

APPROVED

**TOWN OF STRATTON
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2017**

The Stratton School board held its annual 2017/2018 budget meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Stratton town office. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDING: Thomas Montemagni, Chair, Siobhan Eddy Young, Director, Lorraine M. Weeks Newell, Clerk, Alyson Marcucci, Stratton Town Treasurer, William Anton, WCSU Superintendent, and Lori Garland, WCSU Chief Financial Officer.

The Stratton School Board met to prepare the school budget for the 2017/2018 school year. Town treasurer, Alyson Marcucci, provided an up-to-date list of 39 actual students, the schools they are presently attending as well as the progression of schools they will attend in the 2017/2018 school year. In addition, three phantom students were added to the calculations. A list of tuition amounts for servicing schools was included. Tuition amounts were not available for three schools therefore a 3% increase was calculated as an estimate for budget purposes. A prior three year comparison budget was included.

Based on the information given, the proposed budget estimate for **2017/2018 Total Expenses** was listed at **\$690,592.00**. This reflects **12% increase over last years budget which results in an Estimated School Tax Rate of \$2.112 compared to last years rate of \$1.51.**

The Board discussed ways to reduce the tax rate. Money received through revenue was addressed as an option. At this time, the Stratton School District receives \$60,000 in lease revenue for the Stratton Recreational Area. The Board discussed meeting with the Stratton Select Board to request an increase in the monthly fee paid to the school district.

Other revenue available is Fund balance in the amount of \$36,000.

MOTIONS: Lorraine Weeks Newell motioned to petition the Stratton Select Board to amend the rental cost of the Stratton reck area from **\$60,000 per year to \$120,000 per year**. Siobhan Eddy Young seconded, all concurred.

Thomas Montemagni, School Board Chair, will meet with the Select Board to request the rental increase. The next scheduled meeting is on January 23, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Stratton town office.

An increase of \$96,000 to the school revenue will reduce the total expenses for the year and will adjust the **Estimated School Tax Rate to \$1.61.**

The 2017/2018 School Budget will be voted on at Town Meeting Day scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2017.

As there was no other business, Lorraine Newell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Tom Montemagni seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell".

Lorraine M. Weeks-Newell
Stratton School Board Clerk