

**MINUTES**  
**SCARBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY – JULY 22, 2015**  
**SPECIAL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

**Item 1. Call to Order.** Council Chair Holbrook called the regular meeting of the Scarborough Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Item 3. Roll Call.** The roll was called by Yolande P. Justice, Town Clerk. Thomas J. Hall, Town Manager was also present.

Shawn A. Babine	Katherine A. St. Clair
William J. Donovan	Edward NMI Blaise, III
Jean-Marie Caterina, Council Vice Chair	Pete F. Hayes
Jessica L. Holbrook, Council Chair	

Prior to public comments Council Chair Holbrook made a few opening remarks with regards to the elected officials meeting – both the Town Council and the Board of Education – in reaching a middle ground. She noted that \$70,000 would be recommended to be added back to the School Budget. With this recommendation – there would be shared burden by both the Town and the School. She then introduced the Chair of the School’s Finance Committee - Chris Caiazzo.

Chris Caiazzo – Chair of the School’s Finance Committee commented on the leadership of both boards working together on reaching a compromise on the School Budget. There needs to be a solution reached for the better of the community. Both the Council and the Board agree that the budget process is flawed. He urged the Council to approve the recommended amendment.

**Order No. 15-056, 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing and second reading on the proposed FY2016 School Budget.** Council Chair Holbrook opened the public hearing. The following individuals spoke on this Order:

- Amy Glidden of Ash Swamp Road stated that she voted in June on the school budget and was surprised that it did not pass, but more than that she was discouraged to learn that not many of Scarborough residents had not voted. She commented on the new group that had formed to energize the community noting that they were here to stay. She urged the Council to support the \$250,000 to be added back to the School Budget.
- Katie Fellows of Orchard Street spoke on the budget how the cuts have affected her children. She was proud to be a member of the “sea of red” and we are here to stay.
- Bray Thurlow 14 Freedom Road spoke on the budget and thanked the Council for the work on restoring the funds to support the schools. There are needs that the current budget does not meet. He referenced a study where small classrooms vs large classroom and the outcome in the progress of the students involved in the study. We need to invest in our schools.
- Sophia Durdag of Haystack Circle spoke on the school budget. If items get cut schools would not be fun. The schools need funding and urged the Town Council to add more money back to the school budget.
- Emma Hartley of Black Point Road was an incoming Senior and had been in the system her entire time. Students need the same opportunities that she had coming up through the system. Please fund full level services.
- Will Rowen of Bonnie Brook Drive stated that he did not want to see anyone lose their homes because of taxes. He compared the current elections with past elections. He felt that \$250,000

was still low. With the extra money coming in the School still does not get any extra. Strong schools make a town more attractive. He felt that the Town Council should fully restore the school budget.

- Sara Mullen of Gunstock Road spoke on the school budget. She stated that we compete with other municipalities for families to move to. Our schools are not getting any better and the publicity that we have been getting is not good. If more and more programs are cut, families will not move here. However, the \$250,000 is a good compromise.
- Anne Valente of Sage Brush Drive noted that her sister, who lives in northern Maine, commented on what was going on in Scarborough. Ms. Valente stated that she teaches in another community and could have taken her sons with her, but thought they would be better off here; now she wonders if she made the right decision. She would gladly support a tax increase.
- Ruth Hemming of Howard Lane thanked all who was involved in reaching a solution. She spoke on the senior population and their financial hardships they go through. We cannot afford to not support our schools.
- Wayne Keller of Schooner Road noted that we chose Scarborough in 2005. Then moved out of state and after a few years we moved back to Scarborough because of the school system. We need to preserve our school and we need to consider it a priority.
- Robin Trombly of Pondview Drive noted that she had looked up the word democracy, it means for the people, by the people and is clear that the majority rules. She would not support anything but level services. Hopefully, the majority will rule. I will pay attention from this point forward.
- Deborah Fusch-Ertman of Fairway Drive spoke on how there are those all over who have financial needs. She shared a handout that she had developed which list services that could assist individuals. She suggested that this information be posted on the website and made available to the public.
- Alex Maybarduk of Bayberry Lane stated that having a better school system means a better return on his home.
- Amy Scooter of Jana Lane thanked the Council for their service and hoped that we could come together for a compromise. She also supported the \$250,000 being added back in the budget. The extra activity is very important, it helps students in developing who they are and become.
- Tina Pettingill of Hunter Point Drive thanked the Council and the Board for all their work. We do not have a spending problem, but a funding problem. We are ready to be part of the healing of Scarborough.
- David Tate of Rye Field Drive stated that he is really cheap; but when it comes to spending money on my children, I would pay. He wondered why this conversation was about the School - there is an entire town budget. They had bought a house here because of the schools.
- Liam Somers of Holmes Road spoke on the education that he had growing up. He then went on to review the numbers of the school budget over the past few years. He then stated the there should be discussions on what the future needs are for the school and the town.
- Dr. Julie Muller of Ottawa Woods Road had wanted to address the “Goldie Locks” issue, but that was a moot point. She did not feel that Scarborough was not a town divided. We did not come out on the first vote and we need to have continued discussions.
- Larry Hartwell of Puritan Drive spoke on the school budget and the cuts that the school purposed. He would support the compromise.

- Zakia Nelson of 18 Fairway Drive spoke on the budget and asked that the council reconsider the “Goldie Locks” question and add it back to the ballot. This is data that needs to be collected and wondered why the decision was made to remove it.
- Lexi Jamieson of Kerryman Circle spoke on behalf of the Key Club and other groups at the school. She asked the Town Council to reconsider the school budget and add back full funding.
- Hillary Durgin of Sequoia Lane spoke on the budget and felt that there should be a compromise, but not at the expense of the students
- Stacey Neuman of Windsor Pines Drive spoke on the budget and asked that it be a unanimous decision. She thanked the School Board and the parents for all their work. We should support the compromise.
- Omer Durdag of Haystack Circle stated that he had failed to hear from the Town Council on how you would handled this next year. What is your vision; how will you get it done? Where is the can do spirit and the Town Council has an obligation to the community. Where are the tools that would be used next year?
- Katie Foley of Lucky Lane felt that the town worked hard and she does have a vision – we could have capital fund raising events to raise money. We need to work together to get where we need to be.
- Kim Bridgham of Spurwink Road stated that the first vote failed because parents did not get out to vote. She would support a \$250,000 dollar cut.

There being no further comments either for or against, Council Chair Holbrook closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

Motion by Councilor Donovan, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval of the second reading on the proposed FY2016 Municipal/School Budget.

Motion by Council Chair Holbrook, seconded by Councilor Babine, to move approval to amend the main motion on the FY2016 Municipal/School Budget as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Scarborough Town Council adopted FY2016 Operational and Capital Budgets for the Town and the School on May 20, 2015, with the passage of Order No. 15-026 and subsequently adopted an amended school budget on June 24, 2015 with the adoption of Order No. 15-048; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to State law, the School Budget must be validated by the voters and it failed at Special Elections held on June 9, 2015 and July 7, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council must resubmit an adjusted School Budget to the Voters for validation no less than ten (10) days and no more than forty-five (45) days from July 7, 2015; the date of the next School Budget Validation referendum is set for August 4, 2015; and,

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to reach a compromise the Town Council appreciates the need to share in the responsibility of minimizing the impact on the property tax rate and therefore agrees to amend the FY2016 Municipal Budget.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, that the Scarborough Town Council moves approval of the amended Fiscal Year 2016 Town and School Budget in second reading; and,

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that School Budget be increased by a total of ~~\$180,000~~ \$250,000 and therefore the Scarborough Town Council hereby appropriates, for school purposes, the Education Operating Budget, the new sum of ~~\$43,473,756~~ \$43,543,756, and that the additional GPA allocation of

\$884,891 be included as School revenue, resulting in the Town of Scarborough raising the sum of ~~\$37,589,488~~ \$37,659,488, as the local share for the Education Operating Budget.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Town Budget is hereby amended to include an additional \$200,000 in Excise Tax Revenue and to reduce Town appropriations by \$180,000, details of specific cuts to be recommended by the Town Manager and approved by the Finance Committee, for a new Operating Budget of \$30,505,367, resulting in the local share for the municipal budget, the sum of \$17,391,450.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the final result of these changes produces a new Total Net Budget of ~~\$57,760,277~~ \$57,830,277, resulting in a projected property tax rate increase of 2.89%.

Vote on amendment: 7 Yeas.

Vote on Main Motion as Amended:

**WHEREAS**, the Scarborough Town Council adopted FY2016 Operational and Capital Budgets for the Town and the School on May 20, 2015, with the passage of Order No. 15-026 and subsequently adopted an amended school budget on June 24, 2015 with the adoption of Order No. 15-048; and,

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**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the Town Budget is hereby amended to include an additional \$200,000 in Excise Tax Revenue and to reduce Town appropriations by \$180,000, details of specific cuts to be recommended by the Town Manager and approved by the Finance Committee, for a new Operating Budget of \$30,505,367, resulting in the local share for the municipal budget, the sum of \$17,391,450.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that the final result of these changes produces a new Total Net Budget of \$57,830,277, resulting in a projected property tax rate increase of 2.9%.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Babine - Yea

Councilor St. Clair - Yea

Councilor Donovan - Yea

Councilor Blaise - Yea

Councilor Caterina - Yea

Councilor Hayes - Yea

Council Chair Holbrook - Yea

**Item 4. Adjournment.** Motion by Councilor Babine, seconded by Councilor Caterina, to move approval to adjourn the Special meeting of the Scarborough Town Council.

Vote: 7 Yeas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolande P. Justice

Town Clerk