

Town of Pomfret Board of Finance Meeting

April 7 2020

Tue, 4/7 6:14PM • 1:45:11

Hello everybody and welcome to our first virtual Board of finance, special meeting since we've never done this before. They're with me. First of all, if anybody is on the. Also on their computer watching us. There will be time for you to ask questions during the citizens participation. We request that you post your questions on the chat feature, you can do that at any time. And that way, the questions will already be there. When we get to that. Okay, all six of us are here. Myself margay hobby Danna flat, Jill Corey, Elaine SSTAR Debbie Thompson, and Jennifer York. We had our budget workshop cancelled so we haven't had a chance to get together and talk about the two budgets that were presented to us. Earlier, I guess back in the beginning of March. Today, we, we also were sent a revised draft of the general government bad budget. Everybody get that. Yep. Oh,

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okay. I haven't had a chance to go through it

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carefully.

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So perhaps when we, when we get to that, I can ask Maureen just to summarize

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a couple of points I wanted to make.

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And, and you probably already know all this stuff but I'm just going to repeat it. Our unassigned fund balance right now is at \$1.7 million, which is 13%. Our goal is to have it closer to 10%. And to get there. That means we have about \$360,000, that we can use if we so choose. That money we would be using for one time capital expenses such as the Woodstock Academy. Capital Improvement fee.

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And also to lower the tax rate.

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Now we're expecting some money to be turned back by both the town and the school at the end of this fiscal year. So that will be a plus and that will be very helpful for this next year and for subsequent years budgets are expected to get tighter. In the next few years. I want just gonna make two other comments about the budgets in general, the general government budget has been has been minimal for the past

10 years. And we can't keep cutting it because we won't be able to support the town and the infrastructure. I personally would like to keep the general government budget increases zero. The board event has a lot of expenses that are non negotiable. They are set. But I'm also concerned that that budget has grown quite a bit in the last 10 years almost \$2 million. And at the same time enrollment has dropped. So I think you're all pretty much aware of that. I had a couple of ideas for what I was looking at for where we could go from here. The grand list has an increase of about \$100,000. That's one good thing. There is unanticipated educational cost sharing ECS money that we didn't realize we're getting more than we thought we had budgeted for, that's about 88,000. Then we have about, I believe about 100,000 on anticipated revenue the building permits, that type of thing. The Board of Education feels that they can return. About \$125,000 to us this year. So those are all very good things. Now, I mentioned the unassigned fund balance at 1.7. The Board of Ed non lapsing surplus fund. July 30 2019. It was \$201,458. Now we transferred \$62,403. In October, I'm not sure when that actually goes in, but that was added to that which gives you a balance of 263,861. So the that's some of the money that we have to work with. Now again, the general government budget I was dealing with the number was \$2,856,036.

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And

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I believe,

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okay that original number did not include the Woodstock Academy capital improvement fee, so I added that in, and that was approximately \$79,788. So that brought the general government budget up to \$2,935,824. That's a net increase of about 100 a little more than 180,000.

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Now looking at.

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I think that was put into Actually, I would like to ask the first selectman a question about that. Could you join the conversation, please. Yes, I'm here. Okay. Maureen is the Woodstock Academy capital assessment fee on this new budget that. Yeah, it is. It's included there now. Yes it is. And that total is 2893024,

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hang on let me pull it up.

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Yes. Right.

22:57

Okay. And that means that that the general government budget increases by 4.99%, and if you, if you find the Woodstock Academy capital improvement assessment. Our increase would be 2%. So that 79. Is it 7979 788 makes it an increase of 2% in our budget.

23:23

Right. Okay.

23:25

Essentially doubles the increase.

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Right. And did you take anything else out of this budget

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out the \$30,000 for capital non re occurring for PCs. Okay.

23:41

Okay.

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And I reduced because our health insurance came in with a lower assessment I took out 15,000.

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In our health insurance line. So I've reduced the budget by 45,000.

24:03

Okay.

24:09

I believe we're planning on on paying the missus Margie again.

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That was stuck Academy capital improvement fee, out of the assigned

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revenue.

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I had also was looking through

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what capital items we might be able to pay for out of that fun, and there was \$30,000 for the salt shed. That's a one time expense so it seemed like that would make sense to have that cover it. So, if you take the add the 30,000 and the 797 88 from Woodstock Academy capital improvement be that. And

again, my the figures that I have written down, are not up to date because of this new she's already taken that amount out. So, what's your question. Bias paying for covering the salt shed, and the capital improvement fee, with money from the unassigned fund. That would be over 100 209,788.

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That's correct, that would leave me, I'm sorry this is boring, that would leave the general government budget with an increase of 27,020 28,027 810 27 810.

25:58

Okay.

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All right. What other members of the board like

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to

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make some comments. We're sticking to the general government budget right now.

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Say that again Markey,

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I want, members of the board to chime in with their thoughts about the general government budget, and what type of action we should take anybody's thoughts. Do you agree about the Woodstock Academy fee coming out of the unassigned fund.

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Do you feel there are other cuts do. I just, I want input.

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Maureen is the sorry this is Dana.

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The budget still contains the least money that you need for the tractor though.

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Yes. Okay.

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This is Gil Corey I do agree with the fee coming out of the unassigned fund the fund.

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I would support that.

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I agree,

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Mark. Lane, I guess. I did was the that unassigned fund use for that Woodstock Academy fee that would again be this year, only this year in future years to be considered from scratch again.

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Correct. Last year, this is Margate last year, We thought it might be a one year thing, then we know, find out it was a two year thing and now we believe it will be continuing. So, the Board of Ed is going to have to absorb that after this year.

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This is Debbie.

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I agree with leaving it in the designated for now, because I'm hoping when things start to go back. There may be some reconsideration of all of it so I wouldn't want to build it into the Board of Ed now.

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There's too much

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uncertainty so to leave it in a place where we may be able to reduce it or remove it. I think would be a good thing.

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All this is genuine. I do agree with the salt shed, and the Woodstock Academy she that total of 109,788 to come from the designated fund balance.

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Now we

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could also decide to cover the \$27,810

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from the unassigned fund balance. If we want to keep the budget. The general government budget at a zero increase

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was 27,810.

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Yes, I believe so, yes, that is the number.

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Or you should we look at the other budget first before we make some decision like that, just to see what else we might need to be covering from that fund. I mean that that actually sorry this is Maureen that would actually be covered in the budget if you look at the revenues probably you wouldn't have to make

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it got decision now because of the increase in the grand list and things like that.

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So, okay,

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I think, if this is Elaine, and I think it's you know good effort to try to get to zero but on the other hand, you know, it's not a very big percentage, the \$27,000 increase and I guess I wouldn't want the general government to feel like every year they need to go to zero and maybe a small increase is reasonable it should be. I mean, they've got mandated components of their budget too.

30:02

Yeah, and I think having a flat budget for 10 or 15 years is just not sustainable.

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I mean it's artificial I think, you know, really.

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Also want to ask. Jennifer York you had a question here about the change under 8104 accumulated sick and vacation time.

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Yeah. Is that a policy change is that what it says

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on here that something about a policy change. Yeah, we, we did

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it. We did it. We did do that we did implement, you know, a policy to change, and you know it's a, it's a, it's a way to try to conserve.

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What we're spending, try to reduce our budget spending so we reduced

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sick time for part time employees.

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Okay. I just didn't know if that

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if that was. It looks like so you took it away. It just was the same exact amount so it's like 2500, you see under the budget. And then you also show the policy change and 2500 so it was like basically just cut it in half.

31:07

Yeah. Was it. Okay. All right, thank you.

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This is Debbie worry

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thing. First of all, I appreciate the board of selectmen doing the reduction for us for this meeting, um, second of all, not only to you but to all members I'm really concerned about revenues going forward on. And to get these budgets down as deeply as we can get them down while I know it can be artificial I'm particularly concerned about revenues both at every level federal to state state to us, taxes, excuse me taxes and revenue coming from residents in town.

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A lot of people have lost their jobs and won't be getting them back.

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So

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I think we need to get as far down as we can get, I know that's kind of difficult because we need to

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get services done but

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I'm really concerned about the money coming in.

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Well, Maureen that's why the board was collected was trying to be proactive in getting the most current numbers that we had and trying to put together make those reductions and and put together yeah we're very conscious of that fact as well i mean i think we care about it know about it because the tax

collectors in touch with residents, every day. And so we're very aware of the economic crisis that some people are dealing with.

32:49

Isn't it. So, this is Debbie again. Is there any news or indication I know this is way early about what the state's gonna do, do you have anything for us.

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No, I don't think so I think the last I heard was this was the second year and a two year but

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they're probably going to pass it as is.

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Right. We have all those numbers.

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Interesting.

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This is margay anybody else have anything, anything that they would like to add. Or shall we just move on and talk about the Board of Ed.

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What was that last part marquee mine was cutting out Okay.

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Do you have any other comments about the general government budget or should we talk about the Board of Ed budget now.

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Nope, I'm good. I'm good.

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Does everyone have that budget in front of them, please. The bottom line.

34:04

Yes. Okay. As I mentioned earlier, the

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order that is had some unexpected savings, and we'll, we'll be returning money to us.

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I also noticed that there's a comment on the chat from from Steve Cohen and about the \$263,000 figure is not updated because the hundred thousand came out last year.

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And I had spoken to. Sherry grist Town Hall. And

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I'm never quite sure if it's just on paper that something's been moved or it's it's scheduled to be moved if it's needed, but in any case, however much is in there, there is certainly over \$100,000.

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I was looking at requesting the Board of Ed. This is Mari again.

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Cutting \$100,000 from the number they gave us,

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and taking money from the non lapsing surplus fund and taking money from the unassigned fund that would total 300,000. So that would be \$100,000 cut and \$300,000 from those two funds maybe half and half hundred 50,000. That would leave an increase of \$26,507. So I'm throwing that out for discussion.

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Are you do we want to unmute Steve. Sure, let's unmute Steve.

36:04

Are you checking the chat numbers there that's the number, okay you got that. Yeah, thanks Maureen, yeah.

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There I am anything.

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I think,

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um, if I'm looking at it correctly obviously the hundred thousand from the current budget. We've had some good news on health insurance so we can't do it all with health insurance the health insurance helps us. If we go much more than that. And I've had this conversation with with Kate and other people that if we had to go to a number like 200,000. If I had to go bigger than 100 that I have to do personnel, which which would not be good for us to do so the hundred thousand is doable. Okay. I think my only concern becomes the amount taken from the non lapsing. I had raised the same question of the balance of the non lapsing because the hundred thousand from last year actually hadn't been moved into my conversation with Bonnie right, and she said the board of finance took action. So whether it's moved or not, it's technically it's out of there at some point. So that hundred thousand gone so now it

could be restored maybe I don't know but it was 163, and you took 150 out of that you leave \$13,000 at that point there that's designed for unanticipated special education costs, primarily in unanticipated capital projects I'd be concerned to go into a school year, with only \$13,000 into that account. Okay, obviously I appreciate the fact that if our budget is done at 100,000, we can maintain our staff we can maintain our programs will go forward. And that's the best part of this. The concern becomes an issue no, the students move in the students without the special education costs are crazy. So, that number going down to 15. That's why I said we work pretty hard if you talk to me. A month ago what our balance would be we probably were talking more 50,000 okay because you don't know how the accounts are going to work out. I've only got two months left. All right, So if somebody now picks up health insurance. I've only got two months of health insurance to pay so I can pretty much free up that account. I have some spring activities that aren't going to happen. Whether it's tomorrow or the next day Friday at some point they're going to announce I'm convinced there's analysis schools are not going to open up. All right, and in effect so there are some savings there not as much as you might think. But there's some money there that can do that. So therefore, recently we've really crunched the numbers we've gone from what we said might be a \$50,000 surplus up to 125,000, the good news with PCs is that 86 or \$88,000 there back I think was Deb's question earlier on the budget. Right now the legislature is not in session. Okay. Did you have a two year budget. If the budget goes through as passed a year ago. The difference between what the board of finances budget in ECS this year to what you will get next year is about a \$12,000 increase it's not a lot of money okay from the number you got this year to next year's number is a decrease but because of the fact that you sort of split the baby last year in the numbers the number, you're getting better revenue the number was lower is a \$12,000 increase. So, there are some revenue parts that I think are helpful that 88,000 maybe 12. So the hundred thousand dollars at the board event can work with very well, we will not have to lay off staff, just to concern how deep we go into that and maybe some consideration. I'm two months away, save 125 became 140 or 145. Could the additional money, possibly go towards back into that fund, because one student. One student can easily be \$100,000.

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So Steve Are

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you saying that you don't think you will be turning back to \$50,000 and

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we are going to turn back \$125,000. Yeah, yeah. In other words, if you again I've been asked that question I'm usually pretty conservative because I put a number out there, people sort of bank on the number and I want to be, you know, better that you can deliver that number but I'm gonna say right now. We've been we've been crunching these numbers every single day, we got nothing else to do lately so we're crunching numbers and, you know, I'm gonna say the hundred and \$25,000 is a definite figure, could be a little bit higher. Okay, I'm not gonna hold my breath on that, but the hundred 25,000 is a real number. Okay.

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And I asked a question. This is Jen York I'm just wondering, the hundred and 63 861, that's in the non lapsing now is is that include the 125 that you're talking about.

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No, no, there's no such thing as separate the money's already there, that's sitting in that room and what I'm talking about. 125,000 is at the end of this year we get to June 30, usually Well, our finances probably aren't wrapped up till September one that's when you file with the state of Connecticut. And usually when we get to the end of the year, we have a project that we have a balance of a real number. And then we usually write to the Board of finance to say okay we have \$50,000 left this year as a surplus would you consider putting that into the non lapsing fund. And that's Board of finance decision whether to do it. What I'm saying right now is that when we get to that point when the budget is done we're gonna have \$125,000 surplus in not be asking the board. The board of finance to put it into the fund, we're saying that's \$125,000, that the Board of finance can consider putting to offset the mill rate for next year. Okay. Thank you,

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Steve. This is Debbie Thompson, I have three questions, and I know at least one of them is going to sound harsh but I'm just throwing this out here first of all, is there any conversations amongst sending towns about reducing the tuition increase to Woodstock Academy.

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There's always conversations about reducing tuition, I will tell you and I think I had this conversation with Kate thrown and Maureen and margay I always had a superintendents meeting in a different part of the state, where the students go to other high schools, other than Woodstock Academy in 19 97% of the conversation was how outrageous is the tuition that they're paying to the high school that they're sending to be at Norwich free Academy or, or anywhere else. I, I do not believe that the Academy is in a position to lower its number. In fact, they're going to have issues which are beyond me. I, if I were them I'd be concerned about boarding students returning, and I'd be concerned about boarding students, an increase of, especially from out of the country maybe from inside the United States. So they've got that some of their capital plans, they're going to have to wind up doing in their estimation. They, they say that we are not paying their for their full per pupil cost. Okay, even though we're paying next year it's 15,000, I forget the exact number 15 515 eight whatever the number is, they would say their real intown per pupil cost is over \$17,000 \$18,000 in their per pupil doesn't include the special ed does include transportation etc. So they in their opinion we are underpaying already. Okay. And in effect their board of trustees has done two things. They've instituted the capital fee which quite frankly they probably should have done 20 years ago, they should have done \$100 a year per kid 20 years ago they might not be in the position they were in. And they said over time what we're going to do is that we are going to move over a 1234 year period to get closer to the actual cost, and that's why the escalation in the last two years has been so significant if you went back. Eight 910 years ago the increase at the Academy in terms of per pupil tuition was not significant. The last two three years it has been so I think all the towns have the same issue the same problem. There's very little power to do anything about it, their board of trustees is more like a board more like a college board, and therefore that that College Board of Trustees is saying, what are we going to do to improve the university or image our programs, and therefore, they put it out there that board is not responsible to taxpayers like the Board of

Education The Board of finance board, and, and, therefore, I don't think they see that as a significant problem. The other part I think is from a parent's point of view, educationally are the parents pleased with the offerings that the Academy is giving them. Absolutely. they are pleased with what they're getting, and therefore going to say yeah you know at \$15,000 a kid it's worthwhile, what the town is giving them.

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Just this is

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case around and as the as the chairman I'm just going to chime in here because I feel that it's as much a practical answer as it is a political answer. As I think as a practical matter, everything Steve said is absolutely correct. And I also think that he's had more access to Chris than I have. Because he's had meetings with the superintendence. So Steve has a good pulse on that. I believe that as a board we have every right to ask them to reduce that increase, and I'm prepared to ask them to I. I'm also fully prepared that they will say no. But I think as a responsibility to the town. We should absolutely ask for that. I mean we have representation on that board. I believe that Brent voted for that budget, but that was a very different scenario than we're facing now and I think to expect some flexibility for the sending towns is absolutely appropriate and I would ask for that.

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And I agree with you. Okay, this is Debbie Thompson again, I agree with you because all of that thinking again, and those philosophies were good. Three months ago.

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Now,

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there may be no sports sports may look very different.

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There's a lot of things that are going to change. And I think, like you said, I believe that we should go back to ask if we get no well even if they split the difference say they'll not do the entire increase. It's not going to hurt us to ask and I think in demonstrating what we're doing to the town to show reasonable effort to that we're trying to do that in every way, shape or form is going to be important as and related to that my second question and this is going to be even a tougher one about going back and I don't even know if we can do this legally going back to the teachers and saying foregoing the raised for this year. Not all three years, but for this year.

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Just in the context of. There's

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not a lot of money to go around.

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And this is,

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yeah. Oh, so this is Kate's around, I'll give a quick answer I'm sure Steve will give a more detailed answer. We toyed with that in. Oh, 908 when we were in the midst of recession. And we talked to the teachers about opening that union contract, and in return, they all agreed to take to freeze their increase without opening the contract negotiations, but that we were in the midst of a very scary you know awful recession. I don't think I believe it's probably premature at this point to ask them, the union to open up their contract to and renegotiate. I guess I'll let Steve speak to that. So I mean, the answer is in the history we have done that before. I, I just don't know if we can demonstrate the kind of financial hardship yet, because it we're forecasting a financial hardship, we're not really in the midst of it yet.

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Yeah, just a follow up case comment. Number one, Dev Yes, you can ask okay the board can always ask that it's not required to be done, but they certainly can go ahead and ask.

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You do have a situation and it's

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not having been there for the history of it. But when I look at the contract many many years when the pumper contract was done. Teacher contracts usually have two components and their salary. One is a general wage increase and one is a step movement that movement is dependent upon possibly years of service and your degrees. Also, there have been so many freezes over the last so many years on step movement almost every contract has had that that I've had to create this grid because I have a part of the contract that tells me that I can't really hire anybody, new with equivalent experience have somebody with 11 years experience. I can't hire a new person with 11 years to put them at a higher step than somebody on my staff was 11 years of experience for the person coming in with 11 years of experience in a normal district expects to be on step 12, okay, for the following year. In Pomfret step, 11 years experience is probably Step five, six or seven okay because it's been held back so many times. So that might be the part I think the other part and that Kate was alluding to is that I see, I see probably the board the town going back to bargaining groups, but I'm not quite sure this is the year. Okay, this is the year and we're in a short period of time we're already into April with a budget, but just say that next year's budget, with the revenue or the following year because the state has this great drop in revenue if I'm sitting here looking at the Board of Ed is going to give back \$125,000 in knowing that I'm going to ask staff to not take any kind of a raise, ECS was at \$80,000 higher, etc. So right now the revenue part short term this year is probably about as good as you're going to get. Next year, the year after when the revenue starts to dry up. I agree 100% that's the part to go back and say to everybody. What can we do to try to make this work. Because if we don't make it work. We're going to wind up having, it's going to impact positions that's what education is it's people, and I'm going to wind up losing people which means service to kids.

51:02

Well, and I've just been listening, every day like a religion to Governor Cuomo who just had to do his budget in New York. Yeah. And he said the revenues are not there, and at the federal level the revenues aren't there and his biggest concern was education. Um, and he and I don't know in this state or in the town or whatever he's actually changed his budget over and got the legislature legislature to agree that it's going to be based on revenue so if revenues go up in the third quarter. The Hill tell them this is what you have, you know, he's not really locking them in but putting in some flexibility. And I guess in my mind in the larger overarching sense of New York's not gonna get a lot. And we know how hard hit they are, where does Connecticut fall on that continuum about getting money. And then Pomfret on that either further continuum in this state because the cities are going to get a lot first. So I would like everybody to have a piece of the pie. I just am unclear like with everybody else what that piece of the pie would be, but I would like to fairly give as much as we can, without putting us too far in deep, using the unexpended balance because we're going to have to use it next year and probably the year after, and that's my thinking behind my questions.

52:23

Yeah and I agree I said, I also think Kate's right that maybe this is not the year for this is when we actually see that because we're going to see the decline in revenue there's no question about it. And I'm not quite sure if the worst is next year or the year after, and that's the time at which you have to say, hey gang everybody's got to pitch in and do something this year might be a little bit hard to make that argument.

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Yeah, cuz with a union contract you have to demonstrate an inability to pay.

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So, you know, we, you know at this point we're anticipating a problem and but we do have an unexpected revenue. And that would be a tough argument to make.

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Now, but I mean if you got them to look even down the line, okay you can take 1% now. But when it comes to the higher level percentages there's gonna be nothing there.

53:13

Um,

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so I guess it's a pay me now or pay me later thing and and then on top of that we have to go back to the town with people that have either got reduced hours reduced revenue no jobs and say, Okay, we're given basis for, you know, trying to keep everything as it is when nobody's life really is like it was. So I'm just throwing it out there as ideas based on what I've heard, and for discussion purposes.

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This is Marty Debbie You said you had three questions for Steve. Was there one more question,

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they will they were kind of all rolled into Okay,

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all right, Sherry grist is is here at the meeting and I believe she has some comments to make.

54:02

Yes. Can you hear me.

54:05

Yes. Okay.

54:07

Didn't know how my computer worked if it would pick this up. There is \$263,861 in the Board of Ed non lapsing fun, and the hundred thousand has not been transferred out to offset the budget. We don't usually do that till the end of the fiscal year.

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And then there will be extra excess revenue. excess ECS money this year. That was not budgeted that will be coming in. Okay,

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so then you wouldn't be left with the lower balance that you were thinking Steve.

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You still I'm not. If that means that at the end of the year. If it's not needed to transfer it out, does that mean that it stays in the fund.

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It says Elaine I think Sherif Sherry is pretty much saying exactly what Steve said earlier that you know the real number is 163,000.

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Yes.

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After the 100 transfer out Yes. And then, if your grants if you're not using your unexpended appropriation and the Board of finance approves, then

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your unexpended amount could be transferred back into there.

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Right. So, this is margay so basically, you could take the hundred thousand out and then it turns out they don't need it so then 100,000 comes back, but that hundred thousand doesn't go to their budget, it goes in to offset the revenues

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that hundred thousand is spent you know it's just your checking account hasn't been balanced yet you wrote the check,

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it's on the revenue side you won't see it on their appropriation side you approved their full budget. Because you were going to use 100,000 of the surplus fun.

56:07

This is case around another way to say that, is that the Board of Ed has available to them, \$163,000 and change, yes and then if, and then if you were to reduce that you know by the 150 then the Board of Ed would only have 13,000 available to it and in it you know because the hundred other hundred thousand is spoken for. Right.

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Yes,

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except you're talking about possibly turning back Monday money.

56:38

Well, I think what Steve said is, is that he wasn't going, we weren't going to request as a board that that went into the non lapsing fun we were going to offer that as an offset to the mill rate.

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It's 100 K so

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it was just

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125 I misspoke 125.

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So then it would just stay in the general fund as

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unassigned fund balance to be used to offset the budget.

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Well, I can go wherever the board of finance puts it, so you know sometimes we request as a board of add that it'd be placed in the non lapsing fund. What we were anticipating was that the 163 would be there for us and that we would not make that special request of the 125 is what our plan was.

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So this is margay again. So that basically we could look at that 125 as offsetting the part of the increase for next year.

57:42

Is that correct. Right. Yep.

57:46

Does that does that mean I can look at the money that that I'm turning that the town is turning back to offset my 27,000

57:54

increase.

57:58

Well this is margay again, I think, hopefully, with the increase in the grand list.

58:05

We're gonna have more revenue than we expect. Yes, you know, Right now we're, we're. We don't know those numbers, but when we know those numbers. It's going to help cover the expenses. So the hundred and 25,000 and \$100,000 cut that's 225. We still need another 200,000. And that could come out of the unassigned fund balance

58:44

anyone's

58:46

feeling what Tony, I guess I wanted to hear more about the 88,000 extra from ACS and what could that be used for.

58:54

But maybe Sherry could explain when money like that comes in. It'll go into the appropriation into the revenues, and it will go automatically into the unassigned fund balance.

59:11

Any additional revenues over and above what were budgeted will go into the unassigned fund balance.

59:22

This is our key. So basically, the Board of finance can decide what to do with that it could stay in the fund balance, it could cover something for the general fund I mean it's or it could cover something for the Board of Ed.

59:37

It's just, it's more revenue,

59:39

it's just it sorry this is Maureen it just becomes part of the unassigned fund balance so instead of 1.7, you know you're going to be 1.8 right you use it, you would use it the same way you would use if you're going to take money out of the unassigned fund balance to balance, or to reduce the impacts of a budget, or the mill rate.

60:04

This is Jill Corrie When, when, would that be going in.

60:08

I don't know if somebody said that already.

60:11

The 1000. Yes.

60:15

I'm not sure when that the town gets that, Jerry Do you know, usually the last CCS comes in maybe the end of April beginning of May.

60:26

But you wouldn't know your actual excess revenues and under expended appropriations to the end of the fiscal year to be able to say what your true fund balances but. Okay.

60:43

I will say that the state of Connecticut has confirmed that they are making the second ECS payment based upon the known revenues from the budget, and part of the rationale for doing that, is that they are trying to get boards of education to continue to employ their people so obviously people don't want unemployment, so they're saying state of Connecticut we're paying you. Board of Education, we expect you to pay your people. So the number that was listed, and I'm not quite sure if it's April or May, at some point that ECS is going to come to the town in the amount that that the legislature passed.

61:33

This is margay Steve, I have a question for you. Do you have any unfilled staff positions at the moment.

61:43

For

61:45

for the current year

61:48

existing right now I'm going to say, No, for next year, I have

61:59

three of three retirements.

62:04

And I'm.

62:08

We are moving, we're moving a current teacher to one of them. And basically I need to hire it this point to special education teacher so I have two openings in special education for next year. Okay. I'm hiring special education teachers is extremely difficult. It's a shortage area in the state. But we have recently gotten some applications in if we ever got to the point where we just couldn't hire anybody I'd have an open position problem that would cause me as number one meeting all the kids IEP s, but number two would be meeting the our minimum expenditure in terms of special education basically by law. If I'm spending, expanding \$3 million dollars this year okay and my kids are the same. I have to expend at least \$3 million next year I can't expend less for special ed, there's like four categories where I can add the number of kids dropped etc. So if I were not I have to open. Special Education positions if I were not to fill one of them next year, and it would only be by shortage I couldn't find anybody. I could be in violation of federal and state law, and we would have to forfeit back to the state and the feds some of the IDA grant money they've given to us. So I do intend to try to fill the to open specialized positions.

63:39

Okay, thank you. I just wondered if there was anything that did not need to be filled. But I understand that those probably do need to be filled.

63:50

Okay, now this is Debbie Can we go back with a boy, boy band, because now I've got all of different pieces to fill it. Are we saying we're leaving it at its proposed level, or we're not talking about cuts.

64:08

This is margay I believe I had recommended \$100,000 cut.

64:17

Yeah. Yeah.

64:20

And that's, they feel that they could absorb that.

64:27

So that brings the increase down to 326,000.

64:34

Then, but if I'm not mistaken that Steve you don't want to take the hundred thousand out of the non lapsing fund you want to use the hundred and 20 625,000 you're expecting to turn back at the end of the year in the

64:46

fall, to cover that instead.

64:50

No got the hundred thousand dollar reduction that mark is talking about is a complete hundred thousand dollar reduction.

64:57

Right now I realized,

64:58

1000, whatever. Whatever you decide to do as a board of finance we're saying, the Board of Ed is saying to you. There's \$125,000 in surplus you're going to get. Use it as you deem fit the Board of Ed is not going to come back to you and say would you put that into the non lapsing fund, put it into your general fund use it to offset your mill rate pay for the capital thing whatever you decide to do with it. So that's an additional just like the 88,000 VCs is additional to 125 additional My concern is, when you wind up spending everything out. If in addition to the 88,000 and the 125 and the hundred thousand dollar reduction, then you took 150 out of what's left the 163 out of the non lapsing, then you're left with 13,009 lapsing. That would be my concern. One student could cause me harm, if I got below 100,000 in the non lapsing I get very nervous about that.

65:51

Okay.

65:56

This is margay. Again, we have the unassigned fund balance is at 1.7 million. We're talking about the 88,000 coming back, we're talking about the increasing the grand list, talked about the hundred and 25,000 coming back and then money coming back from the town. So, between all those things. There should be enough money in that fund to cover whatever we want to without creating a hole and

66:30

it's just a question of how much do we want to cover.

66:34

Let's say we, If we have, if we earmark the hundred 25,000 that's coming back from the Board of Ed. And we add another hundred and 50,000.

66:46

I believe that would leave,

66:50

maybe around.

66:54

50,000 I have to redo my figures here.

67:00

Let me add these up quickly, but for cuts.

67:04

Is that what you're talking about what's left to cut.

67:06

No, I'm talking about covering

67:10

covering the increase the 326.

67:18

The 137 for the government budget you've got,

67:22

because you had the hundred and nine 788 for the salt shed, and the Woodstock Academy, and then right that's all in there that's the 109 788. And then you came up with a figure of 137 598 to cover the additional increase in their budget.

67:49

Now the hundred 9000 would come from that so that left, left an increase of \$27,810. Right. So, that would be the net increase in the general government budget if we take the 109,788.

68:13

Okay. Okay. And then.

68:18

And again, as I mentioned at the beginning. If we want to go down from 1.7 to 1.34. million, which would be 10% that \$360,000. But we're going to be that amount is going to be increasing, because of the 88,100 25,000 mean,

68:52

we could bring it down to zero if we so choose. I don't know if that's a good thing to do.

69:05

Oh, go ahead, Dana. This is Dana, so Maureen you got rid of the 30,000 that you normally would send to the or make available to PCs, Steve, did you you budgeted to get that 30,000 correct from the town for your capital improvements are no

69:21

well we don't really budget it we put it on a sheet as as a request of the board of selectmen, okay. In the years that the Board of selectmen can fund it they fund it in the years that they can't they can't. In the scenario that we have been talking about that \$30,000 of capital for the Board of Education, would not be funded this year if you decided to fund it this year. The only way I could see it, you'd have to take another \$30,000 out of unassigned money to go ahead and do that. So I'm assuming that that's not being funded this year. Yeah,

69:56

that was, that was, you know, when we were looking for places, this is Maureen again, when we were looking for places where we could reduce our budget.

70:05

That's where we're going to go is, unfortunately, capital non reoccurring and the Board of Ed. If you look I believe I don't have it in front of me I think it's on page 12 I think they have \$40,000 in there for improvements to the building. Right.

70:21

That's correct.

70:22

That's what I just wanted to make sure. Oh.

70:25

So, yeah, so we felt like they had the money in there to do improvements and we needed to reduce our budget. Okay,

70:35

this is Elaine I just noticed a comment in the group chat from principal and father. So I guess I'm wanting to

70:42

unmute, Susan.

70:47

Our principal, because she had a comment about some open positions.

70:55

Eric Are you there.

70:59

Yes, she's unmuted I think,

71:01

Susan, you can go ahead and Tommy

71:06

wasn't able to. So yeah, so, what was your question.

71:12

You wrote, you said that you currently have two Part Time TA positions that are open or will those be.

71:21

We're not currently

71:22

filling them because those are the two part time positions that we had that provided additional support for lunch and recess times.

71:29

And when I have

71:31

time right now. We had some shifts, this year because of some new students, again, and has created some new full time positions because of students requiring one to one support. So we initially shifted one person out of a part time position into a full time position. I recently had a teaching assistant position in another district, and it was a wonderful opportunity for her. And that opened her full time position so the other part time position I had that person will do that full time position. So currently technically we had two part time positions that are not.

72:08

Do you anticipate filling them for the fall or right now you just don't know

72:15

it all hinges on where our budget is.

72:18

We hope to fill them because those are positions

72:20

that provide safety for children

72:23

during lunch and recess

72:24

times, it's extra bodies on playground, and in classrooms, we have indoor recess. So it's really to support kids dreams time.

72:36

Okay. Those are 19 our

72:38

positions with no benefits.

72:42

Okay, thank you.

72:47

Any board members have any other ideas about the Board of Ed budget.

73:01

Do you, do you all agree that 100,000 is the right amount to request a cut.

73:12

I mean, it seems reasonable especially since he feels like he can. He can take that caught on without doing any damage to positions. I did have one question whether there was any capital expenditures that you would like, or that you felt were necessary that perhaps that's one thing we could use the unfunded designated fund balance for.

