

1. **Call to Order-Roll Call- Pledge of Allegiance:** Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and upon call of the roll, the following board members were present: Nelson, Cavanaugh, Kunz, Leach and Anderson.
2. **Budget Discussion:** Nelson stated that she went back the last four years to see how well we have done with taking more responsibility and learning more about it and asking the administration and staff ways to save money. She stated that we have a real savings of over \$300,000 over the last four years and we have done a lot in the building and still have saved that amount of money. She stated that the big savings comes from staff. She stated that in 2014-2015, we had three teachers retire and we replaced them with teachers on lower steps, which saved us \$133,000 that year, and two years ago, we had an unanticipated resignation where we didn't replace that teacher which saved us over \$100,000 there. She stated that in light of that, this year's budget we are in good shape, there may be some tweaking but we are in good shape. Leach stated that on the expenditure page 1 of 6 the proposal is \$74,529 less but the net is \$38,689 more and asked why. D'Agostino stated that the net increase includes the revenue loss. Leach asked if the difference in expenditures include the warrant articles. D'Agostino stated yes, the reduction of the two warrants from last year. Nelson stated that you can see that in the detail. She stated that last year we did two new smartboards and asked if that puts us ahead in our smartboards. Lucas stated that it puts us where we need to be. D'Agostino stated that the budget that is being presented is what we discussed at the last workshop with some changes. She stated that we know the Marshwood regular tuition and special education related services and we got the school care rate, which came in at 3.2%, and we had used a 3.5% estimate. She stated that the left side of the packet includes the CIP, updates on the trust fund balances, which includes the \$25,000 to each from last year. She stated that the audit for last year has been complete and we are happy to report that there is no management letter or findings, which is four years in a row now. Nelson asked Dr. Brown if she would like to talk about her discussion with Marshwood regarding the tiered versus a la carte special education. Dr. Brown stated that Marie, Pam and I met with Marshwood to discuss the tiered approach versus the itemized costs. She stated that they determined that the tiered approach will not be cost effective for you and the itemized costs is the way to go. She stated that she would suggest that they continue with that model. Nelson asked how close we are to getting the budget tighter with special education. D'Agostino stated that they used the schedule based on one-hour services based on the IEP's that we have now but things can change. She stated that Pam will look at the current students and apply to the current year. She stated that they haven't billed us yet for special education as we were waiting on direction from the board. Leach stated that she doesn't understand the process of coming up with the prices on the tiered approach and asked if they could negotiate that. Dr. Brown stated that they provided us with a comparison on how it is currently billed versus the amortized program and it would be to your advantage to pay as you go. She stated that they were very accommodating and tried to take out the high cost placement but it was still more expensive to go with the tiered approach.

Leach asked if there are multiple cost levels. Nelson stated that our tuition agreement with Somersworth has three tiers, base, medium and high. D'Agostino stated that last year the board directed us to add three additional students for the possibility of students enrolling that we don't know about. She stated that she kept it the same this year and they are allocated to the middle school. If you chose to make modifications, it would be included in version two. Nelson stated that when we first went to Marshwood we didn't account for families moving into Rollinsford from South Berwick and we had 15 students in the first budget and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> budget we were able to put ten into the next budget in order to catch up, that is why we get nervous on how to deal with this. Dr. Brown stated that it seems to be prudent to keep those three in. Nelson stated that when you look at just the RGS portion of the budget it is \$101,918 less than last year. Lucas stated that when we had done the original budget we had preliminary numbers and now we have some firm numbers. The safe and secure doors is down to \$13,000 which is \$2,000 less, the sealcoating is \$10,000 which is \$2,000 less and the Phone and Bell System is \$12,000 more than we thought and that includes training and installation. D'Agostino asked what the difference is. Lucas stated \$8,000. She stated that she also asked Dick to investigate the cheapest way to address the cupola besides tearing it down completely. She stated that he got a quote to repair and paint it for \$5,000. It would not be rebuilt but he would ensure it would be safe and visibly pleasing. Nelson stated that there was question at the last meeting if we would lose our historical designation and we do not. She stated that we have that in perpetuity unless we do something really drastic. Kunz stated that it is wrapped with chicken wire now to keep it from collapsing so if Dick can find someone to do it he thinks we should be doing it. It is an eye sore and not the safest thing, this is the right time. Nelson stated that maybe it is something that we can address this year. We had sort of a windfall with the SAU distribution of funds that we will be leaving in the SAU line. She stated that there will be \$16,800 left over in that line. Kunz stated that when the time of year comes, we need to get it done before school opens. Nelson stated that it might need to be done when school is not in session. Lucas stated that she asked about total removal and Dick believes it is a retrofit for the exhaust and that financially it would make more sense to do it this way. Kunz stated that he would go as high as \$10,000 so we have some room for when they get started. Lucas stated that it was his initial assessment and it is not rebuilding it would be repairing it as it is. Nelson asked how they came up with a total on iPad and Chromebooks. Lucas stated that it is our replacement program. The Chromebook would finish grade three in order to do one to one. Nelson asked how many Chromebook do we have. Lucas stated right now 76. Kunz asked if there is anything on the technology side that you left out. Lucas stated not in the technology. She stated that Tom does a good job assessing our needs and has a good grasp on what is necessary for it to run well. She stated that we use technology to support what is necessary for our kids. Kunz stated that his point is trying to look the next step down the line. Nelson stated that she noticed that you reduced water and sewer by \$250 based on actual usage but she would recommend that you don't reduce it based on off the cuff remarks at the budget committee meeting. She stated that recommend that we don't reduce it this year. She stated that a comment was made that they are doing some repairs to pipes and the quality of water and everyone will pick up the bill. Anderson stated that she is curious about the contracted

services on ESOL. Lucas stated that it is based on actual student need. Anderson stated is that the same with speech as well. D'Agostino stated that it is based on actual students from the SPED director. Kunz stated that we have done such a good job looking at each line and different services trying to forecast what we need. He stated that there is not a lot of play here and he thinks we are in a good place. Dr. Brown asked about warrant articles. Nelson stated that we are up \$8,000 with the changes but there is still a savings in RGS. She stated that we need to get an updated quote on the annex roof. Lucas stated that we have one proposal for \$93,000. Nelson stated that we can use the building trust fund for CIP. Kunz asked how much time was left on that roof. Lucas stated that it is well past life expectancy. Dr. Brown asked if they are seeing damage inside from the roof. Lucas stated not at this point. Nelson stated that it is on the schedule for 18/19. She stated that we would want to be specific on the warrant. Dr. Brown asked why would you not do it. Kunz stated that there is no reason that we shouldn't do it. If it is beyond life expectancy and we end up having water damage, it will cost us more. Lucas stated that this is not coming from me; it is what experts have told the Rollinsford community multiple times that we need. Nelson stated that we need to think about if we want to do two articles, one to pull out of the fund and one to come from the budget. D'Agostino stated that it would be one article. Anderson asked why wouldn't we use all the money in the fund. Nelson stated that we can but the next year's projects after this are \$300,000 and \$400,000 projects. Leach stated that the process would be to get a couple more quotes and then the next meeting determine what to do. D'Agostino stated that another option to consider is look how many years it took you to replenish the building fund and she is not sure if you want to deplete it right away. You could split it and take up to \$50,000 out of the fund and then the balance could come if there are remaining funds at the end of the year. Kunz asked about town CIP and asked if there is any involvement with that. Nelson stated that we are two separate CIP lists. D'Agostino stated unless you bond it as a unit. Nelson stated that she has no idea how they are going to fund it. Kunz stated that what is the point of us hitching ours with the town CIP. Nelson stated that it is a way for people in the town to be aware of what is coming up so they are not surprised. Dr. Brown stated that it is the consensus that the roof needs to be done and we should find a way to finance that. Kunz stated that we don't want to wait for it to be a bigger issue. Nelson stated that she has a problem with emptying the fund and she has a problem with if we have the money left because what if we don't, so we have to do something in between. Kunz stated that his concern is the other things that we need to do and having money to help repair things. He stated that he would be for putting the whole amount on the warrant. Nelson stated that so you would keep the building fund and put the warrant for the \$100,000. Kunz stated that one way or another we have to ask permission on both parts of this so he is not sure that it makes much difference. Leach stated that if we do ask to raise the whole amount it puts us over last year's RGS budget. Nelson stated that we are asking for a onetime thing. Leach stated that she would like to see RGS budget at or below what it is now. Nelson stated that she is not sure the town sees it that way as they are voting on them separately. Leach asked if anything is lacking. Lucas stated that we have done a nice job of putting money into the building as that is what needs to be done but we need to get back to the educational programming. She stated that the teachers have worked really hard out of respect

for the town and the budget but the kids have more and more needs and need more adults to service our kids. She stated that it is a national issue and we are in crisis on a lot of our days. She stated that she would like to see you put warrants on this year because she will be coming to you eventually with personnel costs. Nelson stated many thanks to the administration and staff to keep it moving forward, the board appreciates that very much. Nelson stated that the changes that will be made are the additional charges that Kate brought tonight, not reducing water and sewer and the health percentage change. The board set the next budget workshop date of November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at RGS.

3. **Adjournment:** The budget workshop closed at 6:25pm.

Katie Krauss  
Board Secretary

Pending Board Approval