

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009
TOWN HALL ROOM C**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. N. Sheppard, Chair Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. with the following members present: B. Hopping, E. Traverso, and L. Dietz. Abigail Skelton, Student Representative; Richard Korb, Superintendent; and Joanne Cuff, Finance Department, were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sheppard read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening

Tri-Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. following this meeting, Room A, Town Hall

Ad Hoc Town/School Collaboration Committee will meet on October 6 at 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

Policy Subcommittee will meet on October 5 at 5:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee will meet on October 1 at 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb reviewed the Ipswich Cable Access Media (ICAM) Project. Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept and approve the installation of cameras and equipment for broadcasting Cable TV programs, two of which will be in the Ensemble Room at the Middle/High School. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to ICAM from the School Committee.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FINANCIAL REPORT

B. FY10 LEVY LIMIT ISSUES

Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations, reviewed her chronological budget overview from March '09 to the present in order to address the Tri-Board meeting coming up in one hour. The \$112,851 shortfall, as given by the Town Accountant to meet the levy limit, means that the budget must be reduced by that amount. The Medicaid appropriation of \$85,137 will supplant the Transportation line which will be used to cover the shortfall with the help of utility expense savings.

She reviewed funding needs in the FY10 Fiscal Summary Overview sheet, showing the funds available and a delta of \$178,262.54. Three areas of potential savings were offered as offsets to that shortfall: utilities savings because of a locked-in lower gas rate; savings in personnel salaries in new hirings; and savings in SPED tuition outplacements, a total of \$224,679.

Mr. Loeb joined the meeting at 7 p.m. and commented that if the Governor makes cuts in 9C during the year, it means serious trouble. He reported that the Budget Subcommittee recommends using the plan as laid out by Ms. Cuff; there was consensus.

C. FEOFFEES WARRANT ARTICLE

Mr. Loeb, commenting that the School Committee need not take a position until Town Meeting night, was opposed to the Article. He felt it is not binding and not proper. Mr. Traverso (a member of the School Committee's Feoffees Subcommittee with Mr. Korb and Mrs. Dietz) said that, while his position was in favor of the Article, there wasn't money to pay legal expenses. Mr. Korb felt that analysis needed to be made of the financial costs, and reported that a staggering six figures had already been spent in legal fees on this matter. Mr. Loeb reviewed the status of the Spring Town Meeting Warrant Article; i.e., it is a current Bill pending in the State Senate (Oct. 6). The Trust draft is principally done. Having spoken with the Selectmen Chair, he assumes that there is no resolution with a purchase/sale agreement. Mr. Traverso spoke with concern that LLC financial statements for 2006-2009 have not been made available. Mrs. Arsenault commented that past practice has been to discuss in Executive Session the costs, the risks, and what attorney will represent the School Committee for a "think-through" for potential litigation. Mr. Howard of the Finance Committee advised advance planning in choosing a time/place and case preparation and getting on with it. Discussion of the costs will be forthcoming.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****III. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sheppard moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.