

**Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance**

Minutes to Meeting of February 19, 2020

Members Present

J. Millar
D. Johnstone
K. Kennedy
M. Neal

Absent

R. Carfiro
T. Corvo

Others Present

H. Carfiro
D. Thibodeau

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. D. Thibodeau, Superintendent, presented the Board of Education's 2020-21 budget that proposes an increase of 3% to \$2,038,015 over the prior year. Driving the increase is a \$110,000 special education outplacement and \$9,000 more for special ed transportation. These increases are partially offset by (i) fewer hours for the part time art, music, and physical education teachers as permitted by declining enrollment; (ii) elimination of a paraprofessional position; (iii) changing the school's law firm and healthcare insurer; and (iv) retirement of the school secretary and bookkeeper, whose replacements will work fewer hours and not require healthcare benefits. In addition, the teachers agreed to forego step increases next year and salaries of the superintendent and principal will remain unchanged.
2. Under current revenue and expense assumptions, including a 7% increase for the Selectmen, a shortfall of \$45,250 is expected in 2020-21. However, the option to cover this shortfall from reserves is a possibility, as the latest audit shows that reserves are well above the Board's 20% target.
3. D. Johnstone moved to accept the minutes of December 19, 2019. Second, J. Millar. Passed with the abstention of K. Kennedy who was absent.
4. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, K. Kennedy. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal
Secretary