

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
August 12, 2009**

Present: Patrice Gerseny – Chair; Marion Paxton; Cameron Ford; Danny Coen; David Lancaster; George Langwasser – Selectmen; David Luneau – School Board; Bob Carpenter; Contoocook Village Precinct

Absent: Karen Irwin; Tom O'Donnell – Hopkinton Village Precinct

Meeting Start: 6:30pm

Chair Gerseny opened the meeting with a review of the minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting on June 10 and the Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen. After few comments, David Luneau moved to accept both sets of minutes. Marion Paxton seconded both sets of minutes. The minutes for both meetings were accepted.

Old Business

Town – George Langwasser presented.

Landfill Grant – Warner's payment has not yet been received

Columbia Hall – The Board of Selectmen have spoken with the Methodist Church next door about the possibility of buying Columbia Hall. Nothing as yet. If Columbia Hall becomes church property, it may become tax exempt.

Update on BOS action concerning supervisory positions – Nothing as yet.

David Luneau asked about the open Town Administrator position.

Selectman Langwasser said a search committee has resumes and 3 or 4 will be referred to the Board. If that doesn't work out, they may hire a temp.

Chair Gerseny asked if the Selectmen have adopted a budget schedule yet.

Selectman Langwasser said it is in process.

School – David Luneau presented.

Cash flow data – Budget Sense software does not support the cash flow data Budget Committee member Karen Irwin asked for. Michelle Clark, Business Admin. will recheck if Karen can bring a specific example of what she is looking for.

Committee – Chair Gerseny presented.

Information flow process from School/Town employees – Requests for information not made during meetings is to be made to Chair Gerseny who will then forward the request to George Langwasser – Selectman or David Luneau – School Board. When Chair Gerseny gets a response she will forward it to Budget Committee members and copy the Town Administrator.

David Luneau advised that this is an exchange of information only. Committee members were cautioned to keep inquiries Budget related. There is a book in the Town Hall that will record all responses.

New Business

Contoocook Village Precinct – Bob Carpenter presented.

Water collections are lower this year than in previous years. Repairs to the precinct building on Kearsarge Ave. are not yet completed.

School Board – David Luneau presented.

Fiscal Year End -The year end books have not been closed yet but should be within a couple of weeks. The School Board anticipates +\$400K in the fund balance and -\$60K in Food Service.

He presented the May figures.

Contracts - The HESS contract has been ratified by both parties for 1 year. The School Board plans to bring this contract to the voters mid-late October. They are hopeful to also have the HEA contract as well. Superintendent Chamberlin advised there is no increase to the district. There are no raises or step increases and no changes in medical benefits. The only change is that support staff will be required to attend Professional Development on the 4 half days. The HESS negotiating team has volunteered to speak with the Budget Committee.

Chair Gerseny will check with Local Gov. Ctr. or Dept. of Revenue to see if a Public Hearing is required when no additional dollars are needed.

When this contract passes then 'Evergreen' is in play, Committee members question what effect 'Evergreen' will have if this contract passes and the next one fails, do employees receive step increases that were not provided for in the previous contract? David Luneau will check into this.

Stimulus funds - received in Federal Title 1 are \$48K – administration will increase special education instruction at Harold Martin School and will stop when the funds are depleted.

Other – IDEA – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – the district will receive \$214K over a 2 year period. The first year they will receive 50% = this will be used for professional training of the Special Education section as well as equipment like laptops. The second year the School Board will ask to purchase equipment for Special Ed that would also have collateral benefits to general education.

Food Service – the goal is to have a \$0 balance at the end of the year. The School Board is looking into a Point of Sale process. Statistics show that POS increases revenues. Part of the increase is in free or reduced lunches that the district gets reimbursed from Federal Grants.

Town – George Langwasser presented.

June/July YTD – A review of the financial statement included those accounts showing a negative balance or previously questioned by the Committee.

Selectmen Expense – went for computer repairs and replacement that were not department budgets.

Town Clerk – part-time staff filled in for the Deputy and more hours were needed.

Assessing postage – sent out assessments

Property Liability Insurance – payment was made by Insurance Co. in December repairs were done in January.

Transfer Station – final payment of \$40K was made on the Bond and final payment of \$2720.00 in interest was made.

General Revenues are meeting expectations.

Information asked for by Budget Committee members:

Cameron Ford – Revenues for summer programs and registration numbers

Chair Gerseny – Amounts received through fundraisers and donations

Danny Coen – Amount of uncollected tax revenues

Danny Coen – Where did the money come from for the Fire Chief position

The Committee discussed the Revolving Fund and whether they should ask for an accounting of what goes in and out. Selectman Langwasser said that he would get the answers they need concerning the fund and if more information is needed then he will get a report.

Open Space – the Selectmen are gathering information from the Open Space Committee. They are working on getting an easement from the Bohanan Farm along the river front. They are asking for Federal Funds The Selectmen will have a Public Hearing then a special town meeting.

Other - The state is providing the town with the H1 N1 vaccine for Hopkinton and the surrounding towns. Selectmen are looking at a weekend this fall possibly at the Fairgrounds. There is no budget as yet.

- The current Landfill Supervisor is retiring and has agreed to return as a part-time employee at 35 hours per week. The remaining 2 employees will advance.

- Assessments are down.

Public Comment –

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary