

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
Final Minutes
April 8, 2009**

Present: Karen Irwin, Chair; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; Cameron Ford, Marion Paxton, David Luneau, School Board Representative; David Lancaster, George Langwasser, Selectmen Representative; Danny Coen, and Patrice Gerseny.

Absent: Chris Bob Carpenter, CVP Representative

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Chairman Irwin opened the meeting by reviewing the minutes of February 11, 2009 and re-reviewing the January 28, 2009. David Luneau and David Lancaster wanted to delay the review until later in the agenda as many people had commitments to other meetings.

The Chairman went to the next item on the agenda which was the Town Financials. Chairman Irwin asked George Langwasser to find out if there was a reason why we did not see and flood revenue in the first quarter of this year like we did last year. After some discussion around whether it was our state economic times effecting that revenue, George was going to talk to Bob regarding the revenue and get back to the Budget Committee. The town expenses were at 25.08% of budget versus 33.33%, the only program area that was higher than expected was Community Health, which involves the rescue squad and Belknap Merrimack Cap disbursement for meals. The rescue squad apparently gets their \$8,775 early in the year which brought the Community Health percentage to 62.39%. Next the Budget Committee reviewed the school financials David Luneau stated that the School fund balance is expected to be around \$375,000 after \$75,000 transfer to the maintenance trust fund or approximately \$300,000 for the year end versus the \$265,000 they projected for budget as a result of putting a freeze on some spending. The food service deficit is expected to be around \$63,774. A Request For Proposals (RFP) went out regarding food service to look at every plan from a turn key operation to a mix of using existing staff.

The Chairman asked David Luneau if there was anything else to fill the budget committee on regarding the School. David Luneau said that Peter Yunich resigned as of March 25th as a member of the School Board and Kim Fuller has been selected by the School Board to finish his seat until elections next year. Also the contract negotiations have begun and Liz Durant and Kim Fuller are on the negotiation team for the teacher and support staff contracts.

Next on the agenda was an update on stimulus money. David Luneau and George Langwasser went over that the Town had applied for funding regarding drinking water and our application was denied on the basis of not affecting enough households on the proposed water line near the transfer station. We also might be able to apply for stimulus funding around energy and protection. A meeting was held April 7th at UNH that gave further information and Leon Kenison went to the meeting. David Luneau said that it looked like there would be some more IDEA funding around \$214,000 for alternative education. Steve Chamberian has been hired as the Hopkinton Superintendent of schools. Chairman Irwin asked George Langwasser, if there were

any updates that he would like to share with the budget committee. George said there was nothing.

Next Budget Committee members brought up questions regarding next years budgeting process. George Langwasser brought up that they were looking at having the budget presentations from the Division Directors be different this year and perhaps pick a Saturday to have only a budget discussion. David Lancaster asked if the Town was looking at having EMS contracts with Webster and Warner. David Lancaster stated he would like to see Zero Based Budgeting for this year. Cameron Ford stated that is what he has to do every year at work. Karen Irwin said I would like to see a format used for this process. Cameron asked if we could prescribe a format. I started to answer, no for our review only; however, George Langwasser stated that the Budget Committee could not prescribe a format. Cameron also asked George Langwasser if the selectman where going to review salary positions versus other positions for overtime. Danny Coen asked George Langwasser, if the Department Directors were going to follow the RSA's and be in attendance at the Budget Committee meeting to answer expense questions. George Langwasser said no. A motion was made by Danny and seconded by Cameron to get a legal opinion as to whether the Budget Committee can require department heads to be present when the budget is presented. All were in favor of the motion and none were opposed.

Marion Paxton asked George Langwasser if there were any talk about changing the fiscal year for the Town. George said no. Then Marion asked about benefits for employees and paying a bigger share next year. George Langwasser said he felt that these questions were an inquisition of the Select Board. Marion Paxton stated that most of these questions were issues raised from the previous select board representative.

Public Comments:

No public comments were received.

Cameron Ford made a motion to adjourn seconded by Danny Coen. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Irwin, Chairman