

# **Chebeague Island School Committee Workshop Minutes**

## **March 21, 2017**

This was a joint budget workshop between the Chebeague Island School Committee (SC) and the Chebeague Island Board of Selectmen (BoS).

**Attendance:** School Committee members Suzanne Rugh, Jeff Putnam, Stephen Todd and Beverly Johnson, (Jen Belesca excused absent); School Superintendent/Principal Mike Pulsifer; Board of Selectmen members Peter Pellerin, Jean Beaupre, Jay Corson, David Hill and David Stevens; Town Manger Marjorie Stratton; and guests Herb Maine and Carol White.

**Call to Order:** Suzanne Rugh called the workshop to order at 7:14 pm.

**Discussion of School Department Budget Needs:** Jeff Putnam informed the Board of Selectmen that the current budget proposal included a \$54,000 payment for a bond. The purpose of the bond payment was for needed renovations to the school. While the renovation project has not received public approval, Suzanne suggested the SC should include a payment in the budget so there would be funds to start a renovation project in case the community did give its approval. The bond payment amount could still be removed from the budget if the community did not give approval for the borrowing of funds to renovate the school. Mike Pulsifer pointed out that the overall increase to the proposed 2017/18 budget was 4.96%, or \$55,959 above last year, and that increase included the renovation bond payment. He also shared some information on different methods of borrowing funds for a renovation, and a general discussion was held on how funds are obtained for a renovation project. Mike pointed out that if the bond payment was removed, the overall budget was up only \$1,959 over last year in operational lines. The SC did a very thorough review of the 2016/17 budget, and trimmed many cost centers to keep the overall bottom line low so the inclusion of the bond payment would not be overly taxing on the community. Marjorie Stratton suggested that the Town Budget Meeting warrant schedule needs to be printed by late April, so a firm number will be needed for the bond line. After a lengthy discussion, it was recommended by all present to keep the proposed bond payment in the 2017/18 School Department budget proposal. Some general questions were posed by BoS members on tuition costs and food service costs, and those were answered by the SC. It was noted that some small revenue increases might occur as well and the district's state subsidy amount would remain close to what it has been for the past three years, only dropping a few hundred dollars.

**Other:** None

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.