

Surry School District
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2020

Board Members Present:

Timothy Peloquin, Frank Buffum, Melinda Garland, John Davis, Caroll Lothrop
Nancy Callendar, Moderator, Beth Leinau, Assistant District Clerk, Rebecca Russo, Treasurer

Call to Order: 7:01PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of Annual Warrant and Election Results.

73 town citizens cast votes out of approximately 615.

Caroll Lothrop and Timothy Peloquin were voted in for 3-year terms as School Board Members.

Elizabeth Leinau was voted in for a 3-year term as District Clerk.

Rebecca Russo was voted in for a 3-year term as District Treasurer

Article 1: Report of District Officers

To hear the reports of the District Officers.

(Included in the Town Report distributed to the town.)

John Berglund, motion.

Larry Levesque, second.

No discussion, accepted unanimously.

Article 2: Main Operating Budget

To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,612,073 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District Officials and Agents, and for the payment of the Statutory Obligations of the District for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year.

John Berglund, motion.

Wayne Brown, second.

Tim Peloquin gave a brief presentation on the history of the school district and its budget.

Jennifer Shepherdson asked if the tax increase will be 30% again. Caroll Lothrop said yes. Shepherdson notes that this is not sustainable. Tim Peloquin agreed, but explained that our options are limited.

Jay Croteau, Selectman, notes that this is a problem that needs to be solved at the state level. Committees are working to solve this problem. In the meantime, the Selectmen are working to cut costs for the town wherever they can. A solution is at least two years away.

Michael Powers asked about the costs involved in reopening the school. Tim Peloquin described the processes required to reopen the school for the town of Surry and how it is prohibitive.

Wayne Brown noted the graph in the Town Report. He asked if the school district has asked about withholding money raised for the state. Tim Peloquin responded that the school district does not pay the state anything.

Jennifer Shepherdson asked if there was any way we can reduce this budget. Tim Peloquin stated that the tuition rate is what it is and the district must pay its bills.

No further discussion. Nancy Callendar re-read the article. Motion passed.

Article 3: Terms

To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting.

Beth Leinau asked about the charter school and its enrollment process and if the board would ask Surry Village School to place Surry students at the very top of the list.

Jameson Heinz asked the board to give a yes or no answer to this question. Timothy Peloquin said no and stated that the board was hesitant to assert itself beyond its current involvement.

Caroll Lothrop said she works with Director Matora Fiorey every year to determine what children are going to SVC and do not need to be included in the School District Budget. The SVC policy is siblings are first priority then Surry children second. The issue is that for grades one and above, there has to be an opening. In Kindergarten, every year, every Surry child who has wanted to go, got in.

Tim Small said that teacher's children get priority over siblings.

7:32 - Nancy Callendar asked for a motion to adjourn the School District Meeting in order to open the Town Meeting, then adjourn the Town Meeting in order to finish the School Board Meeting.

7:34, Motion to reopen the School District Meeting, Bruce Smith. Second, Tim Small.

Tim Small believes that policies have changed and Surry students are now at the bottom of the list. Timothy Peloquin disagrees.

Rebecca Russo noted that there are a variety of schooling options for Surry students beyond tuitioning to Keene, including VLACS.

Bruce Smith, Motion to close the meeting

John Berglund, seconded.

Meeting closed at 7:39.