

**Town of Goshen  
Budget Committee Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 18, 2013**

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Present: Robert Bell, William “Chip” Ball, Ed Andersen, Jr., Don Bailey, Doug O’Clair, Ann O’Clair, Fred Smith, Lilyan Wright, Chris Moen, Ronald Kempton, Barbara Paronto, John Scranton, Bea Jillette, Trisha LaBossiere, Peta Brennan, Sherman O’Brien, Allen Howe, Cindy Williams, Tracey Bevilacqua, Kevin Bevilacqua, Jan Parmalee, Steve Belden, Bonnie Belden, Linda Janicke, Jean Barrett, Cindy Rouillard. Dr Michelle Munson, Kelly Tracey, Christine Downing.

The meeting came to order at 6:00pm.

- John Scranton, School Board member stated the meeting is not a public hearing. There are many rumors that need to be addressed regarding the school withdrawal information.
- Kelly Tracy, stated there are 2 Selectmen, 2 school board members and 2 residents from each town forms the withdrawal committee. The committee is formed to discuss the financial implications if Goshen chooses to withdraw from the school. The committee initially looked at several different schools that would take all the children. Newport, Sunapee and possibly Kearsarge . The committee will continue to work with numbers regarding this. There will be new numbers for Newport’s tuition for the committee meeting to review tomorrow night. There is a December 20<sup>th</sup> deadline to have a formal decision for the state for withdrawal committee’s recommendations. Over the next several weeks the committee will decide if it is feasible and suitable to have Goshen withdraw and what the financial implications would be. The Committee also is studying to see what the implications for Lempster would be. The committee wants to find the best fit for everybody. The cost of tuition per student:

<b>Newport – K-5</b>	<b>\$13,085 per student</b>
<b>6-8</b>	<b>\$13,315per student</b>
<b>Sunapee</b>	<b>\$18,500 per student</b>

***The figures do not include busing and special education.***

- Peta Brennan asked why the Goshen school board members approved article 8 to have it placed on the school warrant. Goshen was not given the proper information for the vote. Kelly stated it wasn’t an approval of the vote but approval to have the article put on the school warrant. Allen Howe stated there is no information stating the vote was taken at any school board meeting. Cindy R. stated when the town has a petition warrant article the Selectmen and budget committee do not have any recommendations. Dr. Munson stated it was an error to have a recommendation put on the article.

- Barbara stated the town felt like it was blindsided because Lempster Selectmen did not come to the Goshen Selectmen to discuss the article prior to putting it on the warrant. Fred Smith stated there were rumors going around the Judge has ruled to reconsider for a special school meeting would be held within. Kelly stated the Judge only took out one line regarding his reconsideration. The Judge threw it back at the School Board for a decision. Kelly stated the School Board held a meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> and voted not to hold a special meeting because they didn't want to have the people come to a meeting just say the State already made the change and it cannot be changed back. Barbara asked why it could not be changed. Kelly said there is a 5 year stipulation that once an allocation has been changed it cannot be again changed for 5 years. Peta asked if the Selectmen would appeal. Bob stated that a 5 year stipulation does not apply to reconsideration. The Town Attorney sent a letter to the school's Attorney regarding the Judge's decision. Bob stated this is the first he has heard about the decision not to hold the special meeting. Fred stated at the Goshen Town Meeting that majority voted to move forward with the withdrawal study. Fred hopes Goshen's two School Board members recognize that majority rules and they need to back their Town. Allen Howe suggested that a warrant article could be written to have a Capital Reserve Fund for the sole purpose for tuition fees. At the end of the year the funds would carry over if not spent.
- Barbara asked if there were any major issues with this year's budget. Cindy stated the legal budget would be over due to article 8 and the withdrawal study.
- The budget committee reviewed the health benefits for 2014. Cindy explained there are 2 different policy's for health benefits. Barbara asked Cindy to get the breakdown for the policy. and further discussion would be needed.
- Barbara stated she thought the meetings starting in December were worth doing again for the 2014 budget. Cindy stated she does not have many budgets as of yet but will contact each department to let them know their budgets would be needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.