



**TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee**

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Co-Chair
John Fulghum, Co-Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Jeff Lewis
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Judy Zahora

Tuesday February 16, 2021 Minutes

Members Present: Beatty, Brown, Lewis, Fulghum, Vanderslice, Zahora, Sheehan joined late

Members Absent: Tarmy

Others Present: A. Barletta, R. Dwyer, A. Nieto, T. Pierantozzi, L. Sherlock

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Agenda was presentation and discussion of the Police and School Department budgets.

Police Department

Chief of Police Dwyer went over the highlights of his budget. His main request, delayed by last year's short Warrant, is for a new radio system. He explained that the existing system is old and does not allow for communication among officers in different parts of town, a serious problem. The Chief is working with a company he thinks is good, which is proposing a system with new equipment and antennas at East Point, Bass Point, and the station. He expects the bid to be about \$200,000, and that the new system should have a lifespan of about 25 years. When asked by Zahora how the department has been able to get along with the old system, he said it has been a struggle, and added that, with COVID, 2020 was a difficult, stressful year for the force.

For the benefit of new committee members, Chief Dwyer described how the department works, with three 8-hour shifts of two officers on duty, one at the station and one in the squad car, and explained the problem of a 56-hour hole that he has to fill with overtime. Barletta explained that wished that he had not had to turn down Chief Dwyer's request for an additional officer, because of budgetary constraints, but that he will continue to look at this important concern. When Vanderslice asked whether a new hire would be cost-effective and how much it would be, Barletta said about \$100,000. Chief Dwyer explained why it might not make up for overtime, for some time, because of the need for Police Academy attendance and other factors. He also discussed the need to replace police vehicles on a regular basis, about every 5-6 years, which is being done, with a new cruiser coming online now completely fitted out, for about \$54,000. Beatty asked about PPE, which Dwyer said they had been able to obtain.

When asked by Brown about the tradeoff between a new officer and new fire department building, Barletta explained the goal of having a combined public safety building. The Chief said that the current department building was small and ill-designed for modern policing, especially in a time of Covid. With a new public safety building sounding optimal, we discussed reactivating a feasibility committee. Knowing that such a building would cost millions that the town can't afford now, we encouraged Barletta to keep planning in mind, which he said he is doing.



TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Co-Chair
John Fulghum, Co-Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Jeff Lewis
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Judy Zahora

Barletta told us that Chief Dwyer will be retiring in July, after 30 years on the force. He commended Dwyer as a “top of the list” manager and team builder focused on the needs of his force, who brought community policing to the fore in Nahant. Chief Dwyer will be dearly missed, he said. The Chief said that Nahant is very supportive of law enforcement, and a great place to work. We thanked Chief Dwyer for all that he’s done for the town and complimented him on how successfully he and the force have kept us safe, which we know has been especially difficult for them as frontline first responders during the pandemic. Barletta added how many more incidents the force now deals with, including supervision of rapid growth in summer visitors and a great increase in parking violations. We confirmed that the budget seemed appropriate, given the town’s fiscal constraints, and applauded Chief Dwyer for his leadership and service.

School Department

Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi introduced School Committee Chair Lauren Sherlock, and said that the School Committee had unanimously approved the budget. He explained that he reports to the School Committee, who are responsible for the School Department, similar to the role of the Board of Selectmen. Sherlock thanked Pierantozzi for his budgeting, grant getting, and responsible financial guidance for the school department and town.

Superintendent Pierantozzi put up his helpful PowerPoint (see attached), and said that he tries to return money to the town if the school doesn’t need it. He gave the example of how budgets can vary, such as when a student with special needs moves or transfers back to the public schools from an expensive private school, for which, by law, the town must pay. He explained that by state law the town must spend 2 and half percent of its budget on education. Nahant spends over what is required, though not by a great amount. When asked by Lewis how much, Fulghum said that he has compiled data over the years that he will make available to us. When Beatty asked if Nahant received federal funding from Title I, targeted at schools with children from low-income backgrounds, Pierantozzi said that we do, a small amount because of our demographics.

Superintendent Pierantozzi said that no union contract has been negotiated as yet for 2022. Due to Covid, the current contract was extended for 2021. He said that he is planning for an overall 2.835% budget increase, or \$117,068 for 2022. The increases are based on the middle-school and high-school tuition we pay to Swampscott, the need for an additional part-time special education paraprofessional, and transportation costs. He added that they are in the process arranging for a better way of contracting with Swampscott.



TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Co-Chair
John Fulghum, Co-Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Jeff Lewis
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Judy Zahora

Pierantozzi said that unlike the large majority of schools in the state, the Johnson School has stayed open during the pandemic. There has been not one case of Covid. Zahora said, terrific, and asked what other schools might learn from us. Pierantozzi said that because we are small, we had space to social distance, and that we had a well-designed reopening plan. Sherlock said that the school has been very conservative, has required all children, even kindergartners, to wear masks, that all decision-making has been science-based, that they gather data, and that the community has cooperated fully.

Fulghum asked Superintendent Pierantozzi what he gave up to keep the budget in line. Pierantozzi said that he reduced some Covid supplies and special education administration, got a grant, and was able to use what he called "breakage" from older teachers' salaries based on retirement for budget balancing.

