

DRAFT Minutes

**Dresden Finance Committee
Tracy Hall**

**Monday January 13, 2014
Norwich, VT**

Members present: Kristi Fenner (Chair), Heidi Postupack, Jona Roberts, Cheryl Lindberg, Mike Gerling, Jay Buckey, John Ruth

Community members present: Kevin Cotter (School Board representative)

Members absent: Mary Fowler, Daryl Press (there are 5 vacancies on the Norwich Committee)

There was no quorum present, therefore no official meeting or votes were held.

Items Discussed

There was a general discussion regarding the status of the Dresden budget.

Our Dresden statement of position is due January 28th. The Finance Committee needs to set a meeting for a quorum prior to the date in order to approve a position statement.

The Finance Committee Guideline was for a 3-3.5% increase in the budget expenditures. The proposed budget is currently estimated to come in at a 2.7% increase; estimated net assessment will be 5%.

The budgeted increase is estimated to be \$643,000; \$300,000 relates to additional staffing for special education items (1.2% impact on the budget).

There was a discussion as to whether per-pupil costs should be analyzed ex of Special Education costs.

It was noted that there will a separate warrant for an additional approximately \$200,000 softball field (anticipated to be financed over a 5-year period). If the debt service is added into the budget, the increase will be approximately 3.5%.

There was a straw poll of members regarding the feeling on the proposed Budget. Specific comments by various members were as follows:

- a. Difficult to support the budget since the members did not support the 3-year teachers' contract.
- b. The Board came in within the 3.0-3.5% corridor that the Finance Committee set, therefore several members would support the proposed budget
- c. There continues to be concern that the budgets are made against prior year's budgets rather than actuals and therefore concern about setting the corridor based on budget-to-budget comparisons. This year's budget while within the budget to budget corridor increase of 3.0-3.5% actual to budget expenditures are more in line with 5%, therefore, difficult to support.
- d. There was a question regarding the use of reserve funds.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Gerling 1/13/2014