

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
Minutes
November 12, 2008**

Present: Karen Irwin, Chair; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; Cameron Ford, and Chris Lawless, Selectmen Representative; David Lancaster; Danny Coen, Marion Paxton, Bob Carpenter, CVP Representative; Kim Fuller, Alternate School Board Representative; and; Patrice Gerseny.

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Chairman Irwin opened the meeting by noting that copies of the October 8th draft meeting minutes had not been made and were not available for review by the budget committee meeting. So the approval of them would have to wait until the next meeting. Next we reviewed the draft request for budget proposal letter of the budget committee to the school, town, and precinct budgets. After reviewing it was determined that what was in the letter was sufficient information and the budget committee could not think of any other additions. Other items for possible incorporation in the letter included a detail report of 3 full years of expenses on one report.

Next the budget committee reviewed the draft calendar for the Town regarding budget hearings and information. The budget committee moved the date of the second budget Committee meeting in November from the 26th to the 25th. All dates from the school had now been incorporated in the schedule. The Chairman noted that the school budget calendar only had one public session for the public to listen to budget information. Kim Fuller could not commit to another date like last year, so the date for public comment was noted for the general public as being November 18th as the only date prior to the vote of December 16th for the School Board to be posted at this time. The budget committee public hearing date is February 5, 2009.

The monthly financials were reviewed by Chris Lawless. The good news was that revenues were 114% over expected. It was then noted that transfers from revolving funds were referred to in the revenue report as being revenue with no corresponding budget listed. These transfers and a few other revenues without corresponding revenue projects amounted to most of the higher than expected revenue number amounting to around \$650,000. The flood control revenue was up over projected by \$161,967.33 as well.

Next the school handed out a copy of the summary quarterly statement. They had sent the 62 page electronic detail to each member of the committee prior to the meeting. When asked to bring copies for review of the Budget Committee members David Luneau stated that it was a waste of resources. Chairman Irwin brought the issue up to the committee that Mr. Luneau wanted the committee to print out the pages they had questions on and bring them to the meeting. Chairman Irwin noted that she had printed the first 9 pages and had at least 2 questions on each page as the expenses in them. The Committee Chairman requested that the School District provide a double sided copy of the detail financials only quarterly and sufficient copies of any other information that

the budget committee requested. As such she would entertain a motion for the School District to provide the information. Danny Coen made the motion to

receive the information in paper form. David Lancaster seconded the motion; however he requested that the Budget Committee amend the motion to have the information at the school district a week before the meeting. All were in favor of the motion except Kim Fuller. Some of the questions that the Chairman had on the first 9 pages included why we had budgeted dollars for FICA, retirement and workers comp for the School District Moderator and School Board Clerk. Although these amounts were small. I also noted expenses that I thought were over budget in the first quarter. Kim Fuller did not have any details to explain regarding these expenses.

Tom O'Donnell of the Hopkinton Village Precinct handed out a monthly report and noted that on the Income to date most of the \$113,334.58 was attributable to the \$99,108 bond for the well and relating conduit for the well on Briar Hill Road. Bob Carpenter of the Contoocook Village Precinct handed out his financials and noted that they were expected to be within budget with only street lighting expecting to be a little over budget.

The agenda then included the teachers contract which the budget committee did not have a copy of electronic or in hard copy. Chairman Irwin asked if Kim Fuller had a copy for review with the budget committee. Kim stated that she did not. Chairman Irwin asked for a copy to be sent at least electronically, prior to the next meeting along with a copy of the prior contract. Kim Fuller explained that there were not any changes to the contract other than it was a one year contract and that it was a 2.65% salary increase. It was part of a staggered approach to the two union contracts and non-union negotiations.

Next was the review of where the Town budget stood at the moment. Chris Lawless went over the current draft which he highlighted certain departments. The recreation department actually would have had a 5.75% decrease in their budget if they did not get a portion of the Slusser center budget for this year. This resulted in a 6.28% increase or a total budget request currently of \$137,758.00. Also the ambulance increase in the budget was attributable to the additional position approved last year which amounted to around \$60,000 for salary and benefits and a more appropriate splitting of the fuel costs to run the ambulance from Hopkinton Town residents and the dispatch costs. All salary increases were to be 3% COLA for the town. The rental policy for the Slusser center was going to be reviewed for next year. As will the fact that we don't collect ambulance costs after the insurance company has paid their costs.

Public Comments:

Janet Kryzaniak asked about the energy contract. Frank Davis spoke up and said that if they don't use it all the town would probably get a credit for not utilizing all the gallons in their contract.

Frank Davis stated that the overtime costs are paid for by others for that overtime in many cases such as the dump fees paid for by septic companies. No other public

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comments were received. Bob Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting Patrice Gerseny seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karen Irwin, Chairman