

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, New Hampshire**

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD

Selectmen's Advisory Committee

**Thursday, September 24, 2015
7:00 p.m.
SAU #1**

Minutes

Present: Scott Carbee, John Jordan, Barbara Miller, Carl Newton, Gail Cromwell, Myron Steere, Janine Lesser, Jerome Wilson, Rich Cahoon

John Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Accept Minutes – June 25, 2015

Gail Cromwell moved to accept the minutes of June 25, 2015. Scott Carbee second. Unanimous.

2. Goals

Discussion took place about the cost of living and other factors in terms of keeping town employees whole.

Myron Steere reported that holding the school district budget flat is anticipated excluding the teacher's contract. A return of \$714,000 from the school budget was realized.

Myron Steere asked for consideration for roofing money for the elementary schools which are nearing 20 years old. There is an opportunity for towns to get their school buildings before money is put into them. As an example, Temple has 43 students in it resulting in it being expensive to run. John Jordan said that the elementary school study committee found that the savings to close a school is approximately \$300,000. Myron further said that the current population of elementary school students could be educated in three schools.

John Jordan said that transportation would be expensive.

Scott Carbee said that the solution is for the Monadnock Region to stop the "not in my back yard" approach. We need to attract jobs, industry, and young families.

John Jordan said that Hancock is anti-business.

3. Capital Plan

Proposed Capital Expenditure information was shared from 2016 to 2021. Approximately \$10M dollars is proposed for this period of time. Figures are rough estimates. Security estimates near \$2M. \$2M is projected for a bond in this plan in 2018.

Janine Lesser urged those present to tour the high school citing antiquated classrooms lacking full walls.

Jerome Wilson noted that the corner points and exterior areas such as the cafeteria, library, gymnasium and Perkins Fund ATC space have been renovated. Other areas are lacking.

Myron Steere spoke about potential technology initiatives that would have associated demands.

Janine Lesser spoke about the Strategic Planning process underway.

Barbara Miller said that people in Peterborough are looking for decisions on school closings and investigating options to pull out of the district.

Rich Cahoon reported that the board will investigate soft borders in greater detail. When the Strategic Plan survey was administered, soft borders was a popular point of interest.

Gail Cromwell said that middle school consolidation would be a big savings. This could be done without a vote. Discussion took place about the ATC Programs and how some felt it was lacking in service to our students. Pellet boilers were discussed as well as biomass and gas for potential savings.

4. Student Population Changes, Additional Teachers

Student population information was shared.

It was noted that there was a reduction in high school student enrollment but no change in staffing.

Myron Steere said that the budget will be looked at from the bottom up again this year.

5. Broadband Development

Barbara Miller said that the Economic Development Committee has taken a broadband study on in Peterborough. A survey will tell us what we have and what the level of satisfaction is. What is needed will also be sought. Who are the service providers that can provide it? The survey will go live October 5th. Much more negotiating power would be had if this was multi-town. Peterborough wants to include all of the towns in the survey. Data will be broken out by town. It is an online survey.

Barbara Miller asked for help in promoting the survey. One part of the survey will allow survey participants to gain knowledge about the service provided in their towns as well. Barbara Miller handed out information about Broadband 101. Four communication companies have been met with. She said that broadband is wanted sooner than later.

6. Health Insurance

Myron Steere said that health insurance is being researched. Towns were asked to be kept up to date.

7. State Budget and Downshifting

Scott Carbee suggested a joint meeting of the School Board and State Representatives.

8. Other

Gail Cromwell motioned to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Second. Unanimous.

The next Selectmen's Advisory Committee meeting was set for October 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok