

Hopkinton Budget Committee
January 21, 2009
Draft Minutes

Present: David Lancaster, Danny Coen, Patrice Gerseny, Karen Irwin – Chair, Cameron Ford, Marion Paxton, Tom O'Donnell – HVP, Bob Carpenter – CVP, David Luneau – SAU, Chris Wallace – Selectmen.

Meeting Start: 6:33
Meeting End: 10:38

Budget Presentations by remaining Town Departments

Presenter – Bob Carpenter
Contoocook Village Precinct

Mr. Carpenter gave an overview of FY '08 ending with that overall they spent less. FY '09 the precinct is studying for possible improvements in office machines, the precinct building on Kearsarge Ave., an expansion of equipment and update on the water treatment capacity. The precinct will look at the water rates which haven't changed in several years. The precinct will complete an out outline any potential increase will not be apparent until the fall bill.

Members of the Budget Committee requested information on the Executive portion and Mr. Carpenter stated there are 3 permanent part time employees and will have information concerning overtime for the superintendent. The amount in capitol reserve is \$69K.

Presenter – Tom O'Donnell
Hopkinton Village Precinct

FY '09 shows an increase.

Mr. O'Donnell will have updated information at the next meeting. He explained he received different reports today and there wasn't adequate time for him to pull all the information requested by the Budget Committee.

Public Comment

Richard Brandt asked when and where the CVP held its' meeting.

Ans. The CVP meets in the building on Kearsarge Ave. the 2nd Tuesday each month.

Mr. Brandt then asked where the sludge went when it was removed from the treatment plant.

Ans. The question needs to be directed to the Sewer Department.

Follow Up with the SAU

Presenters – Superintendent Blake, Michelle Clark – Business Administrator

Chair Irwin asked for any updated packet information – Ms. Clark said not yet, they will need next week to make changes to the top sheets and enrollment package.

- SAU representative – David Luneau introduced the school employees present – Bill Carrozza – Harold Martin Principal; Michael Bessette – Maple Street Principal; Steve Chamberlain – Hopkinton Middle/High Principal; Matt Stone – IT Director; Dr. Val Aubrey – Special Ed Director and Kim Fuller - School Board member.

- An extensive discussion followed concerning the contents of Schedule B.

- A reference to the school board 3 slide shows had David Lancaster asking what was cut from the +3.6% presentation to get to the 2.5% presentation. Bob Carpenter reminded all that the school first came to the table proposing a 5% increase not a 2.5% increase. David Luneau Went through the 2.5% power point presentations and gave verbal changes.

- Dr. Aubrey responded to questions concerning increases in Special Ed funding.

- Budget Committee members discussed with Steve Chamberlain athletics charges for site rentals, the number of participants in sports and possible alternative ways to finance athletics.

- Danny Coen asked Bill Carrozza if the safe sidewalk has been completed at Harold Martin, Mr. Carrozza said it should be finished this year.
- Tom O'Donnell asked for an update MS27 and was advised it will be updated as soon as the SAU gets it and will pass it on to the Committee. Chair Irwin reminded Ms. Clark that the information is needed for the next meeting.
- Chair Irwin asked for a breakdown of surpluses and retirement and was advised it was being copied.
- The Budget Committee reviewed pages from the School report and asked for clarifications which were given by Ms. Clark.

Public Comment

Arnold Coda – Mr. Coda explained his background. He then asked if the School Board and administrations have evaluated for need and proper operation. Mr. Coda feels this is a ground point to ask for more dollars. Mr. Coda feels salaries should be frozen this year and asked what impact a flat budget would have on academic programs.

Ans. David Luneau explained the on going evaluation by the curriculum committee; Hopkinton Schools 2.0 evaluates operations, sports, etc. Mr. Luneau advised Hopkinton is in the middle 3rd for spending. There are 56 districts higher.

Follow Up Library

Presenters – Holly Gagne - Chair, Barry Needleman - Treasurer

Ms. Gagne noticed fees were wrong in the report copied for the Budget Committee and promised to submit a corrected one. She also brought a spreadsheet on the revenue generating funds.

Public Comment

None

Follow Up Town Department

Presenter – Chris Wallace – Selectmen

- Chris Wallace responded to questions concerning the Recreation Department and its use of the revolving fund.

- Mr. Wallace filled in information concerning the Solid Waste department and the possible contamination of wells.

Public Comment

None

Chris Wallace continued.

Planning Department – 4191

FY '09 reflects a decrease.

Most of the expense is wage and benefits.

Economic Development – 4652

This department is currently looking into developing the Burnham Intervale area. Leon Kenison – Town Administrator advised the money was encumbered from FY '08.

Mr. Wallace advised the Police Chief has given his notice of termination to be 07/01/10.

The budget committee will review the meeting minutes that are outstanding at their next meeting.

Submitted,

Beth Clark, Secretary