



BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town of Hollis

Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
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Minutes of January 30, 2018

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, Chris Hyde, Tom Jambard, Mike Leavitt, Mark LeDoux– Selectman (arrived at 7:10), Darlene Mann, and Tammy Fareed – School Board Rep

Others present: Deb Padykula – Finance Officer

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Review of Agenda:

Tom G. indicated that public input would be heard regarding the proposed Siergiewicz land purchase.

Approval of Minutes:

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 12/11/17 as written. Tammy F. seconded. Motion passed. Vote was 6-0-1. Chris H. abstained. Minutes were accepted.

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 12/12/17 as written. Tammy F. seconded. Motion passed. Vote was 5-0-2. Chris H. and Tom J. abstained. Minutes were accepted.

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 1/8/18 as written. Tammy F. seconded. Motion passed. Vote was 7-0-0. Minutes were accepted.

Mike H. moved to accept the minutes of 1/9/18 as written. Tammy F. seconded. Motion passed. Vote was 7-0-0. Minutes were accepted.

Public Input:

Peter Baker (Buttonwood Drive) offered to give a tour of the Siergiewicz property to members of BudCom and the Selectboard. He briefly summarized a document that outlined issues with the purchase that include traffic, funding, uncertain future use, and environmental impact.

Karen Bridgeo (Buttonwood Drive) expressed concern regarding the increased traffic the proposed fields would bring to the area. She stated that S. Merrimack Rd. is used as a thoroughfare to 101A, has a high amount of fast traffic, and that traffic often backs up into the 101A intersection. She stated that not enough parking is planned and that it would be unsafe for children to walk along the shoulder or cross the road to access the fields. She encouraged the town to conduct a traffic study prior to purchasing the land and questioned the use of contingency funds to finance the purchase versus reducing the tax rate.

Mike H. asked how many parking spaces should be planned.

Karen B. replied that she was not sure. She said that her main concern was that the town has not conducted enough due diligence and that there is no available data to support the purchase.

Chris H. asked if implementing schedule restrictions to lessen traffic and parking overflow would alleviate some concerns. Karen B. replied that she felt it makes more sense to find a property that would not necessitate restrictions, such as the turf field behind the high school.

Mike L. asked if data was available regarding parking at Hardy fields. Mike H. stated that the overflow parks on Orchard Drive.

Mark L. estimated that the smaller gravel lot now holds 88 parking spaces and there are about 62 spaces at Lawrence Barn. Mark L. stated that the Rec Commission has been searching for land for 2 regulation fields for the past 16 years and every proposal thus far has been stopped due to logistics or prohibitive costs. He stated that this proposal should be vetted and

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added that the turf field behind the high school is not town property. He indicated that there are actually 103 parking spaces planned but conceded that without proper marking there could be confusion. He stated that the town has conducted numerous traffic studies in past years and that he would request information from the police and fire departments.

Tammy F. asked if the field has been used for athletics in the past.

Karen B. replied that it has been used as a practice field for one team.

Tom G. asked if it would be possible to shift the fields east to allow for more parking.

Mark L. replied it is possible but a buffer needs to be maintained in regards to the wetland area.

Chris H. asked of the purchase could be made contingent on the results of an extensive traffic and safety study.

Mark L. replied yes.

Tom G. expressed concern that the interpretation of said studies is subjective and also that enough parking will not be available. He stated that professional plans and analyses should be provided before moving forward.

Tom J. stated that there is no report that supports the land will sustain three houses and that test pits should be done to confirm.

Mark L. replied that test pits were done and the data is available at town hall.

Tom J. stated other properties should be considered and that he felt this purchase was not being properly vetted. Other possible sites include the Bristol property on Witches Spring, Burton property on Proctor Hill, town land on Broad Street by Flint Pond Drive, and Kanterovich property on Dow/Depot.

Mark L. stated that these properties should be shared with the Recreation and Conservation Commissions. He stated that the Siergiewicz property was identified in response to the unfeasibility of developing fields on the Stefanowicz property.

Tom G. stated that he felt the plan was not ready for next week's public hearing.

Collective Bargaining Agreement – AFSCME 3657

Mike H. asked what changed since the last time the union voted.

Mark L. replied that there was a misunderstanding regarding the ability to receive an adjustment to the wage scale and a step increase in the same year. It is permitted. Language regarding longevity payments was also clarified.

Mark L. stated that the union ratified the proposed contract with the amended language. He added that it is a 2 year contract which will expire the same year as the AFSCME 1801 contract.

Tom G. asked about improvements to management rights.

Mark L. stated that management rights were strengthened in terms of short-term disability and arbitration. He confirmed that there are no sidebars associated with the contract.

Tom G. asked if the Selectmen had approved all warrant articles. Mark L. replied yes but in light of the public input surrounding the Siergiewicz property he anticipated that there would be further discussion.

Upcoming Meetings:

February 6, 2018:	Hollis School District Budget Public Hearing (6:30 PM)
February 7, 2018:	Hollis Town Budget Public Hearing (6:30 PM)
February 8, 2018:	Hollis/Brookline COOP Public Hearing (6:30 PM)
March 6, 2018:	Hollis School District Annual Meeting (7:00 PM)
March 15, 2018:	Hollis/Brookline COOP Annual Meeting (7:00 PM)
March 17, 2018:	Hollis Annual Town Meeting (10:00 AM)

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike H. Tom J. seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Winsor
Tax Collector