



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

Minutes of January 14, 2014

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:02 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Chris Hyde, Peter Band, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Susan Benz, Rosemary Mezzocchi – School Board Rep.
Others present: Deb Padykula – Finance Officer, Troy Brown – Town Administrator, Jay Sartell – Police Chief, Rick Towne – Fire Chief, Tom Bayrd – DPW Director, Dawn Desaulniers – IT Director, Frank Cadwell – Selectman (arrived at 7:09)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town Report:

Deb P. stated that the current unassigned fund balance is approximately \$2.2MM. There will be just a few remaining charges against 2013 from payroll and A/P which have not yet been posted. This fund balance represents a \$550K increase from last year. Mike H. asked what were the proposed encumbrances? Deb P. stated that there were approximately \$245K in proposed encumbrances. These consisted of a breathing air compressor for the Fire Department, Consoles for the Communications Department (carryover from a 2012 encumbrance), Key Control system software for the Police Department, fence and other repairs for Nichols Field (Rec. Dept), Town Hall interior painting and heating system repairs, Town Hall carpet replacement, Town Hall air-conditioning, replacement of front entry doors at Town Hall, installation of storm windows in the upstairs of Town Hall, and Town Clerk birth certificate books.

Public Input:

No members of the public were present.

2nd review of FY14 budget

Deb P. stated that the proposed budget remains \$11,994.00 under guidance. Nothing had changed from the 1st budget review. There was no further discussion of the budget. Chris H. asked how much the recent snowstorms have depleted the DPW budget. Deb P. stated that DPW overtime was \$8K in the last payroll, compared to \$46K budgeted for the entire year.

Jay S., Police Chief, stated that his proposed budget for a 15th police officer, including salary and benefits, was \$36K for six months. A full year would be twice that amount.

Tom B. discussed the estimated plan for future road maintenance, using 22' width, 1.5" thickness, and 10 year expected lifetime. Tom J. asked whether 10 years might be conservative, considering many roads in town are cul-de-sacs, which are very lightly traveled. Tom B. agreed. Frank W. asked for details on the proposed road projects for 2014. Tom B. provided cost numbers for each item.

Frank W. recommended bonding an amount necessary to take care of roads that need rebuilding and getting it done in a timely fashion. Beyond that, it's a matter of simple maintenance. Tom G. suggested that, based on the data in the spreadsheets, it appears that the overall condition of town roads is not as poor as the BudCom originally feared. After lengthy discussion, it was decided not to alter the proposed

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plan for 2014. It was agreed to hold a meeting during the summer to discuss road maintenance prioritization.

Warrant Articles

Tom J. asked for details on the truck lease-purchase (Article 2). He thought that the F-250 should be a cash purchase and the tractor replacement (Article 5) should be held off a year. It would be wiser to defer some of the equipment purchases for a year or two and give the taxpayers a break. Troy B. mentioned that the current plan would allow one of the DPW's oldest vehicles to be transferred to the Building Department, whose current vehicle will not pass inspection.

The fund balance was discussed at some length. Tom G. noted that the expenditures have been forecast fairly accurately, but the revenues are harder to predict. Much of the increase in the fund balance has come from unanticipated revenues, such as Land Use Change Tax, and from unspent salary lines. It was fortunate that these occurred during a time when the fund balance needed to be augmented.

Tom G. wanted to remind everyone that Monday, January 27th is the deadline to have any new collective bargaining agreements to the BudCom for review. The BudCom would then meet on Monday, February 3^d to discuss them.

Tuesday February 4 – Hollis Town Budget Public Hearing

Wednesday February 5 – Hollis School District Budget Public Hearing

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Peter B. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector