



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

### **Minutes of April 14, 2015**

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:00 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Frank Cadwell, Tom Jambard, Laurie Miller - School Board Rep., Eric Horton – SAU41 Business Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Election of Budget Committee officers:

Tom J. nominated Tom G. as Chairperson. Frank C. seconded. Tom G. abstained. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Tom J. nominated Susan B. as Vice-Chairperson. Frank C. seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Tom J. nominated Mike H. as Secretary. Frank C. seconded. Mike H. abstained. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Approval of minutes:

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 2/3/15, 2/4/15, and 2/10/15 as written. Tom J. seconded. Laurie M. abstained. Motion passed. Vote was 4-0-1. Minutes were accepted.

Discussion of School Boiler Replacement / Retained Fund Balance:

Eric H. stated that the total net cost to replace the damaged boiler after insurance was \$18.7K. The use of the retained fund balance to pay for this expense requires an affirmative vote of the school board, budget committee, and school commissioner.

Mike H. moved to approve the use of the retained fund balance to pay for the boiler repair. Tom J. seconded.

Tom J. asked about the other 2 boilers at the school. Eric H. stated that they are well maintained and in good condition. Granite State Heating and Plumbing performed the repair.

Tom G. asked why the contingency fund was not being used. Eric H. stated that in November 2014 the use of the retained fund balance seemed the best option, and that the school board would like to test the approval process.

Mike H. asked that going forward the school board deplete the contingency fund before using the retained fund balance. There was further discussion of the differences between the contingency fund, retained fund balance, and expendable trust fund.

All voted in favor, none were opposed. Motion carried 5-0-0

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Eric H. reviewed planned summer repair work and expenditures. He stated that at the next public hearing he would be seeking approval to replace the roof over the kitchen at the primary school, install gutters at the barn, and eave repair on the main building. Approval has already been received to replace the roof over the offices at HUES and to replace the ground cover on the primary school playground.

Eric H. announced that he had resigned from his position at SAU41 effective May 15, 2015.

Public Input: No members of the public were present.

### School Report

Laurie M. stated that the school board voted to offer Spanish to grades 3-6 using 1 teacher at a cost of \$103K, and to add a maker station costing \$19K. There is also the potential to add another 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, which will be voted on next month.

Frank C., on behalf of Chris H., stated that using the approved \$182K from the budget on other items may not be the best practice. Mike H. stated that the school board has total discretion and are more knowledgeable of changing needs and priorities.

### Town Report

Frank C. reviewed what would be included in the Coop study approved at town meeting. The potential members of the committee were discussed.

### Discussion of 2015 Budget Season:

Mike H. stated that input from the school board was last minute and sometime delayed. Tom G. said the school board had difficulty with meeting the required quorums for voting due to weather, etc., which caused delays. There was discussion of past year budget cycles.

It was agreed that the public meetings were successful and the BudCom presentations were well received.

### Upcoming 2016 Budget Season:

Tom G. stated that ongoing road improvements and the Coop study would be regularly discussed in future meetings.

Frank C. stated that the Recreation Commission is still seeking an additional rectangular field.

Mike H. stated that town growth and debt reduction may help finance the additional recreation field or increased teacher salaries.

There was a discussion about the competitiveness of Hollis teacher compensation and the strategy behind how new hires are selected.

Mike H. asked if the town would need to acquire property for the new field. Frank C. replied probably because most currently owned land has restrictions. There was a discussion about the land west of Hardy field, land behind the DPW, and land that would require Coop approval.

Frank C. explained that the Town and Coop have a history of sharing existing fields as needed.

Tom G. confirmed that there would be no BudCom meeting in August 2015.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Tom J. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor, Tax Collector