When asked by Beatty about his wish list, Pierantozzi said that he'd like to install solar panels, and that the cost would be net zero, and in fact would provide power to the town. Barletta agreed about the savings. Vanderslice said that this sounded like an excellent plan and asked what needed to be done to make it happen. Barletta said that a Letter of Intent had gone out to get estimates and that a borrowing Article might be added to the Warrant. We talked about two options, having a private from a company do it, which would then get permanent cut, or paying more upfront, maybe about \$80,000, and owning it ourselves. Sherlock said that they were discussing these options and that going solar and green would be good for the school's place-based curriculum. We said that we want to keep the solar plan on the town agenda; Barletta agreed. As another wish, Pierantozzi said that he was looking forward to seeing the children have more opportunities for arts, music, hands-on STEM activities, and performance, as Covid begins to ease up.

Pierantozzi also said that budgeting might be made simpler by not doing so many double entries with other town departments. He thinks we do more of this than most other towns. Nieto agreed and said that she hoped the new town data program going online now may make things simpler.

Wondering about the contracting process, costs, and quality, Sheehan asked whether Nahant might consider negotiating a middle school and high school contract with Marblehead instead of Swampscott. Sherlock said that Nahant has had a long-standing, positive, stable relationship with Swampscott, which has successful schools, and that our students get into great colleges and universities. Pierantozzi added that the Marblehead school system has gone through changes recently.

Beatty complimented Pierantozzi on his budget management skills and understanding of how the town and school department work together. Sherlock said how much the School Committee enjoys working with Pierantozzi, what a good job they think he is doing, how hard he works, and described his long



TOWN OF NAHANT
Advisory and Finance Committee

Members

Robert Vanderslice, Co-Chair
John Fulghum, Co-Chair
Barbara Beatty
DeWitt Brown
Jeff Lewis
Dana Sheehan
Julie Tarmy
Judy Zahora

hours and accessibility. We complimented Pierantozzi and Sherlock again for having been able to keep the Johnson School open so successfully during the pandemic.

Zahora moved that the meeting adjourn; Beatty seconded. All voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:25 pm

Nahant Public Schools Approved FY 2022 Budget

Finance Committee Presentation

February 16, 2021

7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting

Tony Pierantozzi
Superintendent of Schools
For the School Committee



Nahant School Committee

- Lauren Sherlock, Chair
- Tom Tria, Vice Chair
- Regina Laine, Recording Secretary
- Mary West, Member
- Patricia Karras, Member



NPS Budget Changes from FY 2020

**Total
+ \$117,068**

District + \$62,652

Johnson School + \$52,327

Town + \$2,089

Factors

- All Salary Increases
- One Kindergarten Section and two 1st Grade Sections due to Projected Enrollment
- Swampscott Tuition – Junior and Senior High School
- Supplies to Address Health & Safety – COVID-19
- Audit Cost
- Essex Northshore A & T
- Special Education – JES, Tuition, Transportation



District Changes from FY 2020

Tuition – Jr/Sr High + \$60,305 (51.5% of total Increase)

District line items: + \$2,347

Total Change + \$ 62,652



Johnson School Changes from FY 2020

Regular Full Time Employees

Add one 1st Grade Teacher / Reduce one Kindergarten Teacher
due to projected enrollment

Updated for Current and Budgeted Staff + \$11,295 Net

Special Education Staffing - Add One Paraprofessional + \$19,900
(17% of total Increase)

School (COVID-19) Custodial Supplies + \$25,500
(21.8% of total Increase)



Town Changes from FY 2020

Transportation + \$2,089 - Net

Total Change: + \$2,089

2021 -2022 Budget Overview - Comparisons

	FY 2021	FY22	Change	
Johnson School	1,646,176	1,698,503	+ 52,327	+ 3.9%
District	2077,639	2,140,291	+ 62,652	+ 3%
SUBTOTAL Total School (NSS)	3,728,815	3,838,794	+ 114,978	+ 3%
Town	405,287	389,247	+ 2,089	+ .5%
TOTAL Education Cost	4,129,102 ADJ-	4,246,170 Approved 02.09.21	+ 117,170	+ 2.835%

2018 -2021 Budget Overview - Comparisons

	FY 2019 Voted	FY 2020	FY 2021	Change FY20 to FY21	FY2022	Change FY21 to FY 22
Johnson School	1,596,066	1,623,286	1,646,176	+ 22,890 +1.4%	1,698,503	+52,327 3.1%
District	1,871,807	1,942,014	2,077,639	+ 135,625 +6.98%	2,140,291	+62,652 3.0%
SUBTOTAL Total School (NSS)	3,467,873	3,545,300	(3,723,815)	+182,820 +5.15%	3,838,794	+114,978 3%
Town	436,579	389,590	387,158 (ADJ 405,287)	-2432 -.6%	389,247	+2,089 5%
TOTAL Education Cost	\$3,845,153	\$3,954,890	\$4,110,973 (ADJ 4,129,102)	134,515 +3.4%	4,246,170	+2,835%

↑ 10.4% Increase – 4 years ↑



Thank you!

Comments / Questions?