



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

Minutes of December 12, 2011

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 7:02 PM and by David Petry, Chairman-Board of Selectmen

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris, Peter Band, Susan Benz, Tom Gehan, Tom Jambard, Frank Whittemore, Rob Mann

Also present: Deb Padykula-Finance Director, Troy Brown-Town Administrator, David Petry-Chairman, Board of Selectmen, Frank Cadwell-Selectman, Mark LeDoux-Selectman, Vahrij Manoukian-Selectmen (arrived at 7:14).

Review and acceptance of Minutes of November 22, 2011

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes as revised. Tom J. seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Minutes were accepted.

Public Input

None

Selectmen Budget Review

Prior to discussing the 2012 Town budget, David P. mentioned that the Town Hall and DPW staff have petitioned with the local union AFSCME to form a collective bargaining unit. No further details were available for discussion at this time. The town has a two week time period in which to dispute the proposed positions.

Troy B. suggested rescheduling the January budget review from Tuesday, Jan. 10 to Monday Jan. 9 in order to avoid conflict with the Primary elections on the 10th. Mike H. moved to reschedule the meeting as proposed. Susan B. seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The vote was unanimous.

Troy B. presented a review of the major projects of 2011. He then listed the warrant articles for town meeting as they exist at this time.

Chris H. asked for a listing of the expenditures from the Buildings and Facilities Maintenance Trust Fund for the last couple of years.

Troy B. then discussed the major planned expenses for 2012 from the Maintenance Trust Fund.

Other warrant articles that were discussed were for the purchase of a DPW pickup truck, the lease-purchase of a DPW plow truck, the lease of five new police cruisers, funds for development of a well for town buildings, allocation of funds from an anticipated DOT reimbursement, and discontinuance of the Employee Health Insurance Expendable Trust Fund.

Deb P. discussed the town operating budget, highlighting the major cost increases and reductions for 2012, and the net effect on the town portion of the tax rate. The overall bottom line was that the budget was \$96K over guidance.

Budget Committee Minutes December 12, 2011

Discussion & Q/A

Frank W. asked about the rationale behind the transition of the I/T position from part-time to full-time. Chris H. pointed out that the net effect would be a 25% increase in hours per week (going from 30 hours to 40 hours), but at three times the cost. He suggested that for such a significant budget increase, the proposal should be in the form of a separate warrant article, rather than including it in the operating budget. This would give the voters the final decision. Rob M. asked whether the position could be contracted out for less money. David P. agreed to get an estimate for outsourcing the position, but the general consensus was that that option would be far less effective and efficient than keeping it in-house. Rob M. stated that the cost comparison data would be useful to have.

Frank W. then asked what should be done about the \$96K variance. The BudComm members agreed that the flat budget should be adhered to, so the goal for the next review is to whittle \$96K out of the current budget proposal.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector