

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town of Hollis

Seven Monument Square

Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

FINAL minutes of July 13, 2021

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall.

The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:03PM.

Members present: Tom Gehan, Chairman; Mike Harris; Chris Hyde; Lorin Rydstrom; Carryl Roy, School Board Representative; Kelly Sealey, Business Administrator for SAU41; Mark LeDoux, Select Board Representative

Members absent: Mike Leavitt; Darlene Mann

Officials present: Jacob Fitzgerald, Hollis Finance Director;

Review/Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Draft Budget Committee Minutes – June 8, 2021

MOVED by M. LeDoux and seconded by C. Hyde to accept the minutes. The motion PASSED 4-0-1 with M. Harris abstaining.

Public Input

Karen Bridgeo of 65 Buttonwood Drive commented on the Conservation Commission. She would like to know what the board would like to see in terms of numbers in order to understand the impact of leaving the Land Use Change Tax at 100%. T. Gehan replied that the Budget Committee is an advisory committee so would not be taking any action on the issue. M. Harris stated that many years ago they set a goal of 32% of land put aside for conservation and have achieved that goal. The goal was set after looking at other towns as examples. C. Hyde believes it makes sense to have availability to purchase properties, but they should be at a substantial discount to validate the purchase. M. LeDoux stated that the Select Board is discussing getting a bond at 1.25% for 10 years and get \$5 million in order to purchase more land. T. Gehan stated that as of the 2019 meeting, 31.9% was under conservation restrictions.

No additional public comment.

Town Report

Joan Cudworth, DPW Director, stated that the Select Board unanimously voted on June 12, 2021 to hire Wright and Pierce for the engineering study, who won the bid at \$9,800.

M. LeDoux stated that the Select Board is considering providing additional funding for the rebuilding of Worcester Road. J. Cudworth stated that next year, the focus will be rebuilding Wheeler Road and Worcester Road instead of patching them. Between those two roads, the estimate is about \$1 million to replace them which includes about \$500,000-\$600,000 just for Wheeler Road. She would also like to widen the roads and consider a weight limit in order to better preserve the roads. The plan within the next few weeks will be to determine which roads need to be fixed beginning in the fall.

J. Cudworth mentioned that, for the upcoming budget, a lighting upgrade needs to be considered. She got a quote for an LED lighting upgrade, which came in at \$12, 636.21. This would add more lights, illuminate the bins, and reduce the amount of motor vehicle fender benders. She also stated that they are currently outgrowing the Transfer Station due to the increase in trash. Currently the transfer station is doing 38 tons of trash a week.

There are options to raise more money for the dump, including raising the cost of the dump sticker and put their trash in the correct bins. J. Cudworth also mentioned that they have outgrown the facility, so M. LeDoux would like to do a study at approximately \$50,000 to see what can be done.

Taxes are currently at 94.7% collected, which is consistent with past months.

School Report

C. Roy stated that the fiscal year closed on June 30th. The plan is to open as normal in the fall with no remote options. HSMART is moving along, as they're putting in the sprinkler systems currently. The cost of the sprinkler system will be higher than expected, since they did not anticipate certain factors to meet code or the adding in of an access road for filling propane.

New Business

No August meeting.

M. Harris will continue to be on the SAU Budget Subcommittee.

Adjournment: *Motion to adjourn by M. Harris and seconded by C. Hyde. The motion PASSED unanimously 7-0-0.*