



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

Minutes of May 14, 2013

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:03 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Peter Band, Chris Hyde, Betsey Cox-Buteau - Hollis School Board Rep.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of minutes:

Peter B. moved to accept the minutes of 2/4/13 as amended by Tom G. Chris H. seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes were accepted as amended.

Peter B. moved to accept the minutes of 4/9/13 as written. Betsey Cox-Buteau seconded. All voted in favor with Chris H. abstaining. Minutes were accepted as written.

Town Update:

Peter B. stated that most items are running under budget at this early stage, with the exception of snow removal. He recollected that there is \$8K remaining in the snow removal budget, and that \$15K is due from FEMA to reimburse for a big storm in February. Chris H. asked about the Town Hall siding project. Peter B. stated that the RFP is out, bids are due by the end of the month. Anticipated start date is early summer, with the project completed by the end of October.

School Update:

Betsey C. B. stated that Eric Horton reported an unexpended fund balance expected to be \$130K. He also asked to expend some of that on several small projects (under \$5K each). These projects involved improving security measures at both schools. The total came to ~\$18K for six or seven small projects. This expenditure was approved by the School Board.

Tom G. mentioned that the BudCom would like to have an end of fiscal year update from Eric H. as soon as the data are available (probably July). He also said that the BudCom would like to be informed early in the cycle on any topics likely to have an unexpected impact on the budget, such as staffing levels, or any other high cost items or items that might require a non-public discussion.

Tom G. also expressed concern over the timing of school board and budget committee meetings, and suggested that the school board might plan ahead to meet and review the proposed budget prior to it being presented at the BudCom meeting.

Chris H. mentioned that a Selectman had suggested that union contract negotiations, several of which are either ongoing or expected to resume in the next few months, should be conducted with consistent objectives town-wide, whenever possible. The Selectmen offered to set up a committee to put together a set of policies and guidelines. No further action has transpired at this point. Tom G. felt that it should first be determined whether there is enough common ground among the entities to make it worth pursuing.

Chris H. asked that the BudCom be informed of the timing of the school audit review, so that they might attend. He felt that there could be information of significant interest and value presented.

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Public Input:

No members of the public were present.

New Business:

Chris H. suggested that it might be worth meeting with various departments, eg. Special Education on the school side, and Police or DPW on the town side, to do an up-close review of the budget. This was tentatively planned for July. Tom G. also suggested doing a review of planned facilities maintenance. This could be in conjunction with one of the July Selectmen's meetings.

Motion to adjourn was made by Chris H. Peter B. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector