



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

Minutes of March 22, 2011

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

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

Peter Band presided over elections of officers for the upcoming budget season. Results were as follows: Chairman - Chris Hyde (6-0-1), Vice-Chairman – Mike Harris (7-0-0), Secretary - Tom Gehan (7-0-0)

Peter B. then turned the meeting over to Chris Hyde. Tom J. motioned to adjourn the meeting of March 14. Mike H. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting of Feb. 9th were discussed briefly, but since several in attendance had not received and/or read them, it was decided to table them until next meeting.

Chris H. mentioned that Troy Brown is looking for a volunteer to be part of a search committee for a replacement Finance Director. This would involve two or three meetings during the next two months. Additionally, Troy is looking for help from the committee to review the benefit policy for non-union staff. This would involve several meetings over the course of the next four months. Mike H. volunteered to be on the “benefits” task force. Susan B. volunteered to help on the interview committee for the finance director position.

Review of public meetings:

Mike H. mentioned that he thought the town hearings were well run and the budgets well-received. It was generally agreed, however, that the discord between the Co-op school board and budget committee was an issue, and resulted in confusion and disagreement during the meetings.

Chris H. suggested that budget details should be fixed and not changed following the public hearings. This requires more organization up front, but avoids pitfalls at the District Meeting. It’s a matter of having the information needed available earlier in the process, and using a more definitive timeline.

Some discussion was had over a possible meeting in August to start the process off a little earlier, but it was felt that not enough budget information is available at the time. However, certain ongoing topics, such as cost-per-pupil comparisons, or the way forward with the Farley building, could be tackled any time of the year.

Tom G. suggested that budget guidance could be discussed earlier in the year, possibly even in May. Mike H. recommended that a list of specific terms or conditions that the BudComm would deem unacceptable in either of the union contracts should be prepared and made available to the negotiating teams at the start of the process. Due to rules governing contract negotiations, these would be considered advisory or recommended guidelines. Tom G. also would like to have a definitive answer from the SAU as to why the administrative staffing levels seem to be top heavy.

The topic of cost-per-pupil was discussed at length. Chris H. would like to find out what is being done

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differently in towns with a low per-pupil cost to see where Hollis could make positive changes. He also mentioned the importance of considering the net effect on the residential homeowner tax bill in towns that have a significant retail/commercial base. The effect of a higher per-pupil cost is dampened when a town has a large commercial base.

A motion was made by Peter Band to enter non-public session under RSA 93C to discuss issues associated with collective bargaining. Second by Mike Harris. A roll call vote was taken. (Tom Gehan-Y, Tom Jambard-Y, Frank Whittemore-Y, Chris Hyde-Y, Mike Harris-Y, Susan Benz-Y, Peter Band-Y, Rich Manley-Y.)

The committee went into non-public session at 8:30pm.

A motion was made by Mike Harris to exit non-public session under RSA 93C to discuss issues associated with collective bargaining. Second by Tom Gehan. A roll call vote was taken. (Tom Gehan-Y, Tom Jambard-Y, Frank Whittemore-Y, Chris Hyde-Y, Mike Harris-Y, Susan Benz-Y, Peter Band-Y, Rich Manley-Y.)

Motion to adjourn by Mike Harris, second by Tom Jambard. Motion passed unanimous. The committee adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Upcoming meetings:

April 26, 2011 @ 7:00 pm – Town Hall Community Room

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector