

TOWN COUNCIL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Joint Work Session
October 29, 2007

A work session of the Jamestown Town Council and the Jamestown School Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 7:30 p.m. by School Committee Chair Catherine Kaiser. The following Council members and School Committee members were present:

Town Council:

David J. Long, President
Julio J. DiGiando, Vice President
William A. Kelly
Michael Schnack
Barbara A. Szepatowski

School Committee:

Catherine Kaiser, Chair
William Brennan
Julia Held
David Dolce
Julie Kallfelz

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Christina Collins, Finance Director
Dr. Marcia Lukon, Superintendent
Maria Alfred, Business Manager
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk

participating audience members:

Dr. Robert Fricklas, Director of Pupil Services
Lewis Kitts, Building Supervisor

School Committee Budget Report

School Committee Chair Catherine Kaiser reviewed the 2006-2007 school budget and submitted an unaudited projection of an undesignated fund balance surplus of 251,202.78. In addition, Ms. Kaiser reported that there was a capital fund surplus balance of \$11,106.12.

There was Council questioning on the reasons for the surplus monies and what the intentions were for those funds.

School Committee Chair Kaiser gave information relating to the school budget process and the need to meet funding requirements. Ms. Kaiser mentioned that although student numbers can be anticipated and per pupil expenditures projected, in some instances the

level of services per special needs student is more difficult to determine and can impact the budget dramatically. Ms. Kaiser noted that military enrollment can also be unpredictable and costly. The School Committee will be applying for Federal Impact Aid to assist with the expenses relating to military enrollment.

There was some discussion by the School Committee relating to a proposed statewide funding initiative; however, concern was raised that the town would lose any control over the educational decisions or issues relating to our students.

Ms. Kaiser invited Council members to the November 13 forum on education funding consolidation being presented by RIPEC.

General Government Budget Report

Bruce Keiser, Town Administrator, reported that the unaudited budget results for FY2006-2007 show that the town wide revenues received were over budget predictions by \$218,906 and the town expenditures were under spent by \$41,066, allowing for an approximate operating surplus of \$250,000. The Town Administrator reported that this would give the Town an approximate \$3,300,000 undesignated fund balance.

In discussing 2008-2009 budget limitations, the Town Administrator stated that with the state-mandated property tax levy limit of 5% against the FY '07 base levy of \$16,727,176, the maximum increase for the FY '08-2009 budget is set at \$836,359. With estimated increase to the cost of health care, and contract increases in retirement and salaries totaling \$515,659, and added to that the \$75,000 to \$90,000 in highway debt service, the total town commitment starts off at almost \$600,000.

Council President Long noted that the information relating to the FY '08-2009 will be discussed further at the budget work sessions.

There being no further comments, the work session was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

c: Town Council Members (5)
School Committee
Town Administrator
School Superintendent
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation