

**Town of Colebrook
Board of Finance**

Minutes to Special Meeting of September 21, 2022

Members Present

J. Millar
D. Bielefield
T. McKeon
M. Neal
D. Wilber

Absent

T. Hiller

Others Present

C. Johnstone
A. Bakulski
R. Gilbert
And several others

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman J. Millar.

1. R. Gilbert, Superintendent of the Colebrook Consolidated School, presented a \$1.8 million proposal for a new HVAC system at the school. A grant from the state may be available for up to 47% of the project cost. Applications for the grant are due December 1, 2022 and require that the town be committed to its share of the cost. The ensuing discussion centered on several issues: funding for the town's share; timing, given existing commitments to purchase a new fire truck and complete several bridge repairs; the need for proposals from contractors to validate cost estimates; and the possibility of lower cost options. Following the discussion D. Bielefield moved, and M. Neal seconded, to recommend the proposal to the town for approval at referendum, subject to being awarded a grant that would limit the town's share of the cost to \$1 million or less. The motion was defeated 3 to 2, with Messrs. Millar, Wilber, and McKeon voting against, and M. Neal and D. Bielefield voting for.
2. Subsequent discussion left the door open to another meeting to reconsider the motion after obtaining additional information about the issues mentioned above.
3. J. Millar moved to accept the minutes of August 17, 2022. Second, T. McKeon. Passed with the exception of D. Bielefield, who was absent.
4. M. Neal moved to adjourn. Second, J. Millar. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha F. Neal
Secretary