



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

### **Minutes of January 24, 2012**

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 7:05 PM.

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris, Peter Band, Susan Benz, Tom Gehan, Tom Jambard, Frank Whittemore, Rob Mann

Also present: Deb Padykula-Finance Director, Troy Brown-Town Administrator, Mark LeDoux-Selectman

#### Review of Minutes of Jan. 9 and Dec. 12

Motion was made by Mike H. to accept the minutes of Jan. 9, 2012 as presented. Seconded by Tom G. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Peter B. abstained. Motion passed 7-0-1.

Motion was made by Mike H. to accept the minutes of Dec. 12, 2011 as presented. Seconded by Tom J. All voted in favor, with none opposed, and no abstentions. Motion passed 8-0-0.

#### New Business

Budget Committee Positions up for election: the positions held by Mike H. and Tom J. are up for election this year. Both incumbents intend to file. The filing period closes Friday, Feb. 3.

#### Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mark L. gave a brief discussion of the upcoming tentative agreement that has been ratified by the Selectmen and is currently under review by the union membership. The expectation is that it will be ratified shortly. The highlights of the agreement are an increase in the employee share of health insurance premiums, a cap on healthcare costs, and removal of the towns' liability for retiree insurance premiums. The cost of the two-year agreement is expected to be just under \$218K. Chris H. asked whether the agreement included an allowance for a salary/benefit increase. Mark L. stated that step increases will be based on the anniversary of the date of execution of the contract rather than on individual dates of hire. He also mentioned that the agreement does not provide for retroactive payments.

#### Petition Warrant Articles

Mark L. stated that there are potentially three petition warrant articles at this time. The first, tentatively labeled Article 13, is a request from the Old Home Day Committee asking for \$10K in support of the cost of fireworks. The second is an anticipated petition in support of the Farley Building, expected to be in the amount of \$200K to cover the cost to mothball the building. The third petition is to have the town vote on whether to adopt SB2. This is not an article that would be discussed at town meeting, but rather would be included on the official ballot for voting the Tuesday (March 13) prior to town meeting. A joint meeting/public hearing is scheduled for February 22, with the selectmen, budget committee, and school

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boards, to discuss the ramifications of SB2. Chris H. mentioned that the COOP district meeting is early this year, being March 5, which is before the town elections. Mike H. asked Troy B. what the requirements are for holding a public hearing of this type, and what preparations the BudComm needs to make. Mark L. stated that Jim Belanger, the town moderator, has agreed to assist with the proceedings. Peter B. asked Troy B. to research the RSA and let the BudComm know to what degree their responsibilities extend for participating in/conducting the hearing. Mark L. mentioned that there is a memo on file from the town's attorney related to this subject which he will forward to the BudComm members. In addition, the selectmen have an SB2 discussion on the agenda for their Feb. 13 regular meeting. Mike H. suggested getting information on the RSA directly from the state.

### Dates for Public Hearings:

Hollis School Budget - Tues Feb 7, 6:30 pm, Town Hall

Town Budget - Wed Feb 8, 6:30 pm at Town Hall

COOP Budget - Mon. Feb 6, 7:00 pm at HBMS multipurpose room

SB2 – Wed. Feb. 22, 7:00 pm at HBMS

### Review Town Warrant Articles

Chris H. reviewed the list of articles on the town warrant. There was discussion around the timing of costs associated with the collective bargaining agreement due to overlap of calendar and fiscal years, and how much of the cost to allocate to each year. Further discussion was postponed until such time as the final ratified agreement is available for review.

Additional discussion concerned the proposed town water well. The amount of the article has been raised to \$100K as a result of an engineer's report which included contingencies for all potential additional costs associated with the project. Chris H. asked for copies of the report document to be circulated to the BudComm members.

### Review School Warrant Articles

Rob M. circulated the draft list of warrant articles electronically at the meeting. There was some discussion regarding details of the various articles. One of the major discussion points concerned the verbiage for Article 5 (Support Staff CBA). Also, whether the boiler project (currently lumped in with Building Maintenance) should be a separate warrant article that could be expedited due its attractive payout. It was hoped that recommendations from the town-wide energy audit would have been available to justify this project. Rob M. stated that he was not aware of any conclusive data at this point. Mike H. suggested looking into financing the project up front in order to start reaping the benefits immediately.

Mike H. stated that it appeared that the Hollis District budget was within guidance. Tom G. agreed but had some questions as to how they arrived there. Rob M. mentioned that a position had been cut in the nursing staff, which should account for some of the savings.

Rob M. stated that the only article that the School Board has taken a position on is the Factfinders Report, and they voted to reject it back in August. Chris H. asked whether the Board would have the opportunity to decide on the rest of the warrant prior to the public hearing. Rob M. thought that the Board would convene immediately prior to the public hearing to conduct whatever last minute business would be necessary.

Chris H. asked whether there were any petition warrant articles at that point. Rob M. stated that there was only the SB2 article, which will be decided on the ballot rather than at the Hollis School District Meeting.

Chris H. stated that since it is possible that additional petition warrant articles could come in after the school district public hearing, a second public hearing may need to be scheduled.

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Assignment of Work

Union Contract – Mike H.

Factfinders Analysis (school) – Mike H.

Town/School Budget Presentations – Tom G.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Peter B. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector