

CONTOOCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Notice of Public Hearing

Tuesday, October 18, 2022
7:05 p.m.

SAU #1
106 Hancock Road
Peterborough, NH 03458

Minutes

In accordance with RSA 197:3-a, a public hearing will be held by the Contoocook Valley School Board to discuss and consider whether to propose an increase of appropriations for the 2022-2023 school year budget or to offset local taxation based on the District's receipt of additional adequacy funding in the form of an Extraordinary Need Grant pursuant to Senate Bill 420 and RSA 198:41. Following the public hearing the Board shall make a final determination whether to proceed with a special meeting.

Janine Lesser, ConVal School Board Chair, called the hearing to order at 7:12 p.m.

Janine Lesser reported that the purpose of receiving these funds is to offset taxation.

Dr. Kimberly Saunders, ConVal Superintendent, reported that we have \$131,075.16 unanticipated revenue in the way of extraordinary need grant funds.

Dr. Saunders said that the Board needs to accept them.

Then, the board needs to decide if they want, based on SB420, to go back to the towns, which is the initial intent. There were requests by some districts to spend these funds. ConVal did not request to spend the funds.

If ConVal decided to spend it, they would be accepting unanticipated funds. Because the intent was to go back to the towns, within the law, there would be a need to hold a Special Meeting in order to appropriate the funds. It is the strong recommendation of the administration to accept it and return it to the towns and not appropriate the dollars.

Janine Lesser asked for public comment.

Mike Borden, Town of Greenfield Selectman, said that he understands that this money will only go to the five poorest communities. It is not a lot of money. The issue is what it will do should a special meeting be called. It will set the ability to set tax rates back quite a bit. If towns cannot set tax rates it will impact the ability for towns to pay bills.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the funds with the understanding that they would be returned to the communities.

Kevin Pobst seconded.

Janine Lesser said that the funds would be returned to four communities and not five.

Any discussion of the board?

Jim Fredrickson asked if it is acceptable to join the motions or should they be separate.

Kimberly Saunders said that she did not see why it would be a problem but understood the question.

Jim Fredrickson asked Dick Dunning to consider revising his motion

Dick Dunning withdrew his motion. Kevin Pobst withdrew his second.

Dick Dunning moved to accept the funds as presented in the amount of \$131,075.16.

Kevin Pobst seconded.

Janine Lesser asked if there was any further discussion. There was none.

In favor: Unanimous.

Jim Fredrickson moved to return the extraordinary needs funds to the towns.

Stephen Ullman seconded.

Janine Lesser asked if there was any further Board comment.

Doug Sutherland asked if there was anything else that we should know about these funds.

Kimberly Saunders said that the State of NH has tried to avoid any increase to base adequacy except minimally. One way to do that is through extraordinary needs grants. It provides dollars to those towns that are considered the poorest in terms of the ability to raise taxes. Adequacy is not adequate and continues the ongoing issue of not receiving enough money. This allows the State to move money around and increase or decrease it as funds are available. One way that funds can be used is through providing Education Freedom Accounts.

In favor: Unanimous.

Janine Lesser called the Public Hearing to a close at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok