

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town of Hollis

Seven Monument Square

Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

FINAL minutes of September 14, 2021

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

The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:04PM.

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

Members absent: Lorin Rydstrom

Officials present: Jacob Fitzgerald, Hollis Finance Director; Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator for SAU41;

Review/Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Draft Budget Committee Minutes – July 13, 2021

MOVED by M. LeDoux and seconded by M. Harris to accept the minutes with the modification that D. Mann was absent at the July 13, 2021 meeting. The motion PASSED 6-0-1 with D. Mann abstaining.

No public Input

Town Report

M. LeDoux stated that the revenue from property taxes is tracking very well. The revenues for external sources, including Town Clerk and septic permits, have come in at \$1.66 million, which is about 56% of the budget.

Currently, there are three police officers who are out, whether on military duty or personal injury, so the Select Board and the Police Chief are looking into the possibility of adding another line officer.

Expenditures are very much in line with expectations. Currently the town has expended approximately \$4.8 million, which is 60% of the budget expended as of the end of August 2021.

The overage on the Unassigned Fund Balance would allow about \$1.3 million for improvements to DPW and reduction in tax rate. This would bring the Unassigned Fund Balance back to the suggested 10% threshold, about \$3.2 million.

The Select Board voted to accept \$838,145 in ARPA funds and have 2-4 years to spend that money. It can be used towards infrastructure, water, building improvements, etc.

In 2023, a town wide reassessment will be completed. Currently, the town is waiting for the DRA to set the tax rate.

School Report

C. Roy stated that school began on September 2nd. A new Kindergarten and a new 4th grade teacher were added to the school district, making 5 teachers in both grades.

K. Seeley stated that the MS-25 is being worked on, so she will have the financials for the end of FY21 and beginning of FY22 at the next meeting. She will also have an update on the HSMART project at the next meeting.

New Business

T. Gehan reminded that the Unassigned Fund Balance is currently at \$4.5 million. There was previous discussion to change how the budget is completed in the future in order to get a better understanding of where the departments are overspending and underspending.

M. LeDoux would like the department heads to take a closer look at what their functions are and what will it cost. He also stated that it's hard to predict how much revenue will be brought in since there are so many building permits being issued and more people are buying cars. He suggested getting the Budget Committee some first cuts then hold meetings to form the budget.

T. Gehan would like an analysis for each category to see what will be needed for the future. M. LeDoux would like to get a handle on income external to taxation, but it would be difficult because some revenue such as vehicle registration revenue is impossible to predict.

The school district will be doing bargaining agreements this year for teachers and support staff. The health care setting will come in around mid-October.

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