



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

Minutes of March 27, 2012

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

Members present: Chris Hyde, Mike Harris, Peter Band, Tom Gehan, Rob Mann, Susan Benz

Also present: Deb Padykula-Finance Director, Boris Golosarsky-Hollis School Board

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Rob Mann introduced Boris Golosarsky who was standing in for Frank Guidici – the new Hollis School Board rep to the Budcom. Frank was out of town and couldn't attend this meeting. Rob Mann left the meeting after the introduction.

Deb announced that the first order of business was election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Chris Hyde made a motion to nominate Tom Gehan for Chair, seconded by Mike Harris.

Motion passed 5-0.

Chris Hyde made a motion to nominate Susan Benz as Vice Chairman, seconded by Mike Harris.

Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion was held about Secretary. Decision was made to table this vote until other members of the Budcom were in attendance. Chris Hyde volunteered to take notes if Non-Public was necessary.

Tom Gehan assumed the role of Chairman and proceeded with the Agenda.

Minutes were reviewed and approved:

1/24/12 (5-0)

2/7/12 (5-0)

School Public hearing 2/7/12 (5-0)

2/8/12 (5-0)

2/28/12 (4-0-1)

Meeting Night Change

Discussion was held around moving the meeting night to the 2nd Tuesday of the month to allow for the possible attendance by SAU personnel (4th Tuesday is currently a conflict with the Brookline School Board meeting night). Motion was made to move to 2nd Tuesday, motion carried 5-0. Deb was asked to notify all (change on the website, etc).

LGC Training

Chris Hyde received the annual flyer on spring courses/training offered by LGC and encouraged all to participate if interested.

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Review of Past Year and Suggestions for Changes

Tom Gehan went through his list of potential actions for the year and some discussion ensued on:

- Revisit/refine budget process timeline, e.g. when do different data become available?
- Review town and school guidance principles and calculation methodology (what is in/out of guidance)
- Additional information desired: Distribution of staff on pay schedules, staffing changes resulting from budget proposals, summary of attrition (particularly at schools), enrollment by health plan, incentives planned to migrate staff to Lumenos plan
- Budgetary impact of change in tenure law (5 yrs, vs. 3 yrs)
- New data views to consider, e.g. town gross appropriation over population, school gross appropriation over students
- Better fiscal year-end reviews of encumbrances and balances
- Funding options for town maintenance trust fund, i.e. more like school (funded by unreserved balance)? 50/50: unreserved balance and specific appropriation?
- Resolve question of legality of contingency line item in town budget
- Encourage school board to include content in hearing / district mtg re: effectiveness of schools – best practices on how to measure
- Facility and capital improvement plans for town and schools; opportunities to aggregate and bond expenses (work with selectmen)
- Post more BudCom content on-line ahead of meetings, e.g. presentation and draft budgets.

Areas to work with Selectman

Services Contracting – Chris H. stated that outsourcing of services should always be considered as an alternative to purchasing or hiring.

Property Valuation Update – Chris H. stated that the town should not need to do a full revaluation every five years, that a statistical update should be sufficient.

CBA – Mike H. mentioned that there were some points agreed to prior to the formation of the new employees union, regarding a health insurance 50/50 cost share, that will still hold regardless of future negotiations. Chris H. suggested that CBAs should be voted on every year, rather than have multi-year contracts. He also stated that the total cost of employment needs to be considered, not just “salaries”, since benefit costs have lately become such a large proportion of the total cost. Voters need to be made aware of the magnitude of the costs that are beyond the control of the town.

Facilities Plan – Mike H. mentioned that there needs to be a plan that defines facilities needs and solutions, particularly with regard to the Farley Building and Town Hall.

Chris H. discussed the funding mechanism for the Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund. He suggested that funds should be allocated from unspent funds each year. Mike H. mentioned that encumbered funds need to be associated with an existing contract. There was some discussion as to whether leftover funds could just be put into the Maintenance Trust Fund via an encumbrance, and whether the same applies to the school districts.

Chris H. mentioned that according to the LGC, it is not legal to have a “contingency” line item and that the town needs to resolve that issue. Peter B. stated that the town currently is within the letter of the law.

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Chris H. also stated that he would like to have, both on the town side and school side, better understanding and accounting detail for the unreserved fund balance. He would like the BudCom to have more oversight on expenditures from this account. The agreement has always been that the School Board should get approval from the BudCom to encumber funds, but this does not always happen and recently, money has been spent without BudCom approval.

School Board

CBA – Mike H. mentioned that a certain amount of money was approved at town meeting, but that a contract had not been agreed upon at that time. His question was what happens if the negotiations come in under the agreed upon amount. He stated there were some things in the fact-finders report that the school board might negotiate out.

Other Business-

Chris H. mentioned that Jim Belanger told him that funding for the Hillsborough County Agricultural Extension Office might be lost, and wanted to know if and how that might affect farms or farmers in Hollis. Mike H. said that he would inquire of members of the farming community and let people know.

Next regular BudCom meeting: Tuesday May 9

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Benz
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector