



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

Minutes of December 13, 2016

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: Susan Benz, Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Rob Mann – School Board Rep, Frank Whittemore

Others Present: Kelly Seely – SAU Business Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1st review of Hollis School District FY18 budget

Tom G. stated that the proposed operating budget is now \$10,615,973, which is a ~\$47K increase from the amount proposed at the November meeting. Kelly S. stated that the increase was due to changes in special education.

Significant new items to the operating budget:

- Addition of a database professional (+\$15K)
- Transition of paraprofessional to Coop (- \$16.5K)
- Enhancements to science curriculum (+ \$15K)
- Live streaming equipment for HSD meetings (+\$1.8K)
- Removal of line item for new computer equipment from prior budget proposal. There was a discussion of whether this would impact the success of the science curriculum. Kelly S. said there would be no negative impact.
- Addition of hosted software that will be paid for via ongoing lease.
- Addition of security cameras and COPSync services

Facilities Improvement Plan - \$252.5K

Tom G. asked if some items from the facilities improvement plan would be rolled into the operating budget, citing \$18K for a new intercom system as an example. Kelly S. replied that this would be paid from the Expendable Trust Fund.

Chris H. asked for an update regarding the boiler at HUES and how it will be impacted by the energy study. Rob M. replied that if an urgent need arises HSB will replace the boiler with propane based heating that is consistent with the findings of the energy study.

Chris H. asked if the energy study proposal was forthcoming. Rob M. replied that HSB anticipated that the proposal will be available in January and would present to BudCom early next year.

There was a discussion about issuing a bond to finance the implementation of the energy study recommendations.

Rob M. asked how to account for expenditures pertaining to Rocky Pond water system. Tom G. replied that if it is funded from the trust then it falls outside of guidance.

There was a discussion about charging other districts for use of the water system and if the \$50K expense could be broken out separately from education costs.

Tom G. asked about the septic system. Rob M. replied that the septic system is in good working condition.

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Warrant Articles

Tom G. asked if there was enough money in the unassigned fund balance to pay for the facilities improvement plan as stated in Article 6. Kelly S. replied that she anticipated there would be enough. Tom G. confirmed that the unassigned fund balance results from unexpended operating budget funds and asked if it was expected that ~\$225K would be left over. Kelly S. replied no. Tom G. stated that Article 6 needs to be reworded. There was a discussion of what language should be used and advice to seek legal counsel.

Tom G. reviewed the current list of warrant articles. Chris H. asked to move Article 3 for a bond to Article 1.

Susan B. asked to review the top 5 changes to the operating budget.

Mike H. asked for the health insurance rate increase. Kelly S. replied 15.9%.

Susan B. asked about the vision therapist position. Kelly S. stated that HSD will be transitioning its contracted services funds to a FTE which will be shared with other districts.

Tom G. asked about the decrease in NHRS. Kelly S. replied that the reduction is the result of fewer teachers retiring in FY18.

Mike H. asked if the budget guidance amount allowed HSD to meet its educational goals. Rob M. replied that Andy C. said the budget continues to move the district's educational vision forward.

Chris H. asked if significant changes were anticipated regarding state aid. Kelly S. replied she did not have that readily available.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris H. Rob M. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor, Tax Collector