

1 Mrs. Hutchinson explained Line 1420 – Athletic Programs with a decrease of \$62,205.00.
2 She explained that the B team sports are being removed at the middle school. The JV
3 games are being reduced from sixteen to twelve.
4

5 Jim Miller of Canterbury asked why the athletic supply money could go from \$22,835 to
6 \$12,887 in one year. It was stated that two years ago the district looked at lowering the
7 dollar amount, so they used up any money that they had in surplus.
8

9 Gary Spaulding stated that if the B teams are removed at the middle school that it is
10 impacting 200 students. The students need these after school activities to learn how to
11 work together and learn leadership skills. It seems very short-sighted to remove all these
12 teams and impact so many students. The dollar amount is really minimal to maintain the
13 B teams.
14

15 Diana Scott added that the team atmosphere in sports helps bring kids together. The
16 sports are what keep people interested in moving to Belmont. The district needs to look
17 into the future and how it will impact the town.
18

19 Carolyn Witham also added that the teen obesity level in America needs to be considered
20 when cutting sports because that is what helps get kids moving.
21

22 Mary Jo Reed of Canterbury agreed that sports gets kids moving and in the habit of
23 exercising. This is not a time to cut athletics.
24

25 Rob Riley of Canterbury asked what sports and how many students will be impacted with
26 cutting the B teams.
27

28 Heidi Hutchinson listed the sports that would be impacted, but did not have a number of
29 how many students. To continue with the B team sports at the middle school it would
30 add about \$23-\$25,000 back into the budget.
31

32 Mr. Spaulding added that the middle school has a no cut policy presently, but if the B
33 teams are removed then the players will have to be cut. This is taking away some of the
34 students last opportunities to play sports.
35

36 Mr. Miller suggested having an intramural program in place of the B teams so that
37 transportation would not be necessary.
38

39 Tom Goulette explained Line 2110 – School Resource Officer with a decrease of
40 \$25,000.00. Diana Scott asked if an SRO was still going to be in the schools even if they
41 are not partially funded by the school. Mr. Goulette explained that they would still be in
42 the schools but only to the level that the town can support.
43

44 Mr. Spaulding stated that he feels the \$25,000.00 should remain in the budget to keep the
45 full time SRO. Mr. Goulette explained that the officers are not full time now. They have
46 other commitments as officers during the day. When the SRO was put into the high

1 school originally it was grant funded. The district has contributed \$25,000.00 for the past
2 two years to retain the SRO. When the district was considering this budget the main
3 objective was the education of the students. All other things are extra. A lot of difficult
4 decisions have been made while making this budget.

5
6 Mr. Spaulding appreciates all the work that was put into this budget. He feels that we
7 may have to pay more to keep what is already in place. The SRO is more important for
8 safety in the schools than sports.

9
10 Mrs. Reed stated that she wouldn't expect the board to do anything that would
11 compromise the safety of our students.

12
13 Sean Embree explained Line 2225, Computer Assisted Instruction Services with a
14 decrease of \$113,120.00. There were some concerns about keeping technology up to date
15 while cutting back so much. Mr. Embree stated that when Article X is discussed it will
16 explain how we will be able to keep our technology up to date in the district.

17
18 Pret Tuthill explained Line 2620 – Operation & Maintenance of Buildings with a
19 decrease of \$112,823.00. Mr. Spaulding asked what will happen when there are fewer
20 custodians. Will some have to work overtime or will the school not be as clean? Mr.
21 Tuthill explained that there were some painful choices on what cuts to make. Again, they
22 had to focus on the education of the students; they did not want to impact the education.

23
24 Mr. Miller asked if the district has shopped around for other phone companies because
25 the bill seems very high. There is a lot of competition out there for lower rates. Debbie
26 Gay stated that they hadn't for a couple of years. Pret stated that it really isn't a monthly
27 rate issue; it is that there is a lot of usage.

28
29 There were questions on the status of the teacher's contract. Mr. Dole explained that they
30 are moving forward in negotiations, but there is no contract agreed upon at this time.

31
32 Tom Goulette explained that Warrant Articles V, VI and VII are all linked together.

33
34 There was some discussion on using some of the money from the expendable trust funds
35 to support athletics. Mrs. Gay explained that when a trust fund is dissolved the money
36 has to go into an unreserved fund account. The money in an unreserved fund account has
37 to be placed in a public approved Article or given back to the tax payers if not used for
38 what the Article specified.

39
40 Tom explained Article V is to discontinue the Land Purchase Capital Reserve Fund that
41 has \$119,691.00 in it. These funds would be placed in unreserved funds.

42
43 Article VI is to create a new Capital Reserve Fund with \$25,000 to be placed in this fund
44 from the unreserved fund balance for the purpose of Land Purchase. This amount
45 establishes the account and is enough to possibly secure property down the road. This
46 article is contingent upon article V passing.

1 Article VII is to place \$94,691.00 in the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund. This
2 article is contingent upon article V passing also. The Board is looking to replenish the
3 Special Education Expendable Trust, due to the depletion of this trust for the 2010-2011
4 school year.

5
6 If Articles VI and VII fail, the Board will go to Article VIII, which means the money to
7 replenish the Special Education Expendable Trust Fund will come from tax dollars and it
8 will put the budget at a 2.5% increase.

9
10 Pret Tuthill explained Article IX - School Facilities and Grounds Expendable Trust Fund.

11
12 Sean Embree explained Article X – Technology Expendable Trust Fund.

13
14 Diane O’Hara explained Article XI – Athletics/Co-Curricular Revolving Fund. She
15 thanked both Mark Blount and Debbie Gay for creating this fund to help with our athletic
16 programs. It will be used to hold donations or contributions for the athletic program.
17 The district is requesting to start this fund with \$1,000.00. The policy committee is
18 working to have guidelines in place on how to use this money. It does not address this
19 year’s issues, but will help in the future.

20
21 Sumner went through the Revenues on page 23 and the Estimated Local Share Support,
22 Equalized Education Grant and State Property Tax on page 24. He also said that if the
23 SRO, custodians and athletics were to be put back into the budget. The tax impact would
24 be an increase of 6.7% in Belmont and a decrease of 3.1% in Canterbury.

25
26 There was some conversation about listing the cost per pupil that Canterbury pays and
27 that Belmont pays.

28
29 Mr. Spaulding is pleased with the education that his children have received, both socially
30 and academically. He is happy with the administration, teachers and advisors.
31 Canterbury and Belmont need to understand that this is a group effort to make our school
32 district successful. The school board does not look at the two towns separately; they look
33 at it as one school district.

34
35 Diane O’Hara adjourned the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget Hearing at 8:16pm

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37 Respectfully Submitted,

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39
40 Stacy S. Kruger
41 School District Clerk