he didn't feel that the Board did a good enough job to reduce existing line items. He also wants to see a decrease in the assessment. He asked the Board if they reviewed the budget line item by line item. Mrs. Sweeney said that she had studied the budget individually by line item. She further explained that the Board, as a group, did not go over the budget line by line as this is not feasible time wise. Shelly Lloyd, said that the Board has worked at making cuts, always keeping the students best interest in mind. She strongly supported the Board and said that a very reasonable decision has been made by the Board. Ernie Little of Barkhamsted said that not enough cuts were made. She suggested that advanced language courses were not necessary in this school and that those children should go to a prep school. She also suggested parents pay extra for some things. Selectman McInnes of New Hartford spoke on behalf of the First Selectman of New Hartford extending full support to the Board's Budget and thanking them for their work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Ann Bocchetta
Board Clerk