

LANESBOROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF DISCUSSIONS

February 27, 2012

Members Present:

Brian Johnson, Bill Stevens, Al Terranova, Greg Wolf.

Guests Present:

Rose Ellis, Mount Greylock Regional School Superintendent

David Donahue, Mount Greylock Business Manager

Bob Ericson, Sherri Pellitier, Carrie Greene, MGRHS Committee Members

Note: This discussion was originally planned to be between the Superintendent, Two MGRHS committee members and the Business Director and the Finance Committee Chairman and W. Stevens. Since it became a quorum of Finance Committee Members, these minutes are therefore being published.

Discussion period began at 6:45 PM.

MGRHS:

Rose Ellis presented a very preliminary budget for MGRHS. She noted that this budget has not been review or approved by the School Committee as a whole, and should be regarded as being very preliminary.

She outlined the increase in the overall budget from \$9,176,261 to \$9,583,267, and pointed out the various revenue sources, some of which are showing an increase from FY-2012. It was also stated that the State revenue figures are all based on the Governor's Budget as proposed a few weeks ago, and as usual is subject to change before final approval.

She also pointed out that some savings they are seeing are being put back into the school to improve some areas, such as being able to add a wireless network, and to increase the Personal Development investments.

Overall, the preliminary budget as proposed would level fund the assessments to Lanesborough, and show a slight decrease to the town of Williamstown.

Finance Committee:

Bill Stevens presented a rough cut of the projected town budget for FY-2013 as follows:

- State revenue and expenses as per the Governor's preliminary budget
- New growth to increase slightly
- Local receipts will be slightly less than n 2012
- \$120,000 of Free Cash used to reduce taxes
- \$125,000 of Free Cash to go into Stabilization Fund to replace the amount taken out earlier
- \$50,000 of Free Cash to go into Stabilization Fund for capital expenditures in future
- Line item budgets entered as requested for 2013
- Lanesborough Elementary School increased assessment by 1%
- MGRHS assessment increased by 2%
- Health Insurance increased by 10%
- Vocation Education increased 5%

Based on those assumptions, the budget would be over the Levy Limit by \$135,000.

With level funding of MGRHS, approximately \$50,000 would be realized. And if the Selectmen decide to go with GIC for the health insurance, there would be about \$60,000 additional savings shown.

As could be seen, these savings would essentially reduce the over-run by about \$110,000, which could be managed. However, none of these numbers include any additional spending for special articles at the town meeting other than the Reserve Fund (\$30,000) and the County Purchasing (\$600).

Although the picture seems fairly promising, the final numbers in a lot of areas are not in yet and need to be obtained and discussed prior to determining the final figures.

Discussion panel adjourned at 8:15 PM