

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
September 9, 2009**

Present: Patrice Gerseny – Chair; Marion Paxton; Cameron Ford; David Lancaster; Karen Irwin; George Langwasser – Selectmen; David Luneau – School Board; Tom O'Donnell – Hopkinton Village Precinct Bob Carpenter; Contoocook Village Precinct

Absent: Danny Coen

Meeting Start: 6:35pm

Chair Gerseny opened the meeting with a review of the minutes of August 12, 2009. After a brief discussion David Luneau moved to accept the minutes with changes. Marion Paxton seconded. The minutes passed with changes.

Due to an invited guest, George Langwasser, Selectman, requested to address an item listed under Old Business. The request was granted. Mr. Langwasser asked Acting FT Fire Chief Rick Schaefer to come to the table. Acting FT Fire Chief Rick Schaefer presented the committee members with a copy of the letter addressed to the Board of Selectmen. The letter outlined his proposal for position changes within the Fire Dept. as a result of the retirement of Deputy Fire Chief John Pianka. He reported that his proposal saves the town almost \$2100 this fiscal year. Acting FT Fire Chief Schaefer answered questions from the committee members.

School Board – David Luneau, School Board Chair presented.

[1] Mr. Luneau stated the School Board and HEA have agreed on a 2 year contract and deferred to Superintendent Steve Chamberlin to review the high points while Mr. Luneau passed out copies of the contract and a pamphlet of FAQ's [Frequently Asked Questions]. Superintendent Chamberlin reviewed the contract following the FAQ's and answered questions from the committee. He said the School Board is trying to stagger the years when contracts are due, hence Teamsters contract – 5 years [approved at March meeting]; HESS contract – 1 year [not yet approved]; and HEA contract – 2 years [not yet approved]. Mr. Luneau also answered questions and said the School Board is looking for Budget Committee endorsement.

Chair Gerseny began a discussion of the number of residents that will be required at the School Board Special Meeting. She believes there were about 700 at the March meeting and the School Board would need 350 at new meeting. The SAU is checking with the supervisor of the checklist to determine exactly how many were at the March meeting. Committee members who recently attended the Selectmen's meeting concerning the Bohanan Farm commented that the public at that meeting requested the Town Special Meeting be on a Saturday rather than during the weekday evening. Mr. Luneau responded by saying the School Board analyzed all days of the week, determined that a Wednesday evening would be best and set the date of Wednesday October 21, 2009 at 6:30pm at the High School.

As a result of the Special Meeting, the Budget Committee will hold a Public Hearing on September 23, 2009 at 6:30pm at the High School. Chair Gerseny proposed holding a separate deliberative session immediately following the Public Hearing.

Marion Paxton moved to accept this Time Line. David Luneau seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

[2] Next Mr. Luneau presented the June Financial Summary. He advised there were no changes from the auditors, also the School Board anticipates returning \$152K more than originally thought to reduce the tax rate. Line items for Driver Education and School Building Aide were discussed.

[3] Mr. Luneau spoke of school enrollment. The anticipated number of students was 930. The first day of school there was 999 students. The 7.4% increase seemed spread evenly throughout the schools.

[4] Mr. Luneau then announced that all of the documents presented at this meeting can be viewed/downloaded at the schools new website – www.hopkintonschools.org.

Town - George Langwasser, Selectman, presented.

[1] Bohanan Farm – The Board of Selectmen voted to bring the proposal to the voters. The conservation easement must go through 3 steps before it is brought to the voters. It must go through 5 Rivers, the Town Counsel, then the Federal Agency. The Selectmen are reluctant to set a date for a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting until the easement document is completed. They anticipate it will be complete by the beginning of October. If this is the case, a Public Hearing can be scheduled for the end of October or beginning of November. The Selectmen decided to hold it on a Saturday morning. Mr. Langwasser cautioned that once the document is approved, there can't be any changes. If there are, the 3 step process must start all over again.

The Conservation Commission has offered to pay for the cost of the Special Meeting. The property in the easement encompasses approximately 70 house lots and 2 miles of road.

David Lancaster would like the Budget Committee at a future meeting to vote whether or not to recommend this easement even though it is not required.

Old Business

Town - George Langwasser, Selectman, presented.

- **Recreation Dept expense of \$400.00** – Mr. Langwasser is sure it is not for the new sign and will correct. Janet Kryzaniak, Chair of the Slusser Senior Recreation Center, was asked to speak on the sign. She said her group donated money they had raised. She reminded the committee that although this group is under the Rec. Dept. they are not part of it and are self funded.
- **Uncollected Taxes** – as of 8-31-08 = \$ 848,699.26
as of 8-31-09 = \$1,045,506.63
- **H1N1** – the state will supply the vaccine and all towns involved will be asked by the state to assist.
- **Warner & Webster landfill payment** – payment is due in September with the final payment in December.
- **Exempt v. Non-exempt Employees** – Mr. Langwasser passed out copies of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the committee to review.

New Business

Hopkinton Village Precinct – Tom O'Donnell presented.

DRA, Dept. of Revenue Administration, did not get the required precinct documents in March. These documents have since been set. Mr. O'Donnell advised that Bob Blanchette, Financial Director, needed these documents approved before the tax rate could be set.

Contoocook Village Precinct – Bob Carpenter presented.

All business is on track – under budget – having a good year.

Town – George Langwasser, Selectman, presented.

- Mr. Langwasser announced that Monday night the Board of Selectmen voted to hire Neal Cass of Antrim as the Town Administrator. He is scheduled to begin on October 12th.

- The Total expenses and expenditures of the town are in line with where it should be as of 8-31-09. The committee reviewed the Budget Summary and discussed concerns.

Public Comment

Janet Kryzaniak – Asked if the public could have the agenda.

Chair Gerseny said the agendas are on the town website. George Langwasser expressed concern of putting all of the town handouts on the website due to limited space.

Stretch Kennedy – suggested speaking with Selectman Chris Lawless, who is familiar with computers.

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark. Secretary