73:39

We hit, we're trying to build out multiple years in terms of plans, several things that we do need to do and they're all in different levels. What What is our kitchen in the cafeteria. The coolers etc. They're probably original with the building. And over time, I think we had, I'm going to make up a number that make it up, I'm going to guess the number was nine or \$10,000 kitchen equipment, part of this to try to build a fun so that in the future, you can when you need to buy a \$40,000 cooler, you can go ahead and do that. Another is for H fac projects. Okay. We do ongoing boiler repair and radiator repair that's what that top of page 12 was all about it's maintenance repairs, but we would like to, at some point, air conditioned the entire cafeteria at some point, we'd like to start to do banks of rooms for an eight rooms at a time. And that's what h pac money at that would would allow you to do. Okay. The other is we would like to over time we'd be gone a little bit to start to get rid of some of the roof the whole building is rugs. Okay, it's carpeting, and we'd like to get rid of the carpeting and do tile. You get carpeting leads to mold problems Okay kids during flu season kids get sick and they get sick on a carpet it's very different with the carpet than it is on a floor. So over time we're trying to do that. So again if they were helped to get some of that done, that'd be great. In this particular year and what we're heading into someone says to me, we can't afford it this year I fully understand we can't afford it. At some point, I don't want to lose track of the fact that there are these ongoing things that we need to do to sort of maintain and keep

the building going that's all but obviously in this cycle, and who knows what next year next year probably budget wise is going to be worse right now, we're looking to that there are some extra revenues and things that can be done. You know I think next year and the year after are the bigger problems for us right now, but he's sure in the future, if there's a way to say okay how do we build for the future, so that we can make sure that when this \$40,000 cooler or whatever a cooler cause a walk in freezer costs when it goes we can replace it without going to the Board of finance and saying, I can't keep food fresh and therefore I need \$40,000 as an emergency versus we built it up over time. So yeah, that kind of a plan i think is wise and we can do it. This just probably isn't the time to be able to do

76:08

it. Okay. Okay.

76:10

this is margay but Steve could that that could come out of the non lapsing surplus. Is that correct.

76:19

It could come out, if it is determined to be the way again, it's interesting the way the state law reads is that a non lapsing fund needs to be used for educational purposes. The way that the town resolution reads it's for a special education unanticipated education or unanticipated capital projects. Okay, so if I had something. Last year we had it we had our chimney, the chimney kept leaking. Okay. We didn't go to the fund, we took care of the budget, but if you had an unanticipated project some boiler goes, Okay, we would go to the Board of finance say I need to replace a boiler. It's an unanticipated capital project, it could come out of there. Okay. On that way, long term, that's not really the solution because I think the number one priority they have fun is special is on anticipate especially because that's the one that's going to sneak up and bite you quick.

77:10

Okay.

77:12

Great. Thank you.

77:15

Jill Do you have any other thoughts or comments, um,

77:19

yeah, I'm fine, it's Joe Cory,

77:21

I'm fine with the hundred thousand and one question I'm not sure if this really has already been addressed. But when say, I don't know, is it three months of assuming schools, going to go back and session and excuse me certain costs, whether it be Transportation Security and thinking of non, you know, teacher, you know contract type expenses that aren't being paid, say at PCs or Woodstock Academy. And again, I don't know if it's too premature to to even know what those numbers even look

like but at some point, I would think we would maybe know some numbers or again expenses that we planned on having that we didn't have because of what's going on right now. You know, I didn't know if Steve could or Kate could even comment to that, if I'm even being clear but I'm just thinking of things that obviously we're not we're not having an expense for right now

78:32

about possible savings because temporary school closings that in

78:35

yeah clean I'm not talking about again like salary teacher salaries, but more security we're not doing we're not you know running the buses obviously then sports, all of that that is kind of those other

78:49

items part part of the and again the sports are is a little bit of money we run out a baseball team a softball team and a track team and there's some stipends for a few coaches so there's a few thousand dollars but again, we went from 50,000 to 125 and part of that we were factoring in some of those savings, figuring we're not going to run it. Probably the big one that's sitting out there right now is transportation. In this this may get to be

79:16

quite the battle in the state of Connecticut To tell you the truth.

79:21

The,

79:23

the state of Connecticut is take with the executive order, I think it's executive order seven R, if I'm not mistaken, basically tells school districts to negotiate amendments to their transportation contracts. And the purpose is saying that if and when schools open whether it's May June or it's next August, September, you want these bus companies to be functioning you don't want them to go out of business. And they're saying to us to negotiate an amendment to the contract for what they would consider fair and reasonable expenses and primarily they're looking at wages and health insurance. They want us to go back and say, of the amount of money we're paying to every day, how much is wages, how much is health insurance, they are telling us that we're to negotiate upon that that the vendor is to give us documentation as to what the wages and the health insurance they're actually paying and attest to it, that's the general from the executive order, the transportation companies have written as of last Friday to they started with the commissioner. And I'm not quite sure the commissioner of education is going to answer this I think it's ultimately going to go to the governor, and they're trying to say that they run out a small margin, and part of it probably is the fact that because they are private businesses. They're not going to open their books, and they're not going to tell you what they're paying people and then I can tell you the health insurance and I can tell their competitors, what they're doing, etc. The bus companies are looking for. And I don't blame them as a larger payment as they can get. Okay. And obviously the schools are looking to as little as they can get the bus companies are hoping across the state of Connecticut that the governor or somebody will issue an order that will say that from now to the

end of the year the unused days you will pay them pick a number, 60 7080 90% of what your payment is so they can pay their people keep their people on health insurance, etc. I'm not quite sure where it's going to land up what wind up, we're not going to get zero. I know it's not going to be zero. Okay. Um, if I were to say what I think that transportation number would be, I think the best is going to be will pay 80%. It could be his highest paying 100% of what the number is okay. And in terms of factoring out to the end of the year. We were looking more at that at Palmer. There are school districts that have engaged, various legal firms to send very detailed documents to the bus companies, demanding that and not too many but saying in order to negotiate you must show us this documentation, etc. I'm not quite sure how they're going to do it I don't know exactly where it's go but I would anticipate by the end of the year. We're going to pay at least 80% of the bus contract even though we haven't run the number of days, I wouldn't be surprised if it's 90 or 95%. So there are some savings we factored in some electricity savings. Some diesel savings, some, some fuel, some spring sports etc. But that is not a monumental cost the only one number if I didn't have to pay it at all. Transportation would be the big one, and that would produce a lot of money transportations about \$50,000 a month. So three months of no transportations on your \$50,000. I don't I'm planning where to pay at least 80% of that, if not more.

82:56

So Steve Can I see we're saying that they are all generally private companies. Is there a way to find out if they avail themselves of all of the monetary things that are out in the Kazakh right now. I mean they can have eight weeks of their salaries covered forgiven, as well as additional monies and loans at 1% interest.

