

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
February 11, 2009
Final Meeting 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 Lawless – Selectmen.

Absent: None

Meeting Start: 6:37 pm
Meeting End: 10:12 pm

The meeting began with a review of the minutes from previous meetings.

The meeting of 2/4/09

David Lancaster moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Luneau seconded.

Motion carried

The meeting of 2/5/09

Marion Paxton moved to accept the minutes as amended. Cameron Ford Seconded.

Motion carried.

The meeting of 1/28/09

These minutes were discussed and it was decided they would stay in draft form. They will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Final Errata Adjustments

Hopkinton Village Precinct – Tom O'Donnell

Mr. O'Donnell passed out the MS37. Corrections were made.

David Luneau moved to accept the MS27. David Lancaster seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 10 No 0 Motion carried.

The MS27 will be at the Town Hall by 10 am Thursday morning ready to be signed by the committee members.

Contoocook Village Precinct – Bob Carpenter

Mr. Carpenter passed out the MS37. Chair Irwin noticed a minor change. Mr. Carpenter assured the committee the information was accurate. The warrant is correct as far as he knows. He hasn't heard anything from DRA. It was noticed that the warrant was not signed by the precinct commissioners. Mr. Carpenter said he would get their signatures within the next couple of days.

David Lancaster moved to accept the MS37. Cameron Ford seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 10 No 0 Motion carried.

School Budget – David Luneau

Mr. Luneau passed out the MS37. He noted that there were 2 changes in lines within Office of School Principal and Buildings Maintenance. The budget committee will verify these amounts. Mr. Luneau also noted that at the Public Hearing he heard a strong caution from the residents not to continue the low funding of the Repair and Maintenance Trust Fund.

Chair Irwin noted the Public Hearing discussion concerning base salary increases and most residents agreed with the Budget Committee recommendation. Other members reiterated that the Budget Committee did not cut programs just the salary increases. Danny Coen also mentioned that no one as yet has asked the school employees to pay more out of pocket for their benefits, health and dental. If the town votes the agreements down, then it goes back to the bargaining table. Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendant stated that if the contracts/warrant is voted down, salaries are frozen.

Chair Irwin encouraged discussion on 2600 – Operation and Maintenance of Plant. Mr. Luneau detailed the increases. Mr. Coen added that the town can't continue deferring maintenance. David Lancaster requested an itemized list of costs for next years budget.

Mr. Luneau noted the Unexpended Surplus Reserve is used for many items. The school board can use the money, but the cushion is getting smaller.

Public comments on the Repair & Maintenance Trust Fund and capital reserve concerned with the cuts. Mr. Luneau is not aware of any projects. Rick Schaefer said he has a plan for future projects that he will give to the committee. Mr. Schaefer briefly described the conditions of the school buildings and how well the updates done recently are working. He would like the committee to reconsider their amount.

Public Comments

Al Bloomquist recommended the committee freeze all travel and convention seminars for the schools.

A discussion followed concerning the school revenues. Mr. Coen mentioned that Littleton was running in the black concerning their food services. Dr. Blake mentioned that some food services running in the black need further investigation. In some cases the employees are not paid within the food service budgets. Mr. Luneau stated that all Hopkinton food service employees are paid out of the food service budget.

Chair Irwin noted that the School Board did not accept the committees suggestion on revenues.

Patrice Gerseny recommended funding the Repair & Maintenance Trust Fund – Article X - at \$50,000. Bob Carpenter seconded.

Following a discussion on Article X, Chris Lawless stated the warrant will remain the same as proposed by the school board.

A vote was taken.

Yes 5 No 5 Motion defeated.

Marion Paxton recommended that a member of the budget committee stand up at the school hearing and amend Article X from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Chris Lawless moved to change the budget committee recommendation from \$25,000 to \$75,000 in Article 10. Cameron Ford seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 6 No 4 Motion carried.

Article 10 is now recommended by the Budget Committee.

Next the Budget Committee reviewed the MS27. The committee recommends the following:

Not recommend \$42,922, non union raises, in 2320 SAU, Management Services

Not recommend \$25,000 in 2600, Operation & Maintenance of Plant

Recommend Article X, 5251 Repair & Maintenance Trust Fund.

Not recommend in 2310 – HEA Negotiations - \$270,265

HESS Negotiations - \$61,846

Teamsters - \$8,290

Recommend \$15,620.642 for the Operating Budget.

Recommend with warrant articles a total School Budget of \$15,745,642.

Cameron Ford moved the Budget Committee School Budget be \$15,745,642. Patrice Gerseny seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 6 No 4 Motion carried.

A 5 minutes recess was granted at 9:00 pm.

The meeting was reopened at 9:05 pm.

Town Budget – Chris Lawless

The Budget Committee reviewed the town budget. There is no MS yet. The town has until the 23rd to have it completed. Marion Paxton compared the warrants with the proposed budget. Chair Irwin noted the amount in the Budget Committee column for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector was different.

Marion Paxton moved the committee vote to agree on a base operating budget of \$15,148,477 for purposes of discussion only. Bob Carpenter seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 10 No 0 Motion carried.

After reviewing Article 6, Public Works Operations,

Danny Coen moved to change the bottom line by \$54,000 from the Highway & Streets. David Lancaster seconded.

It was noted that the selectmen added in the \$54,000 that was presented as a separate warrant article last year. The selectmen said that it was a one time deal and Mr. Coen noticed it was now part of the regular budget. Mr. Lawless said the money was used for extra expenses.

A vote was taken.

Yes 3 No 7 Motion defeated.

David Lancaster moved to reduce Building & Grounds by \$8,400. Danny Coen seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 5 No 5 Motion defeated.

David Lancaster moved to recommend the Budget Committee Town Operating Budget be \$5,148,477 – for Articles 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11. Marion Paxton seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 8 No 2 Motion carried.

Danny Coen moved the Budget Committee recommend Article 9, the Library Operating Budget \$284,733. Bob Carpenter seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 8 No 2 Motion carried.

Patrice Gerseny moved to recommend Article 12, Capital Reserve Accounts \$259,500 and Article 13, Expendable General Trust Funds \$10,500.

A vote was taken.

Yes 10 No 0 Motion carried.

David Lancaster moved to recommend Articles 14 – 18. Marion Paxton seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 9 No 1 Motion carried.

There was a discussion concerning Article 20 – pay by bag or ‘SMART’. There isn’t a dollar amount attached, so at this point the Budget Committee does not have to act on this article.

Patrice Gerseny moved not to recommend Article 22, plowing and sanding of private roads. David Lancaster seconded.

A vote was taken.

Yes 8 No 2 Motion carried.

Most of the MS’s should be available for signatures tomorrow. Only the School MS27 has to be signed by Friday noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary