

Town of Williamsburg

Minutes of the Finance Committee Williamsburg Town Offices 2 April 2014

Members Present: Charlie Heath, Paul Wetzel, Richard Kisloski, Linda Rowley, Eric Cerreta, Chris Morris
Town Administrator Charlene Nardi was also present.

Members Absent: Kim Boas, Jacqueline Defresne, Robert Buchele

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Paul Wetzel at 7:07 p.m.

The Committee met with representatives of the Elementary School and Hampshire Regional District to discuss the 2014 budget figures. The following people represented the Elementary School: David Chase, Sarah Christensen, Kayla Solomon (all School Board members) and Stacy Jenkins (Elementary Principal). Cindy Landers and Bobbie Jones represented the Hampshire Regional.

Stacy Jenkins began the presentation. Projected total enrollment at the Williamsburg elementary is 155 students, nearly the same as the 154 students enrolled in 2013. However, 20 students that live in the Town participate in School Choice and attend other schools at a cost of \$125,000 to the Town. An additional 16 students attended Charter schools in 2014 at a cost of \$189,000 to the Town. Thus, the Town spent a total of \$314,000 paying for Williamsburg students to attend other schools in 2014. The Town had only one school choice student enrolled in 2014, increasing the school revenue by \$5000.

The Williamsburg Elementary school requested an increase of \$128,302 for their 2015 budget. The large increase is because school choice revenues from the previous three years have been slowly used to cover shortfalls in the taxation revenue. In 2014, school choice funds of \$86,646 were used to balance the school budget. There will be no school choice funds available for the 2015 budget. An increase of \$92,369 was requested for salaries. Of this amount ~\$22,000 represented contractual increases and \$13,000 represented salary for new positions. These new positions included the addition of an adult during school lunch, an additional 2 hours per week for a custodian, a teacher to teach world languages for 1 day per week, and instrumental music instruction for 0.5 days per week. An increase of \$19,644 for transportation was also requested. Additional funds for maintenance and administration totaling \$16,289 were also requested.

Representatives from Williamsburg Elementary stressed that 2015 was a significant year with a chance to begin regaining money leaving the town with school choice and charter school students. The new school will be completed in the fall of 2014, offering Williamsburg and other hill town families a state-of-the art educational facility. In addition, the charter school in Haydenville will be moving to Easthampton and some Williamsburg families may be unwilling to drive their children there. The School Committee feels that the combination of a new school and the nominal cost of offering

instruction in instrumental music and world languages will encourage families to keep their children in the Williamsburg Elementary and reduce the cost of school choice and charter school funding.

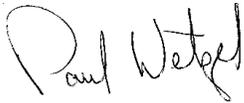
The total requested budget for the Hampshire Regional School District for FY 2014—2015 was \$12,393,332 an increase of 2.32% over last year's budget. The Town of Williamsburg proposed 2015 assessment is \$1,202,295, an increase of \$6,477 over last year.

The meeting minutes from the meeting held 12 February 2014 were reviewed. Eric Cerreta moved to approve the minutes; Richard Kisloski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Finance Committee meeting date was set for 16 April 2014 at 7:00.

There being no further business before the Committee, Eric Cerreta moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Charlie Heath. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wetzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and "W".

Paul R. Wetzel