

Town update:

**The school board** met last Thursday's with many in the audience expecting to see the annual financial list of staff proposed year end purchases. Traditionally the board then goes through the list and decides what to spend and what to return to the tax payers.

**It never happened this year and when asked why the Superintendent said the public had its opportunity for spending inputs when it passed the budget. He therefore had no requirement to publish any such list.** He said he would not spend a penny more than the approved budget but the implication was he might spend every penny of what was approved and would no longer provide the Board/public with any say in what he would spend it on. This was a serious change in practice and removed a layer of transparency from the public. This is a troubling development and the School Board was mute.

Why is this a big deal? For the year beginning in a few days the board has released information that they over estimated the cost of health insurance by more than \$330,000. You would expect the end of the year statement to reflect a savings of \$330,000. Given this new practice the Superintendent can increase any budget line item by as much as \$330,000 without one minute of public input. Apparently this is fine with the school board because when questioned about this change the Board said NOTHING!

At Thursday's meeting there was a proposal by the Tech. Teacher to buy lap top computers for every student. Since there was at least \$1 dollar in the budget line item for computers this proposal could be enacted using the \$330,000 without any input from the public.

Thought you might want to know what is happening in town with your money.

## **ALSO:**

**The Selectman will meet this Thursday at 6PM (New Time) and here is the agenda.**

New business:

### **Discussion of the budget cuts**

**Enrollment of Call Fire Fighters in the New Hampshire Retirement System** (The retirement system is a significant part of the personnel budget and **this discussion will be about adding part time employees and volunteers to the system.** My understanding is that this is a local Board of Selectman decision.)

Old Business:

**Approval of Building permit free** - (This an item that has been on the agenda for over a month and I have opposed it from the beginning because it required home owner who

was replacing their dishwasher or trash compactor or putting together a small storage building - the metal type you would buy from Home Depot- to **GET A BUILDING PERMIT AND TO HAVE THE BUILDING INSPECTOR COME TO THEIR HOMES TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE WHAT WAS DONE. THIS IS EXPENSIVE AND IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE HEAR THE INSPECTOR WORK LOAD HAS INCREASED AND HE NEEDS AN ASSISTANT OR TWO.** Oh and by the way now that he has an assistant he is a supervisor and needs to a salary increase to keep up with other supervisors.

Thought you might be interested in these issues.

Tom Keane

**PS: If you know of anyone who should be added to my email list please have them send me an email with add to the list in the subject line. THANKS**