



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

Minutes of February 6, 2014

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 6:35 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Chris Hyde, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Rosemary Mezzocchi – School Board Rep.

Others present: Eric Horton – SAU 41 Business Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Upcoming meetings:

Monday, March 3 – COOP Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 4 – Hollis School District Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 11 – Election Day

Wednesday, March 12 – Hollis Town Meeting

Tom G. spent a few minutes reviewing the annual budget process, specifically as it pertains to the Hollis School District. He discussed the various economic factors and enrollment statistics which go into developing the budget guidance.

Tom G. listed the warrant articles as presented. It was noted that they are all recommended by the School Board.

Tom G. then discussed how estimates are made of the effect of the proposed budget and warrant articles on the tax rate. It is anticipated that, due to a variety of different factors, the tax rate could increase by as much as 4% in 2014, from 22.82 to 23.79.

Tom G. reviewed the conduct of the public hearing and opened the floor for public comment.

Article 1. To elect all necessary school district officers for the ensuing terms by official ballot on **March 11, 2014.**

Article 2. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of **\$10,464,965** for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district. This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles. The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

Laurie Miller (Forest View Dr) thanked the BudCom, School Board, and Business Administrator for all of their hard work and a job well done.

Article 3. Shall the school district vote to approve the cost items included in the two-year collective bargaining agreement between the Hollis School Board and the Hollis Education Association for the 2014-2015, and 2015-2016

Budget Committee Minutes February 6, 2014

school years, which resulted from good faith negotiations, and which calls for the following increases in **professional staff** salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2015	\$175,081	2016	\$186,915

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Eighty-One Dollars (**\$175,081**) to fund those additional cost items related to the first year of the bargaining agreement (**2014-2015 school year**), and which amount represents the negotiated increase over the 2013-2014 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items? The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

Rosemary M. discussed the significant points of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chris H. mentioned that the BudCom had previously requested pay scale information showing the pay rates at the various grades and steps. Eric H. said he was not aware of the request but does have that information available. There was no public input on this article.

Article 4. Shall the school district vote to approve the cost items included in the two-year collective bargaining agreement between the Hollis School Board and the Hollis Education Support Staff Association for the 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 school years, which resulted from good faith negotiations, and which calls for the following increases in support staff salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items at the current staffing levels:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase	Fiscal Year	Estimated Increase
2015	\$42,866	2016	\$44,213

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$42,866) to fund those additional cost items related to the first year (2014-2015 school year) of the bargaining agreement, and which amount represents the negotiated increase over the 2013-2014 salaries, fringe benefits, and other cost items? The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

Rosemary M. discussed any changes that took place with this Collective Bargaining Agreement. There was no public input on this article.

Article 5. Shall the Hollis School District, if Article 3 and/or Article 4 be defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address the cost items of the defeated article(s) 3 and/or 4 only? The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

There was no public input on this article.

Article 6. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$8,000** to be added to the previously established MAINTENANCE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES at 4 Lund Lane in Hollis, Map 56, Lot 2, from rental proceeds and unexpended maintenance funds to be received from SAU 41 available for transfer on July 1 of this year. The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

There was no public input on this article.

Article 7. To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of **\$12,000** to be added to the previously established SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE FUND from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2014 unanticipated revenues (unreserved fund balance), available for transfer on July 1, 2014. The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

There was no public input on this article.

Budget Committee Minutes February 6, 2014

Article 8. Shall the voters of the Hollis School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,348,588 for the forthcoming fiscal year in which **\$394,099** is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of \$1,354,043, with \$395,663 assigned to the school budget of this school district, will be adopted if the article does not receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit. The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

There was no public input on this article.

Article 9. To see if the school district voters will authorize the Hollis School District to access future year state and federal catastrophic aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations. The school board recommends this appropriation (3-0-0).

There was no public input on this article.

Article 10. To transact any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

The public hearing was closed at 7:50.

The BudCom began their deliberations on the listed warrant articles.

Article 2:

Chris H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Tom J. seconded. There was some discussion regarding the typical order of warrant articles. It was acknowledged that the school board determines the order of the articles. All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Article 3:

Chris H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Tom J. seconded. There was discussion regarding increases to salaries in the proposed contract vs the existing contract. Chris H. stated that the proposed increases seem excessive and unreasonable. Rosemary M. stated that these changes are intended to bring Hollis more in line with surrounding towns. Discussion ensued regarding teacher attrition and health insurance opt-out rates.

Tom J. suggested that data be made available at the school district meeting showing the substantial increases proposed in the new contract, and let the taxpayers decide.

Drew M., moderator for the school district, stated that he will permit both a minority and majority presentation at the School District Meeting. He cautioned that the BudCom must tailor their message knowing that the majority of the audience will be completely uninformed of all these earlier discussions.

Tom G., Tom J., and Rosemary M. voted in favor. Chris H. was opposed. Frank W. abstained. Motion passed 3-1-1.

Article 4:

Tom J. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Chris H. seconded. Chris H. stated that the terms of this contract seem to be more in line with the economic times. Tom G., Tom J., Frank W., and Rosemary M. voted in favor. Chris H. was opposed. Motion passed 4-1-0.

Article 5:

Tom J. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Chris H. seconded. Chris H. stated that he generally does not favor special meetings because the turnout is too low to be representative of the population. Rosemary M. voted in favor. Tom G., Tom J., Chris H., and Frank W. voted against. Motion failed 1-4-0.

Article 6:

Budget Committee Minutes February 6, 2014

Chris H. made a motion that the BudCom recommend this article. Rosemary M. seconded. Tom J. asked whether SAU rent can be raised, if need be, to replenish funds that may be needed for unanticipated expenses. Eric H. stated yes.
All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Article 7:

Chris H. made a motion that the Budcom recommend this article. Rosemary M. seconded.
All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Article 8:

Chris H. made a motion that the Budcom recommend this article. Tom J. seconded.
All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Article 9:

Chris H. made a motion that the Budcom recommend this article. Tom J. seconded.
All voted in favor. Motion passed 5-0-0.

It was voted to cancel the regular meeting on Feb. 11.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris H. Rosemary M. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector