



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

Minutes of March 23, 2010

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Paul Calabria, Finance Officer at 7:15 PM.

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Tom Jambard, Frank Whittemore, Ray Valle, Tom Gehan, Susan Benz, School Board Rep., Peter Band (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

Also present: Paul Calabria, Finance Director

Paul asked for nominations for Chair.
Frank W nominated **Chris Hyde**. 2nd by Tom J
No other nominations were suggested.
Motion carried 5-0-1 CH Abstained

Paul asked for nominations for Vice-Chair
Ray V nominated **Mike Harris** 2nd by Frank W
No other nominations were suggested.
Motion carries 6-0

Paul asked for nominations for Clerk
Tom J volunteered
Ray V nominated **Tom Jambard** 2nd by Susan B
No other nominations were suggested.
Motion carried 6-0

Town Report:

Peter B recapped Town Meeting and the election of officers at the BOS on 3/29/10.
Chris H asked about the town hall renovation. Peter B will report back as things get going.
Frank W asked about the Energy Grant. Paul C reported that the first committee meeting was last week to lay the foundation.
Frank W asked about what the timeline is for the CBA. Peter B reported that negotiations will get going right away for next year.

School Report:

Susan B noted that the School Board had a meeting following Town Meeting.
The CBA issue and timeline were discussed.
Chris H asked about the HUES construction. No significant update, Susan B will know more next month.
Ray V asked for more detail regarding the schools Unreserved Fund Balance and encumbrances.

Chris H opened the postmortem.
Peter B suggested that the town is managing well though tough times. People were well served by the

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process. Mold and the clock tower/TH roof will be fixed. Tom J liked the hearing attendance. People will be looking for a reduction next year. Ray V is troubled by ZERO budget creep. The Warrants add to the previous years approved appropriations. Chris H suggested to finish last year before going ahead to next year's guidance. Chris H received positive feedback on the integrated tax impact.

Susan B questioned the timeline for Town Report printing. Various discussions ensued as to how to avoid having the school reports missing from the annual report. Frank W reminded us that we still all end up paying.

Tom J thinks we should be consistent in presenting major projects. The Town Hall renovation was in a Warrant Article and the School mold remediation was part of the budget. Chris H defended the action by reviewing the reasoning. Tom J asked about SPED and why it's \$80,000 per student. Various discussions ensued as to ways to be more informed about the costs and how to lower them. Chris H questioned the individual departmental meetings and if we should follow suit this year. Peter B brought up the budget guidance. It would be helpful to have a budget guidance number that we stick with through the entire process. Ray V couldn't disagree more. Statute dictates the number doesn't have to be given until 1 week after the public hearing. Peter B stated that the changing target makes the process difficult along the way. Chris H - how was what we arrived at different? Peter B - there was a lot of extra churn that could have been avoided. Various discussions ensued. The general understanding is that "guidance" is just that, and not a firm commitment. Ray V argued that the BudCom should present two alternative budgets to the voters at town meeting. Tom J - what has suffered with two years of lean budgets? Peter B - Infrastructure. Susan B detailed the furnace and technology advances that have been put off.

Chris H suggested looking forward to what changes can be made to improve the process. Tom J - new projects should be prioritized for both Town and School. Frank W - identify needs vs. wants. Ray V - negotiate combined services purchases to get lower rates. Chris H - better managing/controlling the net impact on the tax bill, based on formulas based on budgets. Decreased revenues need to be factored in. Bring the taxpayer impact back into the discussion. Frank W - revenues are unknown which has been driving up the impact. Chris H - find a way to codify the way to reel in the tax impact.

Chris H discussed options for not meeting during July or August.

Motion to adjourn made by Frank W and seconded by Peter B. Meeting adjourned: 8:53 p.m.

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