



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

Minutes of August 24, 2010

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 7:05 PM.

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris, Vice-Chair, Tom Gehan, Susan Benz, Ray Vallee, Frank Whittemore, Peter Band, Selectman's Representative.

Also present: Paul Calabria, Finance Director

BudComm Minutes of August 19, 2010:

Mike H. moved to accept minutes as presented. Tom G. seconded.

Chris H., Frank W. & Tom G. voted to approve the SPED Special Meeting minutes. Mike H., Susan B., Peter B. & Ray V. abstained.

Town Report:

Peter detailed the July Financials. He also discussed the Budget schedule and guidance given to the departments. Peter will speak with Cathy Hoffman on the drop-dead date for the Town Report, since accurate and complete warrants need to be included in that document. Paul detailed the Health Insurance claims history through the 3rd week in August, which is looking more favorable for the year. Discussion ensued regarding combining the School and Town for possible health insurance savings. The Farley building roof repair was discussed. A side note was that the SAU will also be looking to move quarters in the near future, so that will mean two town buildings whose destiny will need to be determined.

School Report:

Susan apologized that she wasn't able to bring the June 30 financials due to the Business Administrator being on vacation. Possible schedules for the School meetings with the Budget Committee were discussed. Mold remediation is on schedule at the HUES. School is opening on schedule.

Public Input:

None

Other Business:

SPED issues were discussed, along with a date for a follow-up meeting with the school board. All should take time to review IDEA Section 504 for homework.

Chris brought up the 10% rule and the subsequent disallowance by the DRA.

Affidavit to seek an Administrative relief through a Waiver from the DRA:

Peter B. moved to authorize Chris H. to sign the Affidavit as Chairman of the Budget Committee. Mike H. seconded. Ray V. expressed his disagreement with the process. Chris explained that this has happened in other towns and this will not set a precedent. Ray further explained the problematic issue with the bundling of warrant article items. Chris explained that, according to town legal council, you could divide up and vote on individual items in a bundled article. Peter explained administrative waivers that the DRA grants and that the intent of Town Meeting takes precedence. Ray still took issue with going over the 10% rule. Chris

Budget Committee Minutes August 24, 2010

explained that the circumstances dictate a course of action to sign the affidavit. Motion was unanimously approved by the Budget Committee.

Chris provided a long discussion via a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the economic environment, including charts showing CPI, wage growth, personal income, unemployment rate (mostly based on government data), which dictates the preface for setting budget guidance. The key focus is on tightly limiting spending. Chris presented Proposal 1 for the town and the school guidance. Tax should be flat for next year. The town should strive to build up its Unreserved Fund Balance over the course of four years, and that Compensated Absences should be fully funded in two years. Need to adjust schools guidance to reflect the decline in school enrollment. Budget should be based on a reasonable cost per pupil. Need to also look at administrative costs, as they have grown significantly over the last several years.

Chris discussed upcoming meetings. Note was made of upcoming Selectmen's budget review meetings in October.

Ray V. expressed his concern over the unnecessary expenditure of funds to send out the recent Library letter. Chris mentioned the 100th Anniversary of the Hollis Social Library.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. and seconded by Susan B. Meeting adjourned: 9:52p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector
Paul Calabria, Finance Officer