



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

Minutes of April 8, 2014

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:01 PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Susan Benz, Frank Cadwell, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Rosemary Mezzocchi - School Board Rep.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Election of Budget Committee officers:

Susan B. nominated Tom G. as Chairperson. Mike H. seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Tom J. nominated Susan B. as Vice-Chairperson. Mike H. seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Mike H. nominated Tom J. as Secretary. Susan B. seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Approval of minutes:

Tom J. moved to accept the minutes of 2/4/14 and 2/6/14 as written. Frank W. seconded. Tom J., Frank W. Rosemary M, and Tom G. voted in favor. None were opposed. Frank C., Susan B., and Mike H. abstained. Motion carried 4-0-3.

Public Input: No members of the public were present.

Tom G. discussed appointing a BudCom member to the newly formed H/B Coop apportionment study committee. Rosemary M. suggested Mike H., since he would have the greatest understanding of the history and complexities of the problem. There was some discussion of the goals and responsibilities of this committee. Tom G. stated that he would be interested in serving on the committee, if Mike H. was not. Rosemary M. made a motion that Mike H. act as representative from the BudCom to the apportionment study committee. Susan B. seconded. All voted in favor, none were opposed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Discussion of 2014 Budget Season:

Tom G. stated that he had reduced the length of the presentation for both Town and School District meetings, and he was satisfied with the outcome. He stated that there were few issues with the timeliness of inputs, the only exception being the contract negotiations. The committee was kept well-informed throughout the process however. Mike H. mentioned that the outcome of contract negotiations are apt to be last minute.

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Tom J. stated that it is useful to revisit the guidance formula each year. Mike H. mentioned that with the retiring of some of the bond debt this year, they should guard against automatically filling that in with new debt. Any new investments need to be carefully considered.

There was discussion of the status of ongoing road maintenance. Frank C. stated that the general consensus among the selectmen is that we are where we need to be with the road budget. Tom J. stated that it would be worth meeting with Tom Bayrd to review the short and long term maintenance plans. It was proposed that the BudCom plan to meet with Tom B. during their August regular meeting.

Mike H. suggested that the BudCom review teacher salaries. He also recommended reviewing health insurance plans with a focus on the new ACA and how that affects what the town offers its employees. Tom G. asked Rosemary M. to start that discussion with the school board. Mike H. stated that the town and schools should move away from providing health insurance, and focus on providing a subsidy to purchase individual plans through the exchanges.

Tom J. asked about other long term needs. Frank C. stated that the retaining wall at the transfer station and the DPW garage are high on the list. BudCom members stated that they would like to take a tour of the garage facility. Mike H. suggested that a professional evaluate the structure prior to the tour in order to point out critical areas of concern.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Tom J. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector