

**Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance**

Minutes to Meeting of December 7, 2016

Members Present

J. Millar, Chairman
R. Carfiro
T. Corvo
D. Johnstone
M. Klimkosky
M. Neal

Absent

None

Others Present

None

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. Reviewed the 2017 meeting calendar and contact list. M. Neal moved to accept the calendar as presented. Second, T. Corvo. Passed unanimously.
2. D. Johnstone noted that the minutes of October 19 did not mention a discussion about the salaries of Colebrook town employees (particularly those with certification requirements) that might be out of line with salaries paid by other towns in the region. J. Millar will follow up with the T. McKeon and encourage the Selectmen to address this issue in their 2017-18 budget at their discretion.
3. D. Johnstone then moved to accept the minutes of October 19, 2016. Second, M. Klimkosky. Passed with the abstentions of T. Corvo and R. Carfiro who were not present.
4. J. Millar reviewed a recent meeting with J. Jones, B. Adams, and D. Thibodeau about CCS budget priorities. The Board of Education is concerned that paraprofessional salaries (like those in item 2 above) may not be competitive with other towns in the region; also that many of the books in the school library, particularly reference books, are badly out of date. Expansion of the enrichment program was a third topic. The Board of Education was encouraged to address these issues in their 2017-18 budget, even though it's too early to predict where the overall process will end up.
5. J. Millar also reviewed a meeting at Region 7 about their 2017-18 budget. Several factors will likely cause an increase in the 3-4% range: (i) four new special ed outplacements costing about \$400,000, (ii) a 2.5% to 3.0% increase in certified salaries under the new teachers' contract, (iii) possible cutbacks to Excess Cost Sharing and other aid in light of the State's fiscal situation, and (iv) a 0.03% increase to Colebrook's share of the budget, reversing declines in three of the past four years.
6. There was nothing to report about the Wind Colebrook South lawsuit, which is still in the pretrial phase. The next court appearance is scheduled for mid-February.
7. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, T. Corvo. Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal
Secretary