

**Hopkinton Budget Committee  
Town Hall  
Draft Minutes  
January 7, 2009**

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

Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

Chairman Irwin opened the meeting by taking the agenda out of order and having the Current Hopkinton Budget update presented by Scott Flood. Scott talked about how the current Hopkinton proposal was to be about 1% less than last year. However the testing of some wells near the Hopkinton landfill has reflected some test results for three toxins higher than the approved standards. The toxins are lead, arsenic and 1.4 dioxane (check spelling). The issue has been addressed initially by the supplying of bottled water and will have to result in some form of well or water system to these houses. An amount will be budgeted and potentially bonded for next year.

Next Chairman Irwin moved to the beginning of the agenda which was the school presentation of the School Budget. David Luneau, Chairman of the School Board presented the budget. The presentation included a presentation regarding the fact that the Hopkinton Schools are one of the best; the costs are not out of whack with other school districts, Education process of community, process to the get here and focus in carrying priorities in rise of economic challenges. The aggregate budget increase is expected to be 3.6%, although we only have one ratified contract out of the three to be negotiated. The total dollar increase will be available before public hearing presentation information needs to be submitted. Major impacts are \$270,000 increase as a result of the teacher's contract or 2.65% increase in the base. Benefit increases were estimated at the maximum percentage of 11.7% increase for Health Benefits and 3.7% increase for dental or \$129,207 and retirement at \$88,837. The total dollar amount for all three areas was \$218,044. Other major increases included salary raises for non union employees at \$36,675, additional hours of preschool and reading staff at \$34,566, special education increase at \$23,290, vocational transportation increases at \$17,944, increases to repair and maintenance lines of 33,263 and fuel up to \$62,740 and other non material increases at \$7,849. Scott Flood left at 7:05 p.m.

Teacher reductions included 2.8 FTE's in Harold Martin and .4 in the High School. The School wanted to fund the maintenance fund at a higher level than in previous years up \$25,000 from the \$50,000 we had been putting into it. The goal being to raise it to \$150,000 balance by 2012. David Luneau then went over the budget packets line by line. Some the reductions involved several athletic and non-required programs. This resulted in a net \$10,912 reduction in the schedule b or other instructional programs area however, it would be more as a result of the transportation costs associated with some of the programs and taking out projected increases. More detail would be forthcoming from the superintendent's office as to the amount reduced by program

regarding these reductions. The total major decreases were \$205,908 as a result of a reduction in staff and decreases in books and tuition made up another \$31,438.

Public Comments:

Diane LaChance asked if we don't ratify the contract at Town Meeting does the contract go back to last year's contract increase of 3.25% and 3 years. Brian Blake said that there was no evergreen clause in the contract this year.

Jim Paxton asked how close the number of students projected was to the actual number of students. The answer for last year was 1,012 were projected and 975 was the actual or a 37 student difference.

Next on the agenda the Chairman went over the schedule of meetings. They would be January 14, 2008 Town and precinct presentations, January 21, 2008 questions and answers and January 28, 2008 budget deliberations as well as February 5<sup>th</sup> public hearing. The Budget Committee went over the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Cameron Ford made a motion to accept and Bob Carpenter seconded the motion. All were in favor with Marion Paxton abstaining.

Bob Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting David Luneau seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting ended at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Irwin, Chairman