83:20

Yeah, and I think this is part of the battle, that's going back and forth between. And it's interesting that a lot of the legal work, the superintendent's organizations for some reason for him have been which is the director, they've been paying shipping in goodwill Chipman goodwill is probably the leading educational law firm in the state to draft opinions to draft letters etc shipment Goodwyn has probably the most detailed letters to a to a vendor to say this is what you need to do to negotiate the contract. They don't want to negotiate amendments to 169 different contracts, they would like somebody to say this is what the number is going to be obviously they want the number to be 95 or 100% Okay, me personally. If they tell me this, the governor says is the number that's what the number is I think the number should be closer to 80% probably but that that's a conversation, I've had with our vendor to say that if there was any money that you got that we paid you full price at some point is any money you got through stimulus or whatever, then that money would then obviously be returned to the town. Right now, my understanding is that the comfort drivers are on workers comp. Okay, and therefore it's like I'm saying well if there are, if they're getting I'm sorry unemployment

84:36

unemployment. I'm just like, oh

84:39

my god, you're on employment, and you're getting maybe 50, or 60% of what it is, if I then pay you full price. Then I've overpaid you okay and I don't think there's a way to make the people whole who are there, although I had a conversation with our bus vendor today, and he said one of their proposals is

that if the driver, our drivers collect unemployment all summer long when they're not working. Okay, so they're saying if they collected for three weeks now and you paid me full price. In July, we'll pay them full pay for three weeks so they don't collect unemployment. So everybody is hold at that particular point. I'm not quite sure where it's going to end up but I do think the decision is either going to be made at a higher level, or it's going to be the okay corral across the state of Connecticut, with districts and their vendors.

85:30

Okay, I mean, at that point you just brought up it's just interesting because they're not going to just get their Connecticut unemployment, they're all going to get an additional \$600 per week until the end of July. So they've been made more than their normal whole. I mean I don't want anybody to be, you know, not having enough money to feed their families but I also don't want people to be taking advantage of what they do get through these stimulus programs and then taking it out on us.

85:56

And I agree and to tell you the truth that the gentleman who I deal with them and J. Excellent guy etc and at this point here he's not himself we're not going to try to take advantage of us, but he's got probably 14 balls in the air, and he's hoping when they all land he's whole. Okay, so whether it's a combination of a certain percentage from the town, a certain percentage from the federal government, they maybe have to tighten their belt a little bit so as long as they get through one of the dangers does become that some of these companies just like some of the restaurants, etc. This goes too long they're just not going to reopen, you know. The other concern they have is that if the, if, because they say the coronavirus may come back again next year. So the shutting down of school Mendes not been to the end of this year, it could be in next year also. So how many drivers people gonna say hey Gee, I'd like to be a bus driver, knowing that I can wind up getting laid off in the middle of the year, and I'm going to be on unemployment for another two months you know and have this continue to go so that there is some concern about their long term health but it's not, it's not a Pomfret issue right now. It is the state of Connecticut. Okay. But back to Joel's question that's probably the bigger number, the other smaller things not running softball or baseball and the transportation that would go with softball baseball, we're factoring that into the hundred 20 5000s we've got that I haven't taken that \$50,000 for for April in may in fact add that in because I don't think we're going to save that kind of a number.

87:30

Right, right. Okay.

87:33

And anything at one stop Academy. Also, you know like, again security none of this all adds up too much but I'm just kind of thinking from the Woodstock Academy piece because I don't know who oversees that if there are some savings in how that, or how that gets applied

87:53

to the tuition. Yeah,

87:56

Academy and we just pay tuition to them, they just give us a tuition number. And we have a responsibility to pay it. So, right, I mean the only the only input we have there is one seat, on, on the, the Board of Trustees, when they consider their budget to advocate for us. And then, I mean I was suggesting perhaps sending over a plea in consideration of the current events to see if they would consider reopening their budget, which we can certainly do and, which I anticipate the answer would probably be no. But we don't have any line item influence on that budget.

88:44

Yeah. Okay, thank you.

88:50

Anybody else have any comments questions.

88:56

Mark if I could just clarify a couple things if you don't mind. No, go ahead. Okay, great. Um, I just wanted to say first of all I want to clarify that the \$100,000 cut would be out of the increase that we were suggesting, and the \$125,000 return to the town is separate. It's, we're not asking that one be covered by the other, so I didn't want that to get confused in people's minds, so you know it's it's the hundred thousand dollar cut is new money, compared to the increase we were asking for the 125 is new money, you know, return to the revenue. So I didn't want it to sound like we were asking for one to cover the other. The other point I wanted to make is that non lapsing fund is really, I think it was meant by the legislature to be a convenience to the town. Because the way that the Board of Ed budget is structured, we cannot build savings or anticipated revenue into our budget we're not permitted by the statute to have a revenue line. So for example, if we were to budget. The way other municipal entities budget we could say, Okay, listen, we anticipate a couple extra special education, you know implications. We're going to put \$100,000 into a certain special ed line item in one year have it available in the next year. We're not permitted to do that under the statutes. So whenever we have an unanticipated cost. It always comes in the form of an appropriation that we request from the town. So to avoid the town having to go to special appropriation. The statute the statute has built in this non lapsing fund. So it's really the convenience of the town that that is there. So when we budget. We keep an eye on not letting that non lapsing fund fall too low. Because otherwise, the way that things operated when there was no non lapsing fun we were going back to the town for anything over a certain amount, we'd have to call in a town meeting and and vote on any anything that was unanticipated. So for the convenience of the town so that you're not calling back in and, you know, special appropriation on a regular basis. That's why that is there. So, you know, and we've luckily been able to fund that often with money that we've returned. So, we were thinking in our, you know when the plan that the board had laid out and with Steve's direction, was that we understand that the 125 is needed now, I mean you you know you have a designated fund that's that's rather high However, these are these are really stressful times financially for the town which is why we were not asking, making any kind of request that it go into the non lapsing fund, however, to allow the non lapsing fund to fall to 13,000. It's not going to cover anything and when we have an unanticipated cost, you will be looking at a special appropriation, to a town, who is maxed out. And probably, you know, very upset at the need for a special appropriation so as a board of finance I just wanted you know to frame that question. In that way, if that's helpful.

92:50

This is margay Thank you Kate that does make sense. I'm curious what would happen if you call the town meeting for special ed appropriation and the people who are out of work and whatnot came and voted it down then what would happen.

