

**Somersworth School Board
Minutes of the Public Hearing
Proposed 17-18 Budget**

February 20th 2017

Somersworth City Hall

6:45PM

(Board Members Present: Chris Smith, Kelly Brennan, Joanne Pepin, Karen Hiller, Ken Bolduc, Donald Austin, Matt Hanlon, Kyla Yoder and Dana Rivers.)

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Don Austin opened the public hearing at 6:45pm.
2. **Public Comments Relative to the proposed 17-18 budget:** Mark Hiller stated that he would like to make a general comment not addressed to those here tonight but he has spent the last 40 years in higher education and he has seen the impact of budgets being cut at school systems throughout New Hampshire. He stated that it has been continually happening here over the last few years and he would urge greater community involvement and effort by citizens to let their concerns be known to the elected officials or anyone who has the means to convey that through community members or neighbors. He stated that fifteen years ago when his kids were looking to go to high school the size of the classes has grown larger because of budget cuts and we were fortunate enough to pick up and relocate to another community where there were more funds available but the majority of people can't pick up and relocate. He stated that as he heard the budget presentation and what is happening this year it doesn't seem to be different in previous years there are needs being cut and postponed and there are programs eliminated years ago that have never been recouped. He stated that our community can't continue in this way, the cuts are getting harder and deeper and it is time parents stand up and say where do we prioritize education in our community and change things and make the school system what we want it to be with more resources to support it in the future.

Public hearing was closed at 6:50pm.

Katie Krauss
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval