

1 **HOLLIS BUDGET COMMITTEE**

2  
3 FEBRUARY 7, 2012

4  
5 **MEETING MINUTES**

6  
7 A meeting of the Hollis Budget Committee was conducted on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Community  
8 Room, Hollis Town Hall.

9  
10 Chairman Christopher Hyde presided:

11  
12 Members of the Committee Present: Mike Harris, Vice Chairman  
13 Tom Gehan, Secretary (6:50 p.m.)  
14 Susan Benz  
15 Thomas Jambard  
16 Frank Whittemore (6:50 p.m.)  
17 Selectman Peter Band  
18 Robert Mann, Hollis School Board Representative

19  
20 Members of the Committee Absent:

21  
22 Also in Attendance: Robert Mann, Chairman, Hollis School Board  
23 Rich Manley, Vice Chairman, Hollis School Board  
24 Deborah Pucci, Secretary, Hollis School Board  
25 William Beauregard, Hollis School Board  
26 Frank Giudici, Hollis School Board  
27 Susan Hodgdon, SAU41 Superintendent  
28 Eric Horton, Business Administrator  
29 Jeanne Saunders, Director of Student Services  
30 Elizabeth Allen, Principal, HPS  
31 Candice Fowler, Principal, HUES  
32 Richard Raymond, Network Administrator  
33

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34 Robert Mann, Chairman, Hollis School Board, led in the pledge to the flag.

35  
36  
37 *Chairman Hyde introduced members of the Hollis Budget Committee, Hollis School Board, and Administration.*

38  
39 **MOTION BY MEMBER JAMBARD THAT THE COMMITTEE RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**  
40 **HEARING**  
41 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**  
42 **MOTION CARRIED**  
43 **6/0**

44  
45 *The Committee recessed at 6:35 p.m.*

46  
47 *The Committee reconvened its meeting at 10:15 p.m.*

48  
49 **DISCUSSION**

50  
51 **ARTICLE 1A (by Petition)**

52  
53 *Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Hollis*  
54 *School District on the second Tuesday of March?*

55  
56 Chairman Hyde noted the COOP School District has taken a position on the Article; voted against it.

57  
58 Members of the Budget Committee stated a desire to forego a position on the Article until the conclusion of the public  
59 hearing. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of convening a meeting during the Town public hearings to take a  
60 position on the Article.  
61

1 Chairman Hyde remarked if the committee were to postpone taking a position on the article, due to publication  
2 requirements, the committee's position would not be able to be included in the publication.

3  
4 Chairman Hyde stated he has strong feelings around SB 2; believes it to be terrible for the process and a bad idea. He  
5 questioned the will of the committee.

6  
7 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO NOT RECOMMEND ARTICLE 1A**  
8 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BAND**

9  
10 ON THE QUESTION

11  
12 Mr. Whittemore stated he was in favor of the motion to not recommend and remarked he believes it to be a bad system.

13  
14 Mr. Jambard stated he was in favor of the motion to not recommend. He noted neighboring towns that have enacted this  
15 and had very little turnout. He stated his desire for a Saturday meeting, which he believes would not occur unless there  
16 were an article on the warrant.

17  
18 Selectman Band stated he was not in favor of SB2, believes it would not result in increased participation and noted less  
19 participation has been the resulting factor in other towns. He added one of the key areas he feels the legislation is  
20 deficient is that in a traditional town meeting you discuss and vote at the same time. For individuals to be in one room  
21 working that out together he believes to be very important and a more effective decision making process. He added it  
22 increases a sense of community.

23  
24 Mr. Harris stated he was in favor of the motion to not recommend.

25  
26 Mr. Mann stated he does not support SB2. He remarked one of the things that make the Town unique is the fact citizens  
27 can come to a town meeting, discuss the issues, become educated on the issues, and then make an informed decision.  
28 He commented a concern with a ballot situation is dialogue ceases.

29  
30 Ms. Benz stated she does not support SB2; one of the reasons being one of the features of a town meeting is the ability to  
31 make modifications on the floor.

32  
33 Mr. Gehan stated he does not support SB2 for all of the reasons stated by his colleagues.

34  
35 Chairman Hyde stated he does not support SB2. He commented he resided in Derry a number of years ago when SB2  
36 was first adopted. He participated in that and found it to be rather divisive on a community. He remarked it makes it easy  
37 to manipulate the deliberative session before the voters and tends to be the special interest, well organized groups that  
38 benefit. He spoke of the benefits of discussion that takes place at town meeting and specifically the public input.

39 **MOTION CARRIED**

40 **8/0**

41  
42 ARTICLE 2

43  
44 *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$218,899 to fund the increase in cost items relative*  
45 *to professional staff salaries and fringe benefits for the 2012-2013 school year which resulted from good faith negotiations*  
46 *with the professional staff, and which represents the negotiated increase over last year's salaries and fringe benefits. This*  
47 *is the first year of a two year contract.*

48  
49 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO NOT RECOMMEND ARTICLE 2**  
50 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

51  
52 ON THE QUESTION

53  
54 Mr. Gehan stated he does not support the Fact Finder's Report. He stated a proposal was shown that provided  
55 substantial benefit to the professional employees, which was turned down. He added the School Board had taken off the  
56 table the performance language with the exception of its relation to the RIF Policy, which he believed was a move in the  
57 right direction. He further stated evidence of the fact the support union was able to reach an agreement with broadly the  
58 same parameters is indicative of the general viability of the offer made by the School Board.

59  
60 Ms. Benz stated her agreement with the remarks made by the previous speaker.

1 Mr. Jambard also agreed with statements made by Mr. Gehan.

2  
3 Mr. Whittemore stated his preference for a negotiated agreement and stated his dislike of the Fact Finder's Report. He  
4 stated he would support a salary increase for the teachers, but only in a negotiated agreement.

5  
6 Chairman Hyde stated his agreement with the comments made by his colleagues.

7  
8 Mr. Harris and Selectman Band echoed the remarks made by Mr. Gehan.

9 **MOTION CARRIED**

10 **8/0**

11  
12 ARTICLE 4

13  
14 *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$38,525 to fund the increase in cost items relative*  
15 *to support staff salaries and fringe benefits for the 2012-2013 school year which resulted from good faith negotiations with*  
16 *the support staff, and which represents the negotiated increase over last year's salaries and fringe benefits. This is the*  
17 *first year of a two year contract.*

18  
19 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 4**

20 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER JAMBARD**

21  
22 ON THE QUESTION

23  
24 Messrs. Harris and Jambard stated their support of the contract citing its reasonableness.

25  
26 Chairman Mann stated his opinion the increases are modest and will go a long way towards morale, etc.

27  
28 Ms. Benz stated her support of the Article and thanked the negotiating team for their efforts.

29  
30 Mr. Gehan stated his support and pleasure a negotiated agreement was reached.

31 **MOTION CARRIED**

32 **8/0**

33  
34 ARTICLE 5

35  
36 *Shall the Hollis School District, if Article 4 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its*  
37 *option, to address Article 4 cost items only?*

38  
39 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO NOT RECOMMEND ARTICLE 5**

40 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER GEHAN**

41  
42 ON THE QUESTION

43  
44 Mr. Gehan stated his support of the motion and commented it is challenging to get people out to the regular annual  
45 meeting; having an off cycle meeting may create confusion and further depress attendance.

46  
47 Ms. Benz stated she did not agree with conducting a special meeting and believes attendance would be minimal.

48  
49 Chairman Mann echoed the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

50  
51 Mr. Harris stated he would only support negotiated settlements at annual meeting for the same reasons cited with regard  
52 to attendance.

53  
54 Chairman Hyde touched upon the importance of public participation.

55  
56 Selectman Band stated his opposition to a special meeting. He remarked lack of a special meeting places more pressure  
57 on both sides to come to the table.

58  
59 Mr. Jambard stated his opposition to conducting a special meeting and remarked if this minimal amount is not supported  
60 by the citizenry, presenting something different at a special meeting is not likely to have a favorable outcome.

1 Mr. Whittemore agreed with the statements made.

2 **MOTION CARRIED**

3 **8/0**

4  
5 ARTICLE 6

6  
7 *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*  
8 *established MAINTENANCE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES at 4 Lund Lane in Hollis,*  
9 *Map 56, Lot 2, from rental proceeds and unexpended maintenance funds to be received from SAU 41 available for*  
10 *transfer on July 1 of this year.*

11  
12 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 6**

13 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

14  
15 ON THE QUESTION

16  
17 Members of the Budget Committee stated their unanimous support of the Article.

18 **MOTION CARRIED**

19 **8/0**

20  
21 ARTICLE 7

22  
23 *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$290,483 to be added to the previously*  
24 *established SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE FUND from the Hollis School District's June 30, 2012 unanticipated*  
25 *revenues (unreserved fund balance surplus), available for transfer on July 1, 2012.*

26  
27 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 7**

28 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

29  
30 ON THE QUESTION

31  
32 Mr. Gehan remarked as evidenced by the photos and by walking the lot, he believes there is good cause to pave the lots  
33 and would be acceptable to utilizing unexpended fund balance for that purpose.

34  
35 Ms. Benz stated her support of the Article. She touched upon information presented related to safety concerns.

36  
37 Chairman Mann stated his support of the Article. He noted this issue has been deferred and needs to be addressed.

38  
39 Mr. Harris stated his support of the Article and noted his agreement there is a demonstrated need. He spoke to his  
40 disappointment the situation was allowed to reach this level/cost of necessary repairs before being addressed.

41  
42 Chairman Hyde agreed both with the need and the source of funding. He suggested having access to an expendable  
43 trust fund encourages very efficient operation of the business during the course of the year.

44  
45 Selectman Band stated his support of the Article and agreed with the funding mechanism.

46  
47 Mr. Jambard questioned whether the project would be inclusive of any roadway between the two facilities, and was  
48 informed it would not. He stated he was not in favor of the project. He remarked he could understand paving at HPS, but  
49 is bothered by the cutting of a nursing position (\$46,000) and expenditures (\$290,000) to hot top. He suggested paving  
50 one parking lot this year and another the next would be an approach that could be taken so that monies could be utilized  
51 to fund the nursing position. He commented if a situation arises with a child that cannot be serviced, there is no second  
52 chance.

53  
54 Mr. Whittemore commented he is tired of the eyesore that is the parking lots and is supportive of the Article.

55 **MOTION CARRIED**

56 **6/2**

57

1 ARTICLE 8

2  
3 *Shall the voters of the Hollis School District adopt a school administrative unit budget of \$1,338,732 for the forthcoming*  
4 *fiscal year in which \$371,440 is assigned to the school budget of this school district? This year's adjusted budget of*  
5 *\$1,357,646, with \$376,688 assigned to the school budget of this school district, will be adopted if the article does not*  
6 *receive a majority vote of all the school district voters voting in this school administrative unit.*

7  
8 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 8**  
9 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER MANN**

10  
11 ON THE QUESTION

12  
13 Mr. Gehan, Ms. Benz and Chairman Mann stated their support of the Article.

14  
15 Mr. Harris stated his support and commented he would like to see the SAU Governing Board do a more stringent job of  
16 reviewing the budget.

17  
18 Chairman Hyde echoed the comment made by Mr. Harris and stated his support of the Article. He suggested in reviewing  
19 a default budget items such as one-time expenditures should not be considered.

20  
21 Selectman Band, Mr. Jambard, and Mr. Whittemore stated their support of the Article.

22 **MOTION CARRIED**  
23 **8/0**

24  
25 ARTICLE 9

26  
27 *To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of \$9,840,825 for the support of schools, for the*  
28 *payment of salaries for the school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district.*  
29 *This appropriation does not include appropriations voted in other warrant articles.*

30  
31 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 9**  
32 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

33  
34 ON THE QUESTION

35  
36 Mr. Gehan echoed the comments made by members of the School Board. He stated his trust in the judgment of the  
37 professionals who run the schools who have indicated repeatedly throughout the evening that they can deliver high quality  
38 education within the parameters of the proposed budget.

39  
40 Ms. Benz echoed Mr. Gehan's comments.

41  
42 Chairman Mann stated his support of Article 9.

43  
44 Mr. Harris stated his support of Article 9. He noted his appreciation for the work done by the Principals in particular and  
45 was accepting of their recommendations.

46  
47 Chairman Hyde remarked he originally voted against supporting the proposed budget and has come to the conclusion,  
48 given the population to be serviced in the coming year, the additional support is needed. He stated his support of the  
49 proposed budget.

50  
51 Selectman Band stated his support of the proposed budget. He commented a lot of work has gone into it; it has been fully  
52 vetted, and will continue to provide excellence.

53  
54 Mr. Jambard stated his support of the budget as proposed.

55  
56 Mr. Whittemore stated his support of the proposed budget.

57  
58 Chairman Mann recognized the hard work put forth by the Administration, and touched upon the challenges faced in  
59 preparing the FY13 proposed budget.  
60

1 Chairman Mann's comments were echoed by all members of the School Board and Budget Committee.

2 **MOTION CARRIED**

3 **8/0**

4  
5 ARTICLE 10

6  
7 *To see if the school district voters will authorize the Hollis School District to access future year state and federal*  
8 *catastrophic aid funds in the event that special education costs exceed budget limitations.*

9  
10 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO RECOMMEND ARTICLE 10**

11 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

12 **MOTION CARRIED**

13 **8/0**

14  
15 OTHER BUSINESS - None

16  
17 ADJOURNMENT

18  
19 **MOTION BY MEMBER WHITTEMORE TO ADJOURN**

20 **MOTION SECONDED BY MEMBER BENZ**

21 **MOTION CARRIED**

22 **8/0**

23  
24 *The February 7, 2012 meeting of the Hollis Budget Committee was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.*

25  
26  
27  
28  
29 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

30