



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

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes
Town Hall, Community Room
November 23, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Call to Order:

The Budget Committee Meeting was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 7:11 PM.

Members Present:

Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris Vice-Chairman, Frank Whittemore, Tom Gehan, Tom Jambard, Susan Benz, Ray Valle, Peter Band and Mark LeDoux.

Others Present:

Troy Brown, Town Administrator, Robert Labednick and Thomas Enright

Approve Minutes:

Duly moved M. Harris and seconded by F. Whittemore to approve the October 26, 2010 minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

Public Input:

Tom Enright voiced concern over the cost of the Hollis School District budget because the cost per student is significantly greater than the NH State average. He clarified that he was speaking as a taxpayer and not an elected School official. Mr. Enright explained that from 2000 to 2005 school enrollments increased each year, however enrollments have been decreasing since 2005 yet the operating budget continues to increase. He said he wanted the Budget Committee to look into the school costs this year when reviewing the 2011/12 operating budget. He told the Budget Committee that he would be visiting the Budget Committee on a

monthly basis to make sure the Budget Committee was reviewing data/budgets.

Town Report:

M. LeDoux provided the Budget Committee with an update on the status of union negotiations. He explained that the Selectmen asked the Union to change health insurance plans from self-insured to LGC. Mr. LeDoux said that the Union is not willing to change plans without a contract and with the evergreen law still in place since July 2008 the Board of Selectmen are reluctant to enter into new contracts with step increases. Mark explained that the Town's health insurance increased \$166,531.00. He also explained that the proposed budget is over guidance due primarily to increased cost associated with NH Retirement, Workers Compensation Insurance and Health Insurance. Mark explained that the budget represents no COLA or step increases.

P. Band explained that the Library copper roof needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$40,000. P. Band explained that the Board of Selectmen is seeking guidance from the Budget Committee regarding leaving the roof repair in the operating budget or having a special warrant article.

T. Jambard moved and seconded by M. Harris to advise the Selectmen to include the Library roof repair in the 2011 proposed operating budget.

Vote: Motion passed 4 for, 1 opposed and 1 abstained

Public Comment:

Bob Labelednick recommended that the Budget Committee and Board of Selectmen start addressing building and maintenance issues. He recommended developing a prioritized list and recommended that one or two projects be completed each year.

School Report:

S. Benz explained that the School Board is preparing the 2010/11 proposed budget which will meet Budget Committee guidance request of zero increase or less. Mrs. Benz explained that the School Department is negotiating two union contracts. S. Benz explained that the SAU is seriously considering purchasing new finance / HR software to increase efficiency. The software company called

WebSense provided a demo to school officials and budget committee members last month. She said that it looks like the SAU will be recommending the purchase this year. S. Benz also provided an update on the school/town water system. She said it is working and the water ban has been lifted. S. Benz told the Budget Committee that the SAU Office is considering relocating in a few years because the current SAU building has radon, mold and is no longer large enough to accommodate SAU staff. S. Benz reported that the School had a surplus of approximately \$240k. Discussion followed about how the surplus funds could be used to off-set the tax rate. T. Brown said he would ask NH DRA explain how the funds can be used.

Adjournment:

Duly moved M. Harris and seconded by R. Valle to adjourn at 9:21 pm.

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy R. Brown
Town Administrator