

# LOCAL & STATE

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## PITTSFIELD

### \$10.5M budget moves on

Motion to reduce school funding defeated

By **LOLA DUFFORT**  
 Monitor staff

Voters in Pittsfield will consider a \$10.5 million school budget in March.

A motion to reduce the budget warrant article by over \$420,000 was narrowly defeated by secret ballot during Thursday's deliberative session, school board chairman Michael Wolfe said, and the budget committee and school board's recommended spending plan will be the one to go before residents for a final vote March 13.

The estimated tax rate impact is an additional \$1.15 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The default budget is \$10.2 million.

The school board had originally put forward a \$10.6 million budget but reduced it by over \$92,500 at the request of the budget committee.

Wolfe said the board agreed to the reductions in light of the tax impact, but hasn't yet identified exactly where the cuts will come from. Personnel or programming could be impacted, he said.

"At this point, we're not really sure where we're going to get that from," he said. "There just isn't that much fluff in the budget. I think our field trip line item is \$2,000."

It was once again a tough budget year in Pittsfield, a property-poor town that perennially struggles to raise enough funds to pay for its schools without watching its tax rate skyrocket.

The proposed budget is up more than \$400,000 from this year's budget. Half of that is due to higher special education costs, where expenses are expected to increase to \$200,000. Other budget stressors were several grant-funded positions where the district will have to put up more matching funds next year.

"So we're not adding any  
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## CONCORD

### A COOL EXPERIENCE



The Budmen and White Park Hockey Club battle it out Saturday at the Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament at White Park. The Budmen won, 5-2.  
 GEOFF FORESTER photos / Monitor staff



ABOVE: Concord High hockey coach Dunc Walsh takes a break between periods of the Concord Budmen and White Park Hockey Club match.

LEFT: Mary Anne Connolly of Weare gets ready to play for the Galoots.

## WEARE

### Television meeting, policy debate

\$6M budget, committee articles passed deliberative session

By **CAITLIN ANDR**  
 Monitor staff

A \$6 million proposed budget and several amendments made it through a three-hour deliberative session in Weare on Saturday morning, largely unscathed.

The budget, a 6.3 percent increase over this year's, faced an amendment that would have reduced the proposed budget by \$5.8 million. Identical Richard Butt, who sued the town over how the town board calculated the budget.

After some debate, whether the amendment would result in a reduction of the town's emergency services, the amendment failed with a 2-1 vote.

One of the more controversial amendments proposed would have required the Finance Committee to make its meetings live. The committee faced fierce opposition from some budget committee members, who said the amendment was unfairly targeting the town and could be challenged in court. Supporters felt the amendment would allow for greater transparency from the committee.

Finance Committee member Matt Whitlock said he spoke personally against the amendment, but having more access to committee meetings, but he recognized that greater transparency could cause problems.

"Certain conversations that we have would not be as good if they were publicized without the committee," he said, adding that having more transparency could lead to the town being "thrown back on its face."

Debate also ensued over whether the town should approve an additional policy amendment. The town's policy

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