



CITY OF DOVER

JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, Room 305
Meeting Date: **Monday, May 22, 2017**
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Council Present: Mayor Weston, Deputy Mayor Carrier, Councilor Ciotti, Councilor Greenshields, Councilor O'Connor, and Councilor Shanahan. Councilor Gagnon arrived at 7:20 pm. Councilor Gasses arrived at 7:25 pm.

School Board Present: Chairperson Amanda Russell, Vice-Chairperson Betsey Andrews Parker, Keith Holt, Matthew Lahr, Carolyn Mebert, Kathleen Morrison. Michelle Muffett-Lipinski left at 8:40 pm.

Absent: Councilor Thibodeaux.

Also Present: City Manager Joyal, Assistant City Manager Parker, General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop, Finance Director Lynch, Superintendent Arbour, Business Administrator Simmons, and City Clerk Lavertu.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 26, 2017

Deputy Mayor Carrier moved to approve the Minutes; seconded by Councilor Shanahan.
Vote: Unanimous.

3. CITIZENS FORUM

Chairperson Russell, seeing no one wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET CONTINGENCY PLAN

Chairperson Russell started a discussion on the contingency plan if the \$664,000 does not come through for full-day Kindergarten. She said that there was a NH Senate Finance Committee meeting last week that was not particularly favorable, and she wanted to discuss options on how the City and School can come up with the funds.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of legislative progress on the New Hampshire State budget and SB91. He said the New Hampshire House did not pass the budget. He said there might be some political maneuvering with supporting the full-day Kindergarten.

Chairperson Russell spoke about her concerns if only certain communities get funded. She said they have to hire teachers and purchase materials soon, and they need to know what direction the Council is leaning and if they will take action or not.

Vice-Chairperson Andrews Parker asked the Council for funding to show the teachers that they are supported.

Chairperson Russell said they need to know the direction the Council is leaning at this time. Superintendent Arbour gave an overview on the School Department's timeline regarding staffing.

School Board members discussed the need to get back to the level funding they had a few years ago to meet the basic requirements.



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Councilor Shanahan started a discussion on what action can be made at this meeting. He said the Council has already worked on the City's budget by making cuts.

Chairperson Russell talked about losing over ½ million dollars in the School's budget. She said there is no fat in their budget.

City Manager Joyal recommended writing a letter to the legislature in support of funding full-day Kindergarten.

Vice Chairperson Andrews Parker moved to have the Mayor and School Board Chairperson draft a letter to the New Hampshire Legislature; seconded by Councilor O'Connor.

Vote: Unanimous.

Mayor Weston recommended they all call the legislators too.

B. SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S REVENUE

Chairperson Russell gave an overview of the School Department's Revenue and where it comes from. She discussed the enrollment and said it has been approximately 4,000 students per year over the past 10 years. She said now it's made up of more Dover students than from other communities, which causes the tuition revenue to go down, but the costs to be the same.

Mayor Weston asked about other revenue options. She talked about grants and said she would forward information to the School Board regarding federal grants. She asked the School Board to educate the Council on what's happening with revenues.

Superintendent Arbour gave an overview on the status of several grants that the School is receiving and applying for.

Councilor Gasses started a discussion about the increase of commercial property in Dover.

City Manager Joyal said the commercial property taxes will offset the residential taxes.

Vice Chairperson Andrews Parker discussed things that were not within the City's or School's control and how it shouldn't impact the tax cap.

Deputy Mayor Carrier talked about Dover being a place people move to and they should be paying more in taxes.

C. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) AS IT RELATES TO DECREASED REVENUE FOR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

The Committee discussed the impact of a TIF district and students in a TIF district are unfunded.

Ms. Mebert talked about the TIF district and that the School was not informed.

Councilor O'Connor said the School was informed.

Chairperson Russell said the School was not involved.

City Manager Joyal went over the process for creating the TIF districts. He said there was an invitation to the School Board to attend the public hearing.

Chairperson Russell said she had almost no knowledge about TIFs.

City Manager Joyal said he informed the School and County about the TIF proposal, and he met with her in his office to discuss this plan.

Chairperson Russell asked for that information be forwarded to her.



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Assistant City Manager Parker said the TIF impact does not impact the School. He said everything is available on the City's website.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of how a TIF district works.

Assistant City Manager Parker said a TIF district is formed to help generate the money to pay off the bond, and after it's paid all the tax revenue generated goes to the tax base.

Mayor Weston asked the City Manager to explain a 79-e.

City Manager Joyal gave an overview of the 79-e, which freezes the tax assessment for up to five years. He said the Council can address the TIF district and make adjustments if there is an influx of students from the TIF districts.

D. POSSIBILITY OF ADDING A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD

General Legal Counsel Blenkinsop gave an overview the New Hampshire RSAs and how it is not possible to have a School Board member on the Planning Board.

Chairperson Russell said the School Board is looking for more direct communication.

E. OTHER

5. ADJOURN

Councilor Greenshields moved to adjourn; seconded by Mayor Weston.

Vote: Unanimous.