



BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Hollis
Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049
Tel. 465-2209 FAX 465-3701

Minutes of January 26, 2010

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chairman Chris Hyde at 7:10 PM.

Members present: Chris Hyde, Chairman; Mike Harris, Vice Chairman; Peter Band, Selectmen Representative; Bill Beauregard, School Board Representative, Tom Jambard, Bob Labednick, Ray Valle, Frank Whittemore

Also present: Mark LeDoux, Selectman (arrived at 7:50); Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector

Review and acceptance of Minutes - Dec 17 & Jan 12

December 17 minutes: Add title for Rob Mann – Hollis School Board, moved to accept as amended – Mike H. and seconded by Ray V., approved as amended. Chris H. and Peter B. abstained.

January 12 minutes: Mike recommended removing the line as noted, moved to accept as amended - Mike H. and seconded Ray V., approved as amended.

Town Report:

Peter Band discussed the articles on the warrant

Town Hall renovation – sense of the Selectmen is in agreement with the BudCom in that they would prefer to see the project (\$400K)funded as a one-year hit rather than a bond.

Flint Pond article has been increased from \$106K to \$133K because of the need for a 25% contingency, Peter wants to know why it's suddenly in there.

Grant money available: Town needs to be cautious when accepting grant money because of additional stipulations, which can carry hidden costs that siphon money from the project itself.

- Energy study

- LCHIP money available to do an official study on items of historic significance at Town Hall

Ray questioned whether the operating budget shouldn't be at the end. Should the articles be re-ordered?

School Report:

Bill Beauregard – still working on the budget and the warrant articles

Frank mentioned the article in the paper regarding how much is spent per pupil in the surrounding towns, Hollis being third on the list. Ray mentioned a study done at UNH regarding what factors affect educational quality.

Public Input: None

Selectman Mark LeDoux on Factfinder's Report:

Evergreen Law now in effect (since July 25, 2008) means that contractual items go on forever until a new contract is agreed upon. The Board has been made aware of certain items existing in the current contract which are of long-term concern. Committee is prepared to renegotiate the contract (anticipating

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that the article doesn't pass). However, verbiage needs to be added to operating budget in the event that the CBA (article 3) passes. Further discussion was conducted regarding the impact of the passage of the Fact Finder's Report at Town Meeting – and the amount of adjustment that would need to be made for non-represented employees – since the budget forecast from the BOS showed no increases nor any COLA for Calendar 2010 for non-represented employees.

Mike said that COLA should not be in the wording at all. There should be no guarantee on pay increases every year. Mark said that health care premiums for retirees should not be a guaranteed right in perpetuity. There was also discussion on Step Increases and the fact that not all represented employees were to receive step increases due to their longevity in their positions.

Chris read a passage from the contract as it now stands regarding retiree health insurance premiums.

An actuarial study is needed to determine the cost to the town of having to self-fund the health fund for retirees (worst –case scenario). Costing out the options is quite complex. The results of the study should be available before the Town Meeting.

Discussion of "Unified" Tax Impact view, Capital Projects impact & proposals to minimize tax impact:

Mike's feeling is that we should do the school project but not the town project. Bob's number for a one-time cost impact would be .32 on the tax rate for the town project and .50 for the school. But the school project must be done.

Ray said the Coop is anticipating a flat budget, including negotiated settlements.

Chris' feeling is that the town project can be put off for at least another year. But flat budgets don't result in zero tax impact because revenues have been falling. Bob said that you can't expect everything to come from the town, the school needs to cut back their budget as well.

Ray said that some savings (upwards of 30%) could be achieved in purchasing expendable supplies if the districts could get together and develop a contract.

Chris still thinks that cuts can be made to drop the budget. Peter said that to switch tracks at this point would not be received well by the selectmen. Bob suggested investigating ways to increase revenues (rental of facilities, etc). Other ways could result in utility savings.

Engineers report needs to be posted on the web. Troy to confirm with the committee when it has been posted.****

Preparation & Assignments for Public Hearings & Publicizing

Discussion of how to get more information out to the public in the interest of drawing people to the public hearings and town meeting.

Public hearings – at town hall community room

Feb 9 6:30 Town

Feb 10 6:30 Hollis district

Town meeting – at HBHS gymnasium

March 9 all day voting

March 10 7:00 p.m. all other town business

School district meeting

March 15 7:00 p.m. at Hollis District at HBMS

March 17 7:00 p.m. HB Co-op at HBHS

Other Business

- None

Motion to adjourn made by Tom Jambard and seconded by Ray Valle. Meeting adjourned: 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kowalski, Tax Collector
Paul Calabria, Finance Officer