



**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**  
**December 14, 2010 at 6:30 PM**

Members Present: Chris Hyde - Chairman, Mike Harris - Vice-Chairman, Frank Whittemore, Tom Gehan, Tom Jambard, Susan Benz, Ray Valle and Peter Band.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Troy Brown, Town Administrator, Selectman Caldwell, Selectman Manoukian, Police Chief Ux, Fire Chief Towne and Lisa Petralia.

Call to Order:

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chris Hyde, Chairman at 6:41PM.

Public Input:

No public comment.

2011 Proposed Budget:

T. Brown provided a summary document to the Budget Committee which explained all major increases and decreases in the proposed 2011 budget. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Retirement NHRS contributions increased \$35,543.00

Life & Disability Policy increased \$10,108.00 due to a calculation error

Workers Compensation Insurance increased \$19,975.00

Property Liability Insurance increased \$8,739.00

Police, Fire and Communications salaries increased throughout budget due to holiday pay calculation error.

Eliminated 1 full time DPW equipment operator - \$34,873 salary decrease

Solid Waste Disposal - \$105,653.00 decrease

Health Insurance increased \$382,069 which represents total cost of claims, buyout and employee

contributions.

Selectman Band stated that the Selectmen and the Budget Committee are not that far apart. He explained that the first three items on the summary of increases total \$97k vs. the budget guidance formula of \$114k.

T. Brown questioned the budget guidance formula and asked the Budget Committee to explain what is included. The formula was discussed in great length and it was finally decided the Budget Committee that the Health Insurance Trust Fund and Compensated Absences Trust Fund would be included in the budget guidance formula and the Building and Facility Maintenance Trust Fund should be excluded. C. Hyde explained that warrant articles are normally excluded for budget guidance.

S. Benz asked DPW if the decrease in solid waste disposal is a firm budget and, if so, then why did it decrease \$105k. J. Babel explained that recycling revenues have increased tremendously over the past years due to a higher demand recycled packaging and products.

R. Valle asked T. Brown to explain the increase in health insurance. T. Brown explained that the town's stop loss policy increased due to past claims and known future claims. T. Brown explained that the town uses a broker to bid out the insurance plan however, there were no bidders interested in bidding the stop loss insurance. C. Hyde questioned why retirees were allowed to participate in the plan. C. said that this could be increasing the towns risk pool. T. Brown said that only non-union employees current participate in the health plan, however, the union contract requires participation. C. Hyde asked T. Brown to find out if it is discretionary to allow retirees to participate. Chief Ux explained that it may be a contract obligation because the town participates in the New Hampshire Retirement System. T. Brown said he would contact NHRS to learn if it is mandatory or discretionary.

F. Whittemore asked for an explanation regarding the increase in call firefighter salaries. Chief Towne explained that emergency and ambulance calls have increased. F. Whittemore asked if the Department has a policy to limit call employees from responding to all calls. Chief Towne explained that staff/dispatch decide to call volunteers based on available staffing levels and nature of the call.

C. Hyde asked about status of Union Contract. Brown said that the Union recently declared impasse. Brown explained that the next step will be mediation and then fact finding, if necessary. P. Band explained that it would be the same process as last year.

T. Brown reviewed preliminary revenue estimates and warrant articles. It was decided that a formal review will be conducted at the next meeting because the Board of Selectmen have not approved the warrant articles at this time. However, it was the consensus of the Budget Committee that all funds remaining from the town hall improvement project should be returned to the general fund to reduce 2011 property taxes and the town hall window replacement and exterior painting project should be acted on separately. T. Brown explained that the car registration, LUCT, cable TV and investment income revenues were all down due to economic conditions.

#### Public Comment:

Basil Mason said that we need to start looking for volunteers and reducing office staff at the Schools. Mr. Mason explained that he has not had a child in school for 25 years but he is still paying taxes. C. Hyde asked Mr. Mason to bring his School related comments to the Budget

Committee meeting next week.

Selectmen Manoukian explained that the Board of Selectmen have the highest respect for the Budget Committee and encouraged both Boards to work together to formulate the same recommended budget amount. R. Valle thanked Selectmen Manoukian for his comments.

C. Hyde closed the meeting with final comments acknowledging that it has been a tough year for everyone and expressed his appreciation for all the hard work of Selectmen and Department Heads. However, he explained that at least 20% of the population is still struggling and may lose their homes. He encouraged the Selectmen to prioritize expenditures and suggested that the budget should be scrubbed one more time to prevent increasing taxes.

Adjournment:

Chairman Hyde adjourned the meeting at 9:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Troy R. Brown  
Town Administrator