

Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance
Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 16, 2022

Members Present

D. Bielefield
T. Hiller
T McKeon
M. Neal
D. Wilber

Absent

J. Millar

Others

C. Johnstone, Selectman
R. Gilbert, CCS
A. Bakulski, BOE

1. The meeting was called to order by M. Neal at 6:01 p.m.

2. B. Gilbert, Superintendent of Colebrook Consolidated School presented the 2022-23 Budget. The budget was approved by the Board of Education at their February meeting. The budget of \$2,194,281.00 is a 5.9% increase from the 21-22 Budget. The increases are influenced by the following:
 - Teacher negotiations and attending legal fees,
 - 3% salary increases, except Bookkeeper (27%) and Paraprofessionals (5%) and Librarian
 - Special Ed increase (49.4%), and Special Ed transportation
 - Computer support and Cyber Security requirements per Cyber Audit by insurance company which include teacher training and additional software.B. Gilbert and A. Bakulski (President of CCS BOE) answered questions regarding the various budget line items. Salary increases were explained as necessary to attract and keep competent personnel which has been a problem. Some members of the BOF expressed concern about the size of the increase in the CCS budget. No action was taken on the CCS budget and B. Gilbert agreed to return to the BOF on March 16 if there were more questions. A. Bakulski offered to take members of the BOF on a tour of the school at a mutually agreeable time.

3. Members reviewed the proposed municipal aid from the Governors proposed 22-23 Budget.

4. C. Johnstone, First Selectman gave an overview of the 22-23 Capital Improvement Plan. The budget of \$450,00 was approved by the CIP on February 10,2022. The CIP includes roof replacement at CCS and Center Firehouse, a new fire truck, new plow truck, road and bridge repairs and technology replacement at CCS. No action was taken by the BOF at this time.

5. T. McKeon moved to accept the minutes of February 2, 2022. Second D. Wilber. D. Wilber, T. McKeon, D. Bielefield and M. Neal, yes. (T. Hiller excused at 6:45)

6. T. McKeon moved to adjourn, second D. Bielefield, passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully submitted, Martha Neal, Secretary