



BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Hollis
Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

Minutes of January 9, 2017

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:01 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Chris Hyde, Frank Cadwell – Selectman Rep, Frank Whittemore, Rob Mann – School Board Rep

Others present: Peter Band – Selectman, Kim Galipeau –Town Administrator, Mark LeDoux – Selectman, Deb Padykula – Finance Officer, David Petry - Selectman

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of minutes:

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 12/12/16. Frank W. seconded. Rob M. abstained. Vote was 5-0-1. Minutes were accepted.

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 12/13/16. Chris H. seconded. Vote was 6-0-0. Minutes were accepted.

Collective Bargaining Agreement – DPW/Town Hall:

Mark L. reviewed the negotiation process, paid time off, and health care within the proposed contract. He stated that the cumulative 3 year cost impact is slightly less than \$75K.

Mark L. clarified that step increases are now dependent on a positive annual merit review and do not occur automatically each year.

Chris H. asked why the step increases average 3% when surrounding municipalities offer 2%.

Mark L. replied that because surrounding towns still offer a COLA and Hollis does not, the 3% takes this into consideration to ensure fairness to town employees.

Mike H. confirmed that the step table is unchanged from the last agreement.

Mark L. discussed management rights and practices and stated that more specific language was added pertaining to mediation processes.

Chris H. asked why an increase for a specific position was broken out separately.

Mark L. replied that it was required per the union agreement.

There was a discussion about health care and retirement costs.

Mike H. asked how many employees are subject to step increases.

Deb P. replied 14 positions fall under the step table and 5 employees are receiving longevity payments.

Veterans Property Tax Credit

Mark L. asked for BudCom's guidance regarding Selectmen's Warrant Article 9 and Petition Warrant Article 11. Both articles are worded identically and offer eligibility to qualifying veterans serving during any time period. Currently certain time periods of service are excluded from eligibility.

Jim Belanger advised voting on the Selectmen's Article and tabling the Petition Article. There was a discussion about public perception and the confusion that might be created in having duplicate articles. It is estimated that up to \$50K in additional credits could be granted if the article passes.

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Other Business:

There was a discussion about funding the Holiday Luminary Event. Currently this event is organized by the Hollis Women's Club and will continue as such going forward into next year.

Mark L. gave an update on litigation pertaining to Eversource. If the NH State Supreme court rules in favor of PSNH's request for tax abatement the town may have to refund up to \$450K.

Rob M. gave a brief summary of HSB's progress on the energy project and proposed financing. There will be a detailed discussion at the following night's BudCom meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Chris H. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor, Tax Collector