

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

CONTOOCCOOK VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUDGET & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

5:45 p.m.

Physical Location: SAU Finch Room

Minutes

Committee Members:

- Alan Edelkind
- Jim Fredrickson
- Katherine Heck
- Mike Hoyt
- Greg Kriebel

Present: Jim Fredrickson, Alan Edelkind, Katherine Heck, Mike Hoyt, Greg Kriebel, Dick Dunning, Tim Grossi, Brian Cisneros, Dr. Kimberly Saunders

1. Call meeting to Order

Jim Fredrickson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. Approval of December 19, 2023 Minutes

Greg Kriebel moved to approve the minutes of December 19, 2023. Mike Hoyt seconded. Unanimous.

3. Review Capital Improvement Plans

Brian Cisneros reported that when he was conducting the mid-year financial review, he looked for tools in his toolbox to help. A cash balance of just over \$12M exists with a \$9M average balance. Brian said that we have funds that can be utilized and be deposited such that it fits our policy. Security, liquidity, and value needs will be met. Additional funds could be earned through investment to ease the taxpayers and do what can be done. We cannot spend more but we can hold it, utilize it to replenish trust funds, or return it to taxpayers. Brian said that he would like to hold \$1M or \$2M in this account. Short term rates are higher than long term rates right now.

Katherine Heck said that a bigger conversation is needed. RSA 197:23A guides that the funds are held with the treasurer. The Treasurer shall invest with the School Board. The public insurance pool does not have FDIC insurance nor is it collateralized. We need to protect taxpayer dollars.

Katherine further said that we could look at a 30-day CD ladder. When we look at the PDIP investment tool, there has not been significant changes in over 30 years. Katherine shared what would be needed with this pool. It is important to know the rules and parameters. Katherine shared several scenario possibilities where redemptions might be frozen. Entering the pool causes you to own a share. If the pool dips, it has an impact. She suggested money markets or 30 day CD's as a better alternative for risk. Our policy DFA allows the treasurer to use this pool. Having collateralized and 100% guaranteed investments is critical. She cautioned against the pool.

Brian Cisneros said that other districts invest absent FDIC insurance; they are investments.

Discussion took place.

Katherine Heck said that this was a pool created 30 years ago.

Kimberly Saunders said that she and Brian will look at present legislation and return with recommendations. Ultimately, it is a board decision. There are ways for us to leverage the investment; maybe the pool and complimentary CD's.

Brian said that liquidity is part of the plan and CD's are less liquid. Katherine cited 30-day CD opportunities.

Jim Fredrickson said that we should look at some kind of CD ladder. If you manage it properly, we can make more money.

Greg Kriebel thanked Brian for bringing this forward. He said that a 30 CD allows some liquidity. Taxpayers are a little shy when it comes to investing.

Katherine Heck said that we have limited ways in which we can invest money in NH. CD's and money markets are okay. Others are prohibited.

Jim said that looking at other alternatives will be investigated.

4. Review Trust Fund Plans

- including public hearing dates and investment guidance

Jim Fredrickson said that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Summary Trust files have been combined. Trust projections are updated monthly.

The "Projects" tab needs to be looked at.

Tim Grossi said that the Peterborough Elementary School Gym Roof needs to be looked at. He estimated the need for \$340K.

Trust Fund projections will be reviewed. A Trust Fund balance of \$4.3M can be invested in part. Guidance can be given to the Trustees.

Tim Grossi shared a significant failure on the PES Gym Roof. A seam let loose and the rubber was discovered to be thin in sections. It will fail. It caused the gym to shut down for nearly two weeks. ARM Consultants gave an engineering quote in the amount of \$17,716.20. Bids for the work would go out from there.

Tim Grossi reported the ability to purchase vehicles recently at a cost less than anticipated.

Jim Fredrickson made updates and read a \$4,377,000 trust balance.

The trust investment balance page reflects a \$4,246,000 projected balance at the end of this school year.

Jim shared logic using balances and projected balances out to a \$2,727,000 fund balance. He said that a good number to give to the trustees to invest is what he is trying to get at.

He would like the guidelines to be reviewed to look at investment strategies.

Jim said that what is needed is to look at the projects tab to column on public hearing data and consider what needs to be scheduled.

A Public Hearing will be needed for the Engineering Study for the roof.

Tim Grossi provided a quick update on needs that would require a Public Hearing.

Jim asked about a soil analysis at South Meadow School. Tim Grossi said no action needed at this time.

Public Hearing needs were reviewed.

5. Other

Tim Grossi reported that CPower is a company that specializes in helping businesses to take power off the grid during peak times. He met with the company. It costs nothing to sign up and you will get paid for power taken off the grid.

Kimberly Saunders said that she would like to spend time looking at this. She understands that you either have that kind of meter or you don't and that power can be pulled from us.

Tim Grossi shared what he has been told.

Kimberly said that she would like to dig in a little more to compare.

Jim Fredrickson said that if it is optional we should look at it.

Dick Dunning said that a proposed agreement should be reviewed.

Tim Grossi said that it has nothing to do with the solar panels.

6. Adjourn

Katherine Heck motioned to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Greg Kriebel seconded. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Marschok