



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

Minutes of November 12, 2013

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, Mike Harris, Peter Band, Frank Whittemore, Tom Jambard, Rosemary Mezzocchi - Hollis School Board Rep.

Via telephone: Chris Hyde

Others present: Eric Horton – SAU41 Business Administrator, Liz Allen – HPS Principal

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of minutes:

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 10/8/13. Tom J. seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Vote was 7-0-0. Minutes were accepted.

Town Report:

Peter B. reported that at present there is a \$45K differential between budget guidance and the proposed town budget. Discussions are ongoing regarding two particular areas. One is that the Selectmen may suggest an additional \$100K for road-rebuilding, above the \$100K that was proposed by the BudCom. The other is the Police Department budget is over by approximately \$28K, which includes one half year staffing for a 15th officer.

Peter B. also mentioned that Tom Bayrd has accepted the position of DPW Director.

School Update:

Eric H. discussed the variance report that he had distributed, reviewing areas that were up or down. Tom G. stated that the number they really want to see is a final estimate for the unreserved fund balance, not including the SpEd budget, contingency, and other items outside the base budget.

Eric H. mentioned that the LGC had quoted a maximum increase of 4% for health insurance for next year. This is much lower than the increases of recent years.

Public Input:

A question was asked from the audience regarding pending legal fees or other obligations to the school district. Eric H. reported that the legal line was over budget for FY13 by approximately \$17K.

New Business:

Tom G. stated that a primary goal for the meeting will be agreeing on budget guidance for the school district. Significant discussion centered around SpEd budget lines. Mike H. made a motion to exclude

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SpEd out-of-district tuition and all SpEd transportation costs from budget guidance. Tom J. seconded. Chris H. suggested that each year the BudCom closely scrutinize these excluded costs in order to understand the variations. By roll call vote, all voted in favor of the motion except Frank W., who voted against. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Additional discussion centered around options for an all-day kindergarten program.

Tom G. stated that preliminary guidance for the school district was for a flat budget. He questioned whether that was still valid. Due to unknown factors in the enrollment numbers, Tom J. recommended to keep the number of class sections as-is and increase the contingency.

Peter B. moved to adjust the guidance to be flat minus \$60K, which represents eliminating one class section from the current configuration. Mike H. seconded. By roll call vote, all voted in favor of the motion except for Rosemary M, who voted against. Motion passed 6-1-0.

Tom G. asked about revenue estimates. Eric H. stated that those become available in December.

Peter B. suggested adding a non-public discussion of the progress on the union contracts to the agenda for the Dec. 9th joint meeting with the Selectmen.

Tom G. stated that the SAU budget subcommittee will be meeting later this week and again next week.

Motion to adjourn was made by Peter B. Mike H. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector