

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Town of Hollis

Seven Monument Square

Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Ph. 465-2209 Fax 465-3701

FINAL minutes of October 12, 2021

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

The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:00PM.

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

Members absent: Mike Harris

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

Review/Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Draft Budget Committee Minutes – September 14, 2021

MOVED by M. LeDoux and seconded by D.Mann to accept the minutes. The motion PASSED 6-0-1 with Lorin Rydstrom abstaining.

No public Input

School Report

C. Roy stated there are a few individuals retiring at the end of the year. K. Seeley stated that \$876,928 will be returned to tax payers, primarily due to the effects of Covid-19. There were also savings from hiring, supplies, contracted services, unfilled positions, etc. for the end of FY21.

There was a conversation about the different counseling positions and what their responsibilities would be. There was a slight increase in students, but closely in line with what was predicted.

Town Report

M. LeDoux stated that the town is having difficulties hiring for multiple departments. Health insurance and pension costs are expected to go up in the upcoming budget year.

An engineering study was done for the DPW, and the cost to for a new campus would be between \$7.1 - \$7.4 million. M. LeDoux will be discussing different options for a much cheaper amount. A few roads were scheduled to be redone in 2028, Worchester Rd and Wheeler Rd, but they have received a few

bids to grind down and resurface the roads for \$1.2 million for both roads. J. Fitzgerald contacted the Bond Bank to discuss the cost of a bond to pay for the two roads over 10 years, which would be about \$125,000 in interest.

New Business

School

C. Roy stated that all of the increases are standard except the new addition of a proposed Communications Specialist for the SAU41, which would be paid through the SAU budget. M. LeDoux questioned if contracting that service out would be a better option, but C. Roy replied that she believes it would cost more to contract it out than it would to hire someone.

The school district originally budgeted for an 8% increase in insurance, but the official numbers came in at 3.9% for health insurance and -1.5% for dental insurance.

T. Gehan noted that the regional CPI mid-year to mid-year is 4.3%.

T. Gehan stated that about 50% of the school budget will be subject to a multiplier. C. Roy stated that most of the savings from the previous year were due to Covid-19.

Based on the 2021 Budget Committee guidance multiplier of .8% and CBA salary as a percent of 2020 guidance base of 60%, the 2021 effective guidance multiplier for the school district was .32%. The NHRS rates will not be changing in the upcoming year.

Motion to set the school preliminary guidance at 4.3% with the expectation of an effective rate of 1.7% after adjusting for CBAs by C. Hyde and seconded by L. Rydstrom. The motion PASSED unanimously 7-0-0.

Town

Last year's operating budget was \$11.517 million and the 2022 is \$11.988 million. The delta is \$471,000, of that 94.8% falls into employee benefits and contracted salaries. The budget will go up due to non-labor costs around \$25,000.

There was discussion on raising the transfer station fee.

D. Mann believes some aspects of the budget should be double checked to make sure each department is budgeting the correct amounts.

Motion to set the preliminary town guidance at 4% nominally with a 3% expected effective rate by D. Mann and seconded by C. Hyde. The motion PASSED unanimously 7-0-0.

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