

BRIDGEWATER, HEBRON & GROTON STEERING COMMITTEE

297 Mayhew Turnpike
Bridgewater, NH 03222

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Terence Murphy
Bridgewater Selectman

Patrick Moriarty
Hebron Selectman

John Rescigno
Groton Selectman

Erick Piper
Bridgewater Representative

Jennifer Larochelle
Hebron Representative

Virginia Parker
Groton Representative

Derry Riddle
BHVD – Ex Officio

William White
BHVD – Ex Officio

February 28, 2024: Meeting called to order at 6pm
Meeting Location: Groton Town Hall, 754 N Groton Road

Committee Members Present: Jennifer Larochelle, Terence Murphy and Virginia Parker.

Absent: Patrick Moriarty, Eric Piper and John Rescigno.

Ms. Larochelle called the meeting to order.

Ms. Larochelle explained that without a quorum the committee cannot review minutes or provide committee updates. The meeting will be opened up to public questions and comments.

Ms. Larochelle provided Ms. Parker with some grammatical errors to be updated on the Pro Forma budget that is to be released on Thursday.

Ms. Parker let the committee members and public that were present know that the pro forma budget that will be presented is very conservative on the Revenue side but on the flip side it is being very generous on the expense side. This is providing a base template for the new school district to have breathing room for implementation.

Mr. Murphy explained that he and Mr. Piper are working on a spreadsheet to show residents the possible affect the new school district will have on tax bills compared to staying in SAU #4 with their new budget numbers.

Ms. Parker mentioned that one of the slides from the recent school board meeting on the budget displays next years bill to each town.

Mr. Murphy stated that residents will require that number to be broken down further. People need to know how the larger numbers will actually affect them.

Ms. Larochelle let the public that was present know that the pro forma budget that will be released tomorrow will be the most sensible pro forma budget that we can issue.

If questions are brought to our attention after the release, the questions will be collected and reviewed and then answered.

Ms. Parker stated there may be some very simple questions that could be answered right away.

Discussion ensued regarding what comparisons would be helpful and what questions may be brought forth and how they should be answered. It was also mentioned that maybe each town could have another public session prior to their voting. This may be difficult for those with Town meeting on March 12th.

Ms. Larochelle asked if the individuals present had any questions/comments.

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Mark Coulson posed the question of what is the scenario if the vote doesn't happen. What is the alternative if article 5 were to take affect?

Mr. Murphy stated this is when certain towns would begin to subsidize others within the school district.

Ms. Larochelle & Ms. Parker expressed their concern that other buildings within the school district lack general maintenance. BHVS has always been maintained by the Bridgewater-Hebron Village District.

Mr. Darlington said that he is hoping that the pro forma budget will include comparisons to today.

Ms. Parker stated that if you look at the presentation that the school district did at their budget hearing, you will have comparisons for 2025 to 2026.

Discussions ensued around accurate comparisons and what information could be helpful to the public in making an informative decision.

Ms. Larochelle stated with no further public questions we will close the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:25pm.