



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

**Minutes of January 12, 2010**

Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall. The Budget Committee was called to order by Chairman Chris Hyde at 6:05 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 Whittmore (arrived at 6:50)

Also present: Frank Cadwell, Selectman; Paul Calabria, Finance Director; Gaye Kulvete, Library Director; Jeff Babel, DPW Director; Rick Towne, Fire Chief; Bob Bartis, Chairman of the Library Trustees; Michelle Repp, Library Trustee (arrived at 7:40); Vahrij Manoukian, Selectman (arrived at 8:00)

Meeting started with a tour of Town Hall, led by Troy Brown; reconvened in the Community Room at 6:50 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed renovation:

- Troy detailed the immediate safety concerns regarding the roof and clock tower.
- Bob suggested paying the \$400,000 this year instead of bonding. Cost would be \$0.32 increase in tax rate.
- Bob questioned additional costs that could appear once construction is started.
- Mike wondered if the stress analysis for margin of safety was ever done. Many questions were posed regarding the relative strength of the existing wood structure, and how that strength would be affected by reinforcing with steel. Also, what problems could be caused by anchoring the tower to the building? The engineering report should be posted on the website. \*\*\*
- Chris requested the Engineer and the report be presented at the Town Hearing \*\*\*
- Due to the bond costs being relatively high relative to the amount needed for the project, Chris asked for a sense of the committee on the preferred method to raise the revenue for the project (but not on whether they supported the actual project). All members favored the method of expensing the entire project (\$400,000) in 1 year, rather than bonding.
- Rick explained that there wouldn't be a trigger for code upgrade in relation to fire code. Troy will check with the building inspector regarding non-fire code upgrades triggered by the renovation. \*\*\*

Presentation of Town Budget:

- Paul presented the only change since the 12/8/09 submission. The DPW director requested a shift of \$30,000 from Town Buildings & Grounds to DPW salaries.
- Troy responded that the Health Insurance is the primary driver on the 10.68% increase in Capital Reserves.
- Frank asked about the Insurance increase. Paul explained that workers comp is up \$15.6K or 16% and Property liability is up \$4.8K or 6%.
- Frank questioned the increase in Building and Septic. Paul explained the reclass of the Planning-Zoning secretary from Executive to Building & Septic.
- Chris questioned the Legal line. Troy detailed the CBA process and where we now stand. Troy indicated that the \$50,000 budgeted for legal, while tight, had enough for legal representation for the CBA process should the fact finders report be rejected by the voters.
- Peter detailed the stalemate and the subsequent Fact Finders report. The Union ratified the report. The BOS rejected the report.

- Chris would like clarification on the Fact Finders report regarding the impact of the new evergreen law on the COLA, Merit/Longevity and payments in compensation for moves on healthcare and retirement. Is it date specific and will not continue if we have impasse in the future? Troy to confirm with legal counsel. \*\*\*

- Chris would like clarification on the Fact Finders report regarding COLA and Merit/Longevity. Is it date specific and will not continue if we have impasse in the future? Troy to confirm with legal counsel. \*\*\*

- Paul detailed the costs of the Fact Finders report. Paul asked about the intent of the BudComm with regard to what should be done about the non-union employee's wages and benefits if the CBA passes.

Discussion ensued about the impact that such an imbalance between the union and non-union employees would cause the need to educate the voters on the issue, and potential approaches and additional costs to bring non-union employees to parity. It was felt that this issue should be highlighted and presented along with the costs for the CBA at the public hearing.

Discussion also ensued about the approach at Town Meeting. Chris recommended against adding a warrant article for raising the non-union parity costs, since it would be another negative article (not supported by the Selectman or BudComm at the time to post the warrant), and would confuse voters. Instead, Chris suggested that if the CBA was approved by the voters, the better method would be to amend the Operating Budget to increase the budget for Non Union compensation parity. Chris recommended that Troy present the potential amendment at the Public Hearing.

- Move Article 3, the Operating Budget to the last article on the Warrant\*\*\*

- Fact finders report should be posted on the web. \*\*\*

Peter detailed the Warrant Articles:

**#1) Official Reports**

**#2) Town Hall Architectural Design & Minor Renovation Bond**

**#3) Operating Budget**

**#4) Ratify Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Hollis and AFSCME 3657**

**#5) Expendable Trust Funds**

**#6) Special Revenue Funds**

This will not impact the Tax Rate.

**#7) Flints Pond Restoration Capital Reserve**

**#8) Establish Lawrence Barn Community Center Capital Reserve Fund**

A discussion ensued regarding the BOS as Agents to Expend. Chris recommended removing this W/A since it is not really suited as a CRF. \*\*\*

**#9) Discontinuance of Capital Reserve Funds**

This is a housekeeping W/A and these are still open at the DRA although they have zero balances.

12-8-09 Minutes-Tabled.

- Discussion of Police Station with regard to placement of insulation and vapor barrier.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mike and seconded Bill. Meeting adjourned: 8:41 p.m.

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