93:07

Well if we asked for a special appropriation for special education, the federal government tells us that as a town we have to come up with that. So if the answer to a special appropriation town meeting is no, then it's back to board of finance to find it from the designated fund

93:25

and that'd be good with that. This is Debbie I'd be good with that. Um. To me this is a whole new ballgame. Um, and Kate, thanks for the clarification, I'm back to I have, what, what you gave her \$100,000 cup is really like 1%. I don't know if I'm crazy we would go and back to the town and saying that we're putting in another 3%, but maybe we just let them decide, but I don't know and this time. That's a tough call to make. I mean I'm just sitting here going back and forth I understand you're mandated I understand there's only so many places but we're back to, like you said, and what Marty said, you know, people are going to be looking to save every dime in their own house. To me hundred thousand is a little low. Looking at 1.8% for around 190, which is less than half of what you asked him for an increase in I understand the basics of your increase. But I leave it up to the other board members to talk about that. I just, I don't know, I don't know, my

94:37

response. You know my response to that Debbie is that the, the 3.2% increase that's left does not have to come out of the taxpayers pockets in the form of the mill rate increase. When you have an undead on designated fund that's available to your board.

94:59

I agree with that.

95:00

Um, I guess it's all going to come in the presentation.

95:04

I don't know you know this is a new ballgame. And

95:10

I'm not disagreeing with you I just don't know, I'm just putting it out there for conversation because I just don't know if you go in there with almost any kind of increase, you're going to have some really good explaining to do. We just got to do my best to try to keep it down as much as possible.

95:26

If I could just add a couple things just one. Please understand, in terms of the scope. I look at the budget in a couple of ways and one is the whole tuition in special ed tuition, which of our \$10 million is

about \$4 million of that. Okay. I believe that regular rent tuition is a \$328,000 increase. So, anything less than that number becomes a decrease of PCs okay so therefore that small part of that is doing that. The other part back to Kate's comments upon the undead and native thinking back to Superintendent school when they did the budgeting class Okay, they told you that when you budget for special education you budget for unanticipated special education tuitions and you put in tuition that would come out that DCF would might have given you, you probably put in it tuition that the court system would give to you, and based upon your experience you put in one two or three tuitions that might turn out from the family that moves in from out of town. Okay, so most budgets carry extra money in their regular operating budget for unanticipated special education tuitions that may happen in Pomfret. We budget real kids that we know about and in the people on my finance and budget committee know that a kid moves in the kid moves out and move in. Well, we do real kids real numbers etc We don't build it in the reason we don't build an extra is if I get the kid moves in I got \$163,000 sitting there to cover. I don't have to if I built in two tuitions a year. I'm building a \$200,000 extra every single year to cover it, as opposed to having 167 or whatever the number is, you have a fund that sits there and you don't want to giving in that extra money for the just in case that just in case is covered. And

97:22

I see Sherry's hand up does she have a question.

97:26

I think Maureen has her hand up and Sherry does too. Yeah. Can you hear me. Yes, I

97:39

am I unmuted.

97:42

You can't hear.

97:44

Oh, I just wanted to point out to Debbie, that this year. The budget budgets going to be passed without issue, a town meeting.

97:55

So, when you were talking about take it to the people and let them decide their responsibilities second budget this year is totally on board the finances, folder. Oh,

98:09

will not be at town meeting.

98:11

Did we know that. Did we did we know that before today. Did I not know that, I guess.

98:17

There was an executive order by the governor.

98:23

That eliminated, you hit you still have sort of a public public hearing but there will be no town meeting.

98:32

Okay,

98:33

well thank you for that I didn't, I wasn't aware of that.

98:43

This is Marga yeah that that Executive Order was quite a few pages long and you had to kind of sift through it to figure out

98:52

what the what the parameters were.

98:57

I believe the order says that the Board of selectmen authorizes the budget making authority in the town to pass a budget.

99:08

Okay, thank you.

99:16

Well, since we have a meeting, a regular monthly meeting on Monday. I think we could continue this then.

99:28

And

99:31

let's see.

99:36

I think we need a motion if we're going to ask the Board of Ed. To cut 100,000 from the current budget I think we'd better have a motion to do that.

99:49

Could somebody make that motion.

99:52

I make a motion that we request that the Board of Ed, cut \$100,000 from the budget that they've proposed to us to date. Can you list. A second sorry yeah that was Dana.

100:03

Okay, one second.

100:05

Okay. Is there any further discussion about that. Okay.

100:09

All in favor say aye. Aye. Any opposed. Any abstain. Okay, great.

100:21

Okay, so, Steven K. You have that directive to cut that hundred thousand. And we will discuss what we've been discussing tonight again on on Monday.

100:38

And also, Next on the agenda is correspondence I don't have anybody gotten any questions from anybody in the public in town. Every all have our email addresses appeared in the palm four times article.

100:54

And I will see everybody jumping and raising their hands. I haven't gotten an email, I have not.

101:01

No, I haven't heard, I haven't heard either.

101:04

No. Okay.

101:06

This is Elaine Of course we have seen the, I guess now probably the final survey information right

101:14

now I believe this is margay I believe that that's going to be live for another till the end of

101:22

April, Maureen good.

101:25

Eric Can you unmute Maureen.

101:31

Hi, so we. This is Maureen I checked the survey live till April 20 but we're only getting dribbles and babble people right now to see people we pull it out so I think pretty much what you see is what you get, I sent out the link to everybody. I think, for what we had to date on that. What was the other thing you can add to it. I spent margay I forwarded to comments to you that I got a bunch of comments today, emailed them to you. Did you get those. I don't recall seeing them, but

102:15

when I tried to open up outlook before, just before this meeting, it wouldn't open so

102:21

I sent to you once and down,

102:26

late morning. So,

102:31

yeah,

102:32

I will look for them and if I did not get them I will let you know.

102:36

Okay I sent them out about three o'clock. Okay. Okay.

102:41

Okay now so this is participation.

102:45

Is there anybody else

102:46

here who would like to make any other comments.

102:51

There we go. Thank you.

102:57

All right, I just got

103:03

boom down what happened.

103:05

I still hear you marking here.

103:09

There we are all of a sudden my screen went blank. All right, you came back.

103:16

All right, this is chill if you do have those two questions and would you be sharing those with us just so we can add them into our view of the survey.

103:24

Oh, absolutely. Absolutely. I want

103:29

you guys I don't know if you guys did it but I sent out the survey link to all of my friends that I knew in Pomfret to try to bug the living daylights out of them to fill it out. So if we all did that maybe we'd get a little bit bummed before the end of April 20 so

103:45

I think that's a great idea.

103:47

Yeah. Okay. A lot of people just forget.

103:51

I think a lot of people just are so busy with other things it's just not high on their priority list, and I think there are a lot of people that are happy with the way things are. It's true, it as far as how the town is run.

104:08

Okay. Would someone like to make the motion to adjourn.

104:12

Motion to adjourn was Debbie, and his second

104:15

Dana,

104:17

Dana jacketing. Okay. All in favor.

104:20

Hi. Okay.

104:23

Thanks everybody. We

104:27

will do this again on Monday at 630