



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

Minutes of June 11, 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, Mike Harris, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Susan Benz
Others present: Rosemary Mezzocchi, Hollis School Board; Representatives Belanger, Ober, Gargas, and Senator Gilmour

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

House Bill 134

Rep. Belanger discussed the status of HB 134, which allows towns to establish a contingency fund. At this point it has passed both the Senate and the House, and will go to the Governor for signature. The fund must be less than one percent of the town budget, and all expenditures from the fund must be accounted for by the Selectmen at Town Meeting.

County Budget

Rep. Belanger stated that if the county budget passes as it stands, the cost to the town will increase \$87K. This is the first increase in several years. The overall increase in the county budget is approximately 7%.

State Budget

Rep. Ober reviewed in detail the state budget process. The overall budget is up 9.3%, with no new taxes or fees, indicating that increased revenues are anticipated. Sen. Gilmour stated that the Senate voted to approve a 4% increase in the first year, and a 2% increase the second year on the general fund portion of the budget.

Tom G. questioned the outlook for the NH Retirement System. Although it was explained that the NHRS is not a state agency, Rep. Ober stated that the increases in cost to the towns over the last two years should level off. However, at this rate it is expected to be 30 years before the current unfunded liability is eliminated.

The meeting went into recess at 8:20, and reconvened at 8:30.

Approval of minutes:

Tom J. moved to accept the minutes of 5/14/13 as amended by Tom G. Peter B. seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes were accepted as amended.

Town Report:

Peter B. stated that proposals for the Town Hall exterior renovation project were reviewed at the previous night's Selectman meeting. The contract has been awarded to DL King Associates. The base bid, not including lead abatement and keeping the color white, was \$294,493.00. This includes a \$20K contingency.

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The Selectmen decided to adjust the cost to \$274,493.00, eliminate the contingency, and cover any unanticipated expenses via change orders. The project is expected to begin shortly, with a planned completion date of October 31.

Peter B. also mentioned that the Selectmen are researching the cost advantage of buying back some of the remaining long term bonds and converting them to something with a shorter term and lower interest rate. There is a potential savings in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Peter B. discussed a proposal from TDS to provide non-exclusive cable service.

Peter then reported on the financials received from Finance Officer Deb Padykula. Expenses are tracking as expected through May. Revenues are strong in both auto registrations and land use change tax. He also stated that Deb P. and Selectman Mark LeDoux are investigating alternative banking options in order to achieve a slightly higher interest rate.

School Update:

Rosemary M. reported that Dr. John Moody has taken over as interim superintendent of the SAU. He is expected to start July 1, for a term of one year.

New Business:

Tom G. mentioned that the Selectmen have set aside time at their July 22 meeting to discuss upcoming capital projects and other anticipated large expenditures with members of the BudCom. This meeting could be in lieu of the regular July BudCom meeting. It was agreed to cancel the regular July meeting, and keep the August meeting. Mike H. requested that the July financial reports should still be made available.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Peter B. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector