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**MINUTES OF THE  
BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**MEETING OF  
September 13, 2023**

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8

**01) OPEN MEETING**

9 The Municipal Budget Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 13, 2023 was called to order  
10 at 7:01 PM at the Knightly Meeting Room.

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12  
13

**02) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

14 Chairman Boyer opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of members.

15  
16  
17

**03) INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS**

18  
19

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

20 Jeff Boyer, Chairman  
21 Steven Goddu  
22 Tanya Donnelly  
23 Donna Loranger  
24 John Stark  
25 Sean Lewis

26  
27

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:**

28 Councilor Bob Bryant, Town Council Representative  
29 Bernie Campbell, School Board Representative

30  
31

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

32  
33

**01) CHAIRMAN COMMENTS**

34 Chairman Boyer thanked the Budget Committee members who joined him on the tour of the  
35 Police Station the previous day. The building was in need of help and the air quality was  
36 substandard. The tour lasted an hour and a half. Chairman Boyer thanked Police Chief Dolan and  
37 Deputy Chief Smith for providing them the tour. MBAC was meeting with consultants to  
38 provide facility assessments so that they could get cost estimates for repairs and maintenance.  
39 They also saw some preliminary schematics on police station designs. Chairman Boyer stated  
40 that he asked Chief Dolan to be prepared to address the cost-benefit analysis for remaining at the  
41 existing station while the work was going on for the new police station. He thought it was a good  
42 idea for the Police Department to be offsite while the construction work happened if a new police  
43 station was approved. ICON would be coming back before MBAC with revised schematics for  
44 the Town Hall. The MBAC Finance Committee was looking at potential bonding options for  
45 building repairs and projects with the Police Station at the forefront. Chairman Boyer stated that  
46 Mr. Goddu had requested that the Town Manager or someone from Finance be present to provide  
the reasoning for their tax rate goals, but no one was present. There was time to get one of them

1 in to explain what they were thinking regarding the tax rate. The Town Council would not take  
2 up the Budget until October 2<sup>nd</sup> so there was time for the Budget Committee to have that  
3 meeting.  
4

5 **03) APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBER**

6 Chairman Boyer stated that they had a vacant seat on the Budget Committee. A Call for Candidates  
7 was put out after the last meeting and two applicants came forward. The two candidates were  
8 Michael Garon and Brian Thornock. He asked Mr. Garon to come forward.  
9

10 Michael Garon, 39 Woodmeadow Drive, stated that he was looking for personal development and  
11 to give back to the community. He felt that this was a good fit given his background and education.  
12

13 Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Garon if was currently working as an Accounts Payable Manager at  
14 Microsoft and if he could explain how that experience related to the Budget Committee.  
15

16 Mr. Garon stated that the A/P Department did a lot of analysis of the annual budget by doing flux  
17 analysis and looking to explain variances in budget lines to department managers and the executive  
18 level.  
19

20 Mr. Lewis asked about the size and number of budgets that Mr. Garon was looking at in his work.  
21

22 Mr. Garon answered that it could be divisions and large marketing events as well.  
23

24 Mr. Lewis asked for a ballpark size of the budgets involved.  
25

26 Mr. Garon stated that on the large size it could be \$800 to \$1 billion.  
27

28 Mr. Lewis stated that Mr. Garon had an undergraduate accounting degree and an MBA. He asked  
29 about the certificate of project leadership that Mr. Garon listed in his letter of interest.  
30

31 Mr. Garon stated that it was classes on bringing different teams and values together when doing  
32 projects.  
33

34 Mr. Goddu asked how long Mr. Garon had lived in Salem.  
35

36 Mr. Garon stated that he had lived in Salem for four years now.  
37

38 Mr. Goddu asked how frequently he had voted in Town elections.  
39

40 Mr. Garon answered that he had voted in one so far. He signed up this year. Prior to that, he did  
41 not feel that he was educated enough on the issues to make informed decisions.  
42

43 Mr. Goddu asked what Mr. Garon felt that he could accomplish or bring to the Budget Committee  
44 by joining the Committee.  
45

1 Mr. Garon stated that he felt he could be an asset to help keep voters informed about what was  
2 happening in Salem.

3  
4 Ms. Donnelly stated that one of the things she had learned from being on the Budget Committee  
5 was that there were two different entities in the School District and the Town. The Budget  
6 Committee was one of the only groups that was looking at both of them and trying to view them  
7 through the lens of the taxpayer. In this role you have to say no or hold the line on spending. She  
8 asked Mr. Garon if he had experience with that.

9  
10 Mr. Garon stated that he had a lot of experience doing that.

11  
12 Ms. Donnelly asked him to share an example of that.

13  
14 Mr. Garon stated that before Microsoft purchased Nuance Communications where he was working  
15 previously, there was a cashflow number that they had to hit, and the A/P Department was the only  
16 lever for that. He would have \$190,000 in obligations and \$130,000 available to pay them so he  
17 had to have conversations with vendors about the fact that they would not be receiving full payment  
18 that quarter.

19  
20 Ms. Donnelly asked Mr. Garon what the top infrastructure or improvements that he wanted to see  
21 in town were.

22  
23 Mr. Garon stated that he did not have a list at this time.

24  
25 Mr. Campbell thanked Mr. Garon for his interest. He asked if Mr. Garon had any relationship with  
26 the Salem School District.

27  
28 Mr. Garon answered that he did not.

29  
30 Mr. Campbell stated that he was looking for someone who understood how education worked in  
31 this community. He asked if Mr. Garon was involved in any civic organizations within the  
32 community.

33  
34 Mr. Garon stated that he was just starting to get involved in the community. He had a six and a  
35 four-year-old so his time was just starting to free up so that he could be more active in the  
36 community.

37  
38 Mr. Campbell asked if there was any area of the community that Mr. Garon felt that they should  
39 invest in.

40  
41 Mr. Garon stated that the Police Station was a known issue for quite some time.

42  
43 Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. Garon went to the Transfer Station.

44  
45 Mr. Garon answered no.

1 Mr. Stark thanked Mr. Garon for coming out. He asked what Mr. Garon saw as the biggest issue  
2 outside of the Police Station and the Fire Station land purchase during the next year or two.

3  
4 Mr. Garon stated that he did not have an answer to that question.

5  
6 Ms. Loranger thanked Mr. Garon for coming out as well. She asked if Mr. Garon had voted prior  
7 to coming to Salem.

8  
9 Mr. Garon stated that he had not.

10  
11 Ms. Loranger stated that she appreciated that he had decided to get involved now. She asked if Mr.  
12 Garon felt that he could hit the ground running and follow along with the debates that came up in  
13 the Budget Committee.

14  
15 Mr. Garon stated that he felt he could hit the ground running although the parlance might be a little  
16 different from what he was used to.

17  
18 Chairman Boyer thanked Mr. Garon for his interest and called Mr. Thornock to come up to the  
19 podium.

20  
21 Brian Thornock, 5 Brookdale Road, stated that he had been in public service since he was  
22 seventeen. Over thirty years he had been involved with all aspects of public budgets from execution  
23 to larger budgets to cover the people under him. The budgets ranged in size from \$1 million to \$75  
24 million. Mr. Thornock stated that he felt he could bring a lot of valuable budget experience as they  
25 functioned similarly to the Town's Budget. He had worked with austere budget conditions in the  
26 past.

27  
28 Mr. Lewis asked about past community service and if Mr. Thornock could speak about his  
29 government contract oversight experience.

30  
31 Mr. Thornock stated that he was in the military, so he moved every two to four years. That limited  
32 his ability to be involved in the community in the past. His current position was overseeing  
33 government contracts for a company in Massachusetts to make sure that production was on time  
34 and monitoring the contract value both versus the contract and the original project budget. He was  
35 required to make sure that the company was producing before they were given more financing.

36  
37 Mr. Lewis asked if Mr. Thornock felt that he was well-versed in government contracting and the  
38 execution of budgets and managing those expectations.

39  
40 Mr. Thornock answered yes.

41  
42 Mr. Goddu asked how long Mr. Thornock had lived in Salem.

43  
44 Mr. Thornock stated that also had been in Salem for four years.

45  
46 Mr. Goddu asked if Mr. Thornock had voted in the past.

1 Mr. Thornock answered yes. He had voted three times in Town elections.

2

3 Mr. Goddu asked if Mr. Thornock was currently in the military.

4

5 Mr. Thornock answered that he was retired.

6

7 Mr. Goddu asked who Mr. Thornock was working for now.

8

9 Mr. Thornock stated that he was working for the government now.

10

11 Mr. Goddu asked Mr. Thornock what he was hoping to accomplish and his vision for what he  
12 could influence or accomplish on the Budget Committee.

13

14 Mr. Thornock stated that the change from a Board of Selectmen to a Town Council and a Charter  
15 had really changed the playing field for the Budget. There had to be a lot more collaboration than  
16 there had been in the past for the process to be successful. They didn't control execution, but the  
17 appropriate funds needed to be allocated so that they had the services needed. The first goal was  
18 to build a relationship of trust with the Town Council and the departments that met the needs of  
19 the residents while keeping the taxes as low as possible. There were ways to slow down the rate  
20 of increase in taxes and he felt that his experience would help with that.

21

22 Ms. Donnelly asked Mr. Thornock to give an example where he had to juggle budget priorities  
23 and deliver bad news to people.

24

25 Mr. Thornock stated that one year the installation overspent the budget and had to park 20% of  
26 their vehicle fleet for the year because they couldn't afford to maintain it. They had to prioritize  
27 on a daily basis based on the mission needs so people were constantly being told no. They found  
28 ways to do it including sharing equipment or to tell people no because of the budget realities. The  
29 difficult part was finding future solutions to people's problems.

30

31 Ms. Donnelly asked if out of all of Salem's project needs, Mr. Thornock had a particular project  
32 that he wanted to see happen this budget season.

33

34 Mr. Thornock stated that the Police Station needed to be replaced. It would not get any cheaper.  
35 They needed to get the costs and figure out how to pay for it.

36

37 Mr. Campbell asked if he had any connection with Salem School District.

38

39 Mr. Thornock stated that he had a daughter at Fisk and a daughter at the Woodbury School.

40

41 Mr. Campbell asked if he was involved with the schools related to his daughters' education.

42

43 Mr. Thornock answered yes.

44

45 Mr. Campbell asked for Mr. Thornock's perception of the Salem schools.

46

1 Mr. Thornock stated that he thought the Salem schools were awesome and that was one of the  
2 reasons they chose to live in Salem.

3  
4 Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. Thornock had any social connections within the community such as  
5 Rotary or the Chamber of Commerce.

6  
7 Mr. Thornock stated that he was involved with the VFW and the Legion.

8  
9 Mr. Campbell stated that Mr. Thornock probably felt that a new police station was at the top of the  
10 list of community needs.

11  
12 Mr. Thornock stated yes.

13  
14 Mr. Campbell asked if Mr. Thornock had an opinion on the need for a West Side Fire Station.

15  
16 Mr. Thornock stated that he had looked at the numbers, but they needed to find a location that  
17 would not cost the Town \$4 million for the land. The Town needed to find a location that did not  
18 cost that much. Once they knew that cost, they could plan for doing it. There were some bonds  
19 that would be coming off the books in the near future which would free up some tax dollars.

20  
21 Mr. Campbell stated that Mr. Thornock had been averse to the adoption of the Town Council and  
22 asked how his feelings would impact his working with the Town Council.

23  
24 Mr. Thornock stated that he would have preferred a different Charter and he hoped it could be  
25 improved but it would not impact what he did now. His concern would be for the residents of  
26 Salem.

27  
28 Ms. Loranger thanked Mr. Thornock for applying. She had worked with government projects  
29 before, and she asked how much flexibility Mr. Thornock had in creating the budget.

30  
31 Mr. Thornock stated that it varied. He had been in organizations where he was told he was getting  
32 a three percent cut and had to determine where it came from, and he had been told that he was  
33 getting an increase based on inflation and had free reign over creating the budget under that limit.  
34 It was a top-down approach. The town budgets had a similar issue because they were reviewed by  
35 the Budget Committee and the voters. Figuring out the limitations on the budget number after the  
36 fact was painful, but if it could be done through collaboration beforehand it would be much easier.

37  
38 Ms. Loranger stated that the Budget Committee was run by the RSAs and there were a lot of times  
39 that people wanted to change things, but they couldn't because of the limits set by the laws. That  
40 needed to be understood. The Undesignated Fund Balance was not a rainy-day fund.

41  
42 Mr. Lewis asked who Mr. Thornock's current employer was.

43  
44 Mr. Thornock stated that he was a direct employee of the Department of Defense.

45  
46 Mr. Lewis asked Chairman Boyer if the term being filled ran through the next election.

1 Chairman Boyer answered yes. The seat was for this budgetary cycle only. He thanked Mr.  
2 Thornock for his time.

3  
4 **MOTION by Mr. Goddu to appoint Brian Thornock to the Budget Committee to fill the**  
5 **vacancy until the next election in March 2024.**

6 **SECOND by Mr. Stark**

7  
8 Mr. Lewis stated that he was torn. Mr. Garon had a lot of credentials while he knew that Mr.  
9 Thornock was involved in town politics and familiar with the issues.

10  
11 **VOTE: 6-2-0 in favor.**

12 **Motion passed with Ms. Loranger and Mr. Lewis opposed.**

13  
14 Mr. Thornock was sworn in by Councilor Bryant.

15  
16 **04) RECEIPT OF MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

17 Mr. Stark stated that they had received the following correspondence from the Town:

18 • Town of Salem -

- 19 i. Notice of invite to an open house send-off on 8/31/2023 of retiring Fire Chief, Larry  
20 Best  
21 ii. Revenue, Expenditure and Consolidated YTD Budget Reports for GF, SF and WF as  
22 of JUNE 2023  
23 iii. Letter of Interest for appointment to the Municipal Budget Committee; Brian  
24 Thornock  
25 iv. Letter of Interest and Resume for appointment to the Municipal Budget Committee;  
26 Michael Garon  
27 v. 2024-2029 Town of Salem Capital Improvements Plan.  
28 vi. 2023-2024 DRAFT Budget Review Calendar.

29 **MOTION by Mr. Stark to accept receipt of the correspondence.**

30 **SECOND by Mr. Goddu**

31 **VOTE: 8-0-1 in favor.**

32 **Motion passed with Mr. Thornock abstaining.**

33  
34 Mr. Stark stated that they had received the following correspondence from the School District:

35 • Salem School District /SAU57 –

- 36 i. Salem School Board Regular Meeting Minutes of 5/23/23 and 7/25/23.  
37 ii. Notice of Intent to Hold Special School District Meeting (date TBD)  
38 iii. Woodbury Expenses that were approved as of 8/31/2023.

39 **MOTION by Mr. Stark to accept receipt of the correspondence.**

40 **SECOND by Mr. Lewis**

41 **VOTE: 8-0-1 in favor.**

42 **Motion passed with Mr. Thornock abstaining.**

1 **03) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2  
3 **MOTION by Mr. Stark to approve the Budget Committee Meeting minutes from August 9,**  
4 **2023.**

5 **SECOND by Mr. Lewis**

6 **VOTE: 6-0-3 in favor.**

7 **Motion passed with Mr. Lewis, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Thornock abstaining.**

8  
9 **04) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**  
10 **PLAN PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

11 Chairman Boyer stated that they had Mr. Brubaker here to make a presentation on the CIP for the  
12 Budget Committee.

13  
14 Crayton Brubaker, Community Development Program Manager, stated that he was there to  
15 present the CIP recommendations for the upcoming budget cycle. He listed the CIP Committee  
16 Members including the Chairman, Sean Lewis, from the Planning Board, the Vice-Chair, Jeff  
17 Boyer, from the Budget Committee, Joseph Sweeney from the Town Council, Finance Director  
18 Nicole McGee and Assistant Town Manager Joseph Devine from the staff, and Linda Harvey as  
19 the citizen representative. Mr. Brubaker was the staff liaison but not a voting member. He  
20 covered the history of the CIP Committee. The focus was on the capital items for the upcoming  
21 year and sequencing planned municipal projects. A capital project was a project or asset costing  
22 more than \$150,000 and which would last five years or more. The characteristics of capital  
23 projects were presented next. The population of Salem had grown by 6.5% over the past twelve  
24 years. The CIP Committee reviewed the By-Laws in the early part of the year and then in June  
25 and July they reviewed the department submittals and ranked them. The projects were rated on  
26 readiness and significance. There was a ceiling and a floor for the capital improvement amounts.  
27 The floor for 2024 was \$5,990,159, the ceiling was \$7,423,409, and the Committee's  
28 recommended amount came in at \$6,846,364. Mr. Brubaker presented the list of projects  
29 showing what was recommended and what was deferred. The list included the Police Station,  
30 MS4 compliance, infiltration and inflow remediation work, a record management system for the  
31 Police Department, and West Side Fire Station land acquisition among others. The deferred  
32 projects were listed next starting with the Millville Lake Dam repairs.

33  
34 Mr. Goddu asked what the floor and the ceiling numbers meant because they did not seem to  
35 correlate with the project numbers.

36  
37 Mr. Brubaker stated that the floor and the ceiling numbers were a 5% increase over the floor and  
38 ceiling numbers from the previous year.

39  
40 Mr. Goddu asked if that was a five percent increase over what was funded last year.

41  
42 Mr. Brubaker stated that it was a five percent increase over the prior year's ceiling and floor.

43  
44 Mr. Lewis stated that the increase was over what was recommended previously.



1 Mr. Brubaker stated that he had MBAC updates. The Police Station may appear on the 2024  
2 Warrant and was the number one recommendation of the CIP Committee. The West Side Fire  
3 Station land acquisition was proposed on the CIP program and a site was being searched for. It  
4 was one of the Town Councils three goals for the year. The Town Hall, Old Town Hall, Public  
5 Works Building, Senior Center, and District Court were also covered briefly. The Police Station  
6 project was expected to be bonded and use public safety impact fees while the MS4 Compliance  
7 work was required by State and Federal permits. The inflow and infiltration work was required  
8 as part of being a member of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District and would be paid for out of  
9 the sewer fund. Regarding the Records Management Software, the Town had received word that  
10 the funding was tentatively approved, which would reduce the cost to the Town by almost  
11 \$350,000. The multipurpose truck that was recommended would consolidate two existing  
12 vehicles into one vehicle. The West Side Fire Station would propose using ARPA funds and  
13 impact fees towards that cost of the purchase. The Millville Lake Dam was not recommended for  
14 inclusion in the CIP and the discussion raised questions about who owned the lake and the land  
15 underneath it and if the dam was a public asset or just something that benefited a small group of  
16 Salem's population. The project requests were broken down by department and by division  
17 within Municipal Services which was responsible for the largest number of requests. The  
18 primary effects of the requests were shown with just over half of them being to replace or repair  
19 existing facilities and equipment. The costs were broken down by type and proposed funding  
20 source with most being construction costs and funded by bonding.

21  
22 Mr. Campbell stated that the Capital Improvement Plan was required in order to assess impact  
23 fees. It wasn't noted in the slides but that was probably the most important reason for having a  
24 CIP in the first place.

25  
26 Chairman Boyer stated that was a good point.

27  
28 Mr. Goddu stated that he understood that there was some question about whether or not the dam  
29 was a public asset and should be repaired with public funds or not. It concerned him that the  
30 ARPA grant was going to run out and had to be applied before the end of 2024. He asked if they  
31 would lose the million dollars that would have been applied towards the dam.

32  
33 Mr. Brubaker stated that it was likely that the funding would go away if the project was not  
34 funded for next year.

35  
36 Mr. Goddu stated that if that happened then the Town would have to bear the full cost of that  
37 project.

38  
39 Mr. Brubaker answered yes.

40  
41 Chairman Boyer stated that these were only recommendations. There were questions that needed  
42 to be answered about the dam project which impacted the readiness and significance of the  
43 project for the scoring. He was unsure if the grant expired in 2024 or 2025. That question needed  
44 to be answered.

1 Mr. Goddu stated that his understanding was that the money needed to be encumbered by the end  
2 of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026. His concern was the potential loss of one million dollars  
3 and that amount having to be funded by taxpayers instead.

4  
5 Chairman Boyer stated that if the people in the area owned the lake and the land then they could  
6 address it through a special assessment instead of having to have the taxpayers cover the cost to  
7 repair the dam. They were not there to decide that matter. It was for the Town Council to decide  
8 that question.

9  
10 Ms. Loranger asked what a rubber tire excavator was.

11  
12 Mr. Thornock stated that there were rubber tire or tracked excavators.

13  
14 Chairman Boyer stated that raising the threshold shortened the list of things that had to be  
15 considered. It helped the Budget Committee be prepared when the Budget came forward.

16  
17 **05) BUDGET REVIEW CALENDAR DISCUSSION**

18 Chairman Boyer stated that he had distributed the draft Budget Review Calendar to everyone. He  
19 asked everyone to look and see if they had any conflicts with the dates. It was a unique year  
20 because the Town Council had to reconcile the dates with the RSAs now that the Town had  
21 switched to the new Charter. It would be difficult to change the dates once the Calendar was  
22 finalized.

23  
24 Mr. Campbell stated that the dates in the Calendar were fine for the Salem School District  
25 regarding the Budget Committee's review of the School District Budget.

26  
27 Mr. Goddu asked if they were voting to approve the Calendar now.

28  
29 Chairman Boyer answered no.

30  
31 Mr. Lewis asked about voting on it.

32  
33 Chairman Boyer stated that he felt that they should wait for the final version.

34  
35 Mr. Goddu stated that he felt that the Budget Committee should vote that they were in favor of  
36 these dates. They didn't have a meeting scheduled unless they accepted this schedule.

37  
38 **MOTION by Mr. Goddu to adopt the Budget Committee dates from the Draft Budget  
39 Review Calendar.**

40 **SECOND by Mr. Lewis**

41  
42 Mr. Thornock asked if he could see the calendar first.

43  
44 **VOTE: 9-0-0 in favor.**

45 **Motion passed unanimously.**

**06) TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

Councilor Bryant stated that they were trying to finish up the Depot project before winter weather hit. The original contractor had been replaced. The goal was to finish by the end of October. The Town had hired an interim Fire Chief who was reviewing the internal candidates for the Fire Chief position. The District Court roof project was not complete.

Chairman Boyer asked about whether the Road Program would be a separate Warrant Article or not.

Councilor Bryant stated that he would look into it.

Chairman Boyer stated that the Assistant Town Manager had indicated it would be in the Operating Budget, but he was looking for a definitive answer.

Mr. Goddu stated that under the new Charter, only bonds and loans were really supposed to be outside of the Operating Budget. If the Assistant Town Manager was saying it would be in the Operating Budget, then that was probably where it would be.

Chairman Boyer asked if there was anything that the Budget Committee should be concerned about regarding the leases at the District Court.

Councilor Bryant answered no. The main tenants were likely there for the full four years of their agreement. The other tenants were on one-year leases.

**07) SCHOOL BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Campbell stated that school was underway. They were mostly fully staffed but they had a resignation in the CTE computer science program that they were trying to fill. They received a report on the Woodbury renovations last night. The new gymnasium and locker rooms were online now. There were new classroom spaces and office spaces that were in use now and the new entrance was ready for use. The parking area had been rearranged so that fewer people had to cross Main Street to access the school. They were in their new cafeteria and kitchen areas. The School Board toured all of those spaces on the day before school started and they were very impressive. Additional spaces were expected to come online soon including the band and chorus rooms which were slated for some time in October. Work was ongoing in the 1920's wing which would be office spaces. The Learning Commons was the last phase which would be completed in February of 2024. The project would essentially be completed at that point. It was on budget and Mr. Campbell went over the budget areas. There was contingency money available if they ran into any issues inside the building. There was one last phase of the State Building Aid money which would be released when the project was substantially complete.

Chairman Boyer asked if there was detail information on the significant contingency expenditures.

Mr. Campbell stated that those were detailed in the chart in the corner. Some of those items may not have been expended and this was for items over \$30,000 in cost so anything below that would not appear in this chart. There would be an additional \$20,000 cost because some

1 chimneys to be replaced in the 1925 section were providing roof support even though they were  
2 no longer being used for heating the building. New load bearing columns would need to be  
3 added so that the chimneys could be removed.

4  
5 Chairman Boyer stated that the School District was doing a good job on managing the project  
6 budget.

7  
8 Mr. Campbell stated that the Salem School District was notified that they would be receiving  
9 additional State Adequacy Aid. It would be more than \$800,000 extra. There was an RSA that  
10 allowed a School District to call for a Special Meeting if there was a change in the Adequacy Aid  
11 Grant. The School Board voted to hold a Special Meeting to request that the Budget be adjusted  
12 to incorporate that money into the existing budget. The plan for the money was to add it to the  
13 450 Account and fund the renovation of the Block House at Grant Field. That would involve a  
14 new concession stand, restrooms for men and women, and a large storage area. The current roof  
15 was leaking, and the bathrooms were in tough shape. The goal was to apply the money from the  
16 State and use retained funds from fund balance to cover the cost of the project. They held a  
17 Public Hearing on the proposal last night. They would hold a District Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>  
18 at 7 PM in the Performing Arts Center. It would be an old-style meeting where the people  
19 showed up and voted on the Warrant Article to add the additional State Aid to the existing  
20 budget. The School Board received the budget figures from the previous year, and they came in  
21 around \$1.6 million in excess funds which was greater than the \$1 million that they had  
22 previously been pledged to return to the taxpayers so they would be able to reduce the tax rate  
23 further. If the District Meeting was successful, then the School Board would hold a public  
24 hearing on withdrawing funds from the retained fund balance to cover the rest of the cost to  
25 renovate the Block House at Grant Field. The hope would be to get a contract out this fall and  
26 have the work begin in the spring. The facility was used by a number of sports teams and the  
27 grounds maintenance personnel. This project had been a School Board goal for at least the last  
28 three years. They had started negotiations with the secretary units and the aides unit.

29  
30 Chairman Boyer asked if the Grant Field project would have no tax impact.

31  
32 Mr. Campbell answered yes.

33  
34 Chairman Boyer asked about a turf field and how this project would impact that.

35  
36 Mr. Campbell stated that they would like to do a turf field and some preliminary work was done  
37 towards a turf field when the new grass surface was put down. They had looked at putting in a  
38 turf field with contributions from other organizations because a lot of the field usage requests  
39 were coming from outside the school system. The first step in the process was to replace the  
40 Block House. It was possible that a petition might come forward for a turf field. They would like  
41 a turf field because it would allow for more usage of the field. The voters had said no, and the  
42 School District had other priorities.

43  
44 Chairman Boyer asked if the petition would have a tax impact.

1 Mr. Campbell stated that the School District would not have the funds to cover that cost without  
2 having to raise taxes.

3  
4 Chairman Boyer stated that the next meeting would be on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

5  
6 **MOTION by Mr. Lewis to adjourn the meeting at 8:54PM.**

7 **SECOND by Mr. Stark**

8 **VOTE: 9-0-0 in favor.**

9 **Motion passed unanimously.**

10  
11 Minutes recorded by: Jeremiah Lamson

12  
13 Approved: Budget Committee

14  
15 Date: October 25, 2023 (as amended)