Call to Order
Mr. Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

Present from Administration: Mrs. Erin Obey, Superintendent; Marybeth Brust, Assistant Superintendent; Jessica Duncanson, Director of Student Services.

Present from Committee: Patrick Chilcott, Chair; James Agnew, Secretary, David Boyle and Michael Tropeano
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Acknowledge & Schedule Visitors
Mr. Chilcott welcomed the visitors.

Public Hearing on Recommended FY20 Budget
Mrs. Obey said the budget process has been similar to past years. She said there are reductions in this budget due to enrollment adjustments. She added the committee has been mindful of the previous override and has worked to maintain those additions. Mrs. Obey said the bulk of the need is around social emotional needs of students and the district has spent time over the past couple of years building student supports. Mrs. Obey said the departments have come in and presented their priorities and wants and this is good practice even in difficult fiscal times. She said Mrs. Brust presented keeping programs in place such as Lexia and Empowering Writers.

Mrs. Obey said she is proud of Project Lead the Way and looking to expand the program to lower and upper grades. She added that there are now four social workers in district providing supports to students. She said the Chapter 70 funding over the years has not gone over 1% and said the year of the override was when the district was at its highest percent of the Town budget. She said the 2643 students predicted for next year are a lot more labor intensive. She said next year’s senior class is the smallest class in a very long time and most elementary grades are less than 200.

Mrs. Obey said the MOE budget is $34,831,669 plus $68k for an additional social worker to be split between the elementary schools and PCMS. Mr. Chilcott asked what other priorities were level 1 that could not be funded. Mrs. Obey said the expansion from one technology integrator could not be funded. She said technology is an area that the district has tread water year over year due to budget constraints, but the district has made some progress. She said the district is still making curricular investments in a way that is budget neutral.
Mrs. Obey went on to say that the budget gap is $1.6m and taking into consideration the retirements and the transportation revolving money, the gap decreases to $1.4m. She said Chapter 70 funding at $30/student gives $87k, the Town contribution of $761,877 and increases in fees of $35,640 brings the gap to $884k. She said to balance this gap result was the staff reduction of 6 teachers at the elementary level, 1 wellness at PHS and 1.2 foreign language teacher at PHS while still offering three languages, and one support paraprofessional. She added that it was very difficult to get to this balanced budget and it was work done over many months.

Mr. Chilcott said it took about 6-7 months of work between the Budget Subcommittee, Administration and the Town. He said the reductions are as result of enrollment declining. Mr. Tropeano said the school department is the only Town department that will have to lay people off and it is not what committee wants to do. Mr. Chilcott said the Town has to seek additional revenue or it will have to go to the taxpayer. Mr. Tropeano said he talked with Advisory Committee about revenue generation. He added that the district received an additional $130k from the Town and Advisory Committee and this saved two positions.

Mrs. Obey presented the projection of the number of sections at the elementary level. She said there are a couple of upper grades that could be at 25 and 26 students. She said the principals looks at the makeup of the students in those larger classes.

She said the FY20 recommended budget

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to request at the May 2019 spring Town Meeting $34,108,229 for the fiscal year 2020.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

Mr. Chilcott read a letter from Mrs. Scroggins regarding the budget.

Date: April 30, 2019
To: Patrick Chilcott, Chair – Pembroke School Committee
Erin Obey, Superintendent – Pembroke Public Schools
From: Suzanne Scroggins, Vice Chair – Pembroke School Committee
Re: FY20 Public Budget Hearing – April 30, 2019

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend tonight’s public hearing but request that one of you read the statement below on my behalf so that it becomes public record. I appreciate your help in advance and thank you both for your hard work this year in balancing the budget!

“My apologies for not being present at tonight’s meeting. My son has been enduring a serious illness for almost a year and has been in the hospital for most of it. Those of you, who know me, know I would be there if I could. The Pembroke Public Schools budget is one of the most important things we do on this board. At both the board and administrative level we work very hard over many months of meetings and discussions. It all culminates to this one night. We do not make any decision lightly, understanding that each decision has a direct and/or indirect effect on everyone. So, it is in years like this, where we have to balance with revolving offset, staff reductions, and increased fees, it makes it even that more difficult. I support this budget, albeit having to make these reductions. Pembroke Public Schools – its administration, faculty, staff, parents and community members – the team that makes our school work so well, do a great job even when we work through these tough financial times again. What we do need help with is the State of Massachusetts unfunded mandates, which make up a fair amount of our budget. These ongoing mandates have to change unless more
funding is made available to suburban towns like Pembroke. We have shared these concerns with our local representatives over the past several years and can only hope that someday we will see a more level funding formula across the state. We will, as always, continue to educate our 3,000 plus students with commitment, hard work and integrity. “

VOTE: At 7:40pm, on a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Public Budget Hearing.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

APPROVED: June 18, 2019

MOTIONS

VOTE: On a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by James Agnew, it was unanimously voted to request at the May 2019 spring Town Meeting $34,108,229 for the fiscal year 2020.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins

VOTE: At 7:40pm, on a motion made by Michael Tropeano and seconded by David Boyle, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the Public Budget Hearing.

Voting Yes: Patrick Chilcott, James Agnew, Michael Tropeano and David Boyle
Voting No: none
Abstaining: none
Absent: Suzanne Scroggins