



**BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**Town of Hollis**  
Seven Monument Square  
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049  
Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

**Minutes of May 14, 2019**

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:00 PM.

**Members present:** Tom Gehan; Mike Harris; Darlene Mann; Mike Leavitt; Mark LeDoux, Select Board Representative; Carryl Roy, School Board Representative

**Members not present:** Tom Jambard and Chris Hyde (excused absences)

**Others present:** Kelly Sealy, SAU41 Business Administrator

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Review/Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2019 Draft Budget Committee Minutes

Mike Harris moved to accept as presented, seconded by Mike Leavitt.

*Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux, Mike Leavitt, Carryl Roy. The motion PASSED 6-0-0.*

**Public Input**

*Peter Baker* (Buttonwood Dr) commented that Town Meeting felt loosely organized and confusing. Suggested that the town define each category of town land and provide transparency on the total cost associated with land acquisition. At conclusion of meeting, added input on the acquisition of the Stefanowicz property.

**School Report**

*K. Sealey* presented the board with a document titled, "Consumption Metrics/Comparisons" to provide school energy information and yearly consumption comparisons. Presented expense and revenue report. The school board is currently projecting approximately \$82k toward retained fund balance. Fielded questions from the board regarding energy consumption, the unexpected heat controller expense, and use fees associated with school programs.

*C. Roy* spoke to questions of spikes in energy usage and explained the school board's plan to collect data and identify what is causing spikes.

*M. LeDoux* asked that Eversource be included in the search for the cause of spikes in energy consumption.

*T. Gehan* stated that Mike Leavitt is going to continue to represent the Budget Committee on the committee studying the larger barn proposal. Additionally, looking for a timeline from the school board, on concluding spike/demand usage analysis and baseline assumptions in terms of consumption reductions.

**Town Report**

*M. LeDoux* spoke to some of the issues raised at Town Meeting, stating his concerns over what appeared to be an accusatory framework for many residents in town.

- Clarified that Conservation Commission pays acquisitions costs on properties taken by conservation deed.

- Explained that the Warrant Article for Howe Fields is no more, as the owner wanted to renegotiate the terms of the agricultural land easement which contradicts the agreement. At the June 10<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting the board intends to release those funds to the unassigned fund balance.

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-Regarding the Stefanowicz property: the entire history of the transactions and discussion of the Select Board and Budget Committee was revisited, as all information is available on the town website, and he felt the claim at Town Meeting that these conversations never happened was disingenuous. Wanted to correct the record, as it related to discussions held, about securing authorization from the tax payers to go through the planning board process to carve out sufficient acreage from that parcel acquisition to effectively be able to have a sale of that farmhouse and its appurtenant structures. Asked that board members review the information provided on the website. Stated the Select Board intends to bring a Warrant Article regarding the subdivision of this property. It will be a non-financial article, only generating funds for the tax payers, to help reduce the debt on this property.

-Further, he explained that the town deeded several properties with vacant houses by tax deed last month and has already recouped \$58k of the \$131k that were owed on those parcels in back taxes, at the time of deeding.

*T. Gehan* stated he believes the public's response at Town Meeting was symptomatic of the general difficulty with real estate articles, further underscoring the value of having a structured process, rather than only relying on the Conservation Commission.

*D. Mann, M. Harris, C. Roy, and T. Gehan* gave input regarding the process, and communication with the public, with respect to Town Meeting.

### **Other**

*T. Gehan* explained that several months prior, DPW Director Todd Croteau gave a print out of the rolling stock inventory for the town. Last month they discussed the development of a plan to distribute it electronically and come up with a Gantt chart. As the town looks towards lease/purchase as the primary means of acquiring rolling stock, it has become a large part of the budget. Expressed that having a plan in an accessible electronic format would be helpful.

*M. LeDoux* said the Select Board is continuing discussions about that, as T. Croteau has his hands full dealing with issues of dirt road management he has been asked to deal with those issues first. They are currently trying to get independent verification of what useful life should be of these rolling stock assets.

*T. Gehan* asked for an update on the private donations for the Hardy property.

*M. LeDoux* stated he is coming up with a central data collection point to post for the public.

Additionally, he will not be in attendance for the June Budget Committee meeting, and will ask Susan Benz and Rachael Gosselin to attend to present first quarter information.

### **Adjournment**

*MOVED by Mike Harris, seconded by Mark LeDoux that the Budget Committee adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom Gehan, Mike Harris, Darlene Mann, Mark LeDoux, Mike Leavitt, Carryl Roy. The motion PASSED 6-0-0.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm

Respectfully submitted,

Camila Devlin, Tax Collector