

Town Meeting Forum Meeting  
February 26, 2015  
Orange Center School 6 pm

In attendance: Sue Perreault, William Goulette, Kathie Felch, Corinne Relation, Chris Keane, Darin Magwire, Jessie Foster, Chris Locarno, Lee Youngman, Dustin Comstock, Cedric Royea, George Wild, Jr., Ronald Tallman

Darin Magwire, School Board Chair, thanked the budget committee of Jen Ball, Linda Labrie and Sarah Bylow for their work on this year's budget.

Chris Locarno discussed the fund balance, and the ways they used the fund balance this year. The school board is going to ask for some of the fund balance to be set aside as follows:

\$24,750 for a Bus Reserve Fund. The old bus needs to be replaced. A new bus will cost about \$100,000.00. This will cover the first payment.

\$24,750 for a Preschool reserve. State law will mandate preschool for FY 17, which starts July 1, 2016.

\$7500.00 in Capital Improvement fund. Earmarked for a new boiler. There is \$18,500 in that account now.

Sue Perreault asked about the Small School Grant phase out. How will it impact tax rate? Will increase by about 2.25 cents per year over a three year phase in.

There are 108 kids in K-8. We have more kids than we've had in the past few years.

We are moving all special ed costs to the supervisory union and they will be pro-rated out among the three schools. This is mandated by the state. Only professional staff this year. School will reimburse 100% this year.

High school kids – we have 51 this year. Most of them go to U32, which is \$16,147 per year.

The school budget presentation ended at 6:25 pm.

Ron Tallman, chair of the Orange Select Board, thanked Kathie Felch and Lee Youngman for their work on the town report.

He then talked about Article 5 of the town warning, which will need to be amended at town meeting. We will need to increase the general fund by \$5,341.00 which will increase the proposed tax rate by 1 cent. That \$5341 breaks down as follows: \$2876 each year over three years to a taxpayer who had been overtaxed due to a lister error; \$400 in increased retirement contributions and \$2065 more in dues to Orange County. These last two numbers were not received by the town clerk until after the report went to the printer.

The new numbers will be \$242,902 of which \$194,166.72 will be raised in taxes for the general fund.

The highway fund is essentially level funded. We have grant funded road projects again this year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Attest: Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk

