

Budget Committee meeting Feb 16, 2023 - Public Forum and continued warrant articles

The public forum included about 20 people present at the meeting taking turns speaking, and there were another 20 or 25 statements sent by email that were read by the budget committee.

The majority of the public input consisted of two items:

1) Arguing against the \$100k reduction that the budget committee had made to the proposed school budget – about 20 people. The speakers generally assumed that the reduction was specifically targeting the proposed new CRES counselor. Members of the budget committee clarified that the proposed reduction was to the overall budget and not necessarily representing the new position.

2) Arguing against the \$75k reduction that the budget committee made to Planning Dept budget for the Environmental Planner – this was 17 people. The budget committee members that had voted to eliminate the planner position mostly felt that it should be delayed until a new town manager was in place. The people who spoke at the forum all argued that the CAP and COMP plans support the hire without delay.

The committee proceeded to conduct their preference votes. All warrant items were favored by a majority of the committee members.