

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

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

**Absent:** Cameron Ford

The meeting began at 6:33 pm.

The minutes of October 14, 2009 were reviewed. Marion Paxton moved to accept. David Luneau seconded. A vote was taken.

**Yes – 9      No – 0  
Motion passed.**

The minutes of November 4, 2009 were reviewed. After discussion, Marion Paxton moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Lancaster seconded. A vote was taken.

**Yes – 9      No – 0  
Motion passed.**

**Budget Committee Meeting Calendar**

**School Board** meeting dates to be added to calendar:

- 12/1 Superintendent Chamberlin presenting School District Operating Budget
- 12/8 Superintendant Chamberlin presenting additional information on operating budget
  - Under consideration – creating 2 new Trusts
  - Health Insurance
  - Vehicles
- 12/15 Regular meeting
- 12/22 Special meeting on budgets, if necessary
- 1/5 Vote on the budget
- 1/12 Collective bargaining completed

**Budget Committee** meeting date to be added to calendar:

- 1/6 First review of School Board final budget
- 1/13 School Budget presentation

**Other dates** to be added:

- 2/3 Public Hearing – date tentative\*
- 3/6 School Annual Meeting
- 3/13 Town Annual Meeting

\*The Public Hearing date is dependent on the last date of the School Board Petition Warrants.

## Reports

### **Contoocook Village Precinct** – Bob Carpenter presenting.

- Precinct is in good shape. Good with expenses. Receivables are doing okay.
- The water rates came in a little above expectations. There will probably be a few abatements.
- The building project has been completed.
- Street lighting will probably be over budget.

### **Hopkinton Village Precinct** – Tom O'Donnell presenting,

- Most of monies spent are on street lighting.
- The water department receivables are okay.

### **School Board** - David Luneau presenting.

- Food Service has a short fall. The school board approved Point of Sale [POS] at the 3 schools. The cost of acquiring POS is around \$18,000 – a one time payment. The annual maintenance fee is around \$1600 per year. The anticipated 'go live' date is early March. The schools will advertise to the parents.
- Medicaid reimbursement, originally calculated at \$55,000 was adjusted up to \$120,000. The schools received \$145,000 for 08/09 school year.
- Safe Routes to school – the school board and selectmen have voted to do a 4<sup>th</sup> round. They will apply for \$750,000 for studies around the Cracker Barrel and behind the high school - Kearsarge Ave.

#### **Questions:**

David Lancaster – How do schools determine free/reduced lunches?

### **Town** – George Langwasser presenting.

- When asked about the flu clinic, Mr. Langwasser did not have any further information.
- Bob Blanchette says the Expenses and Revenue are in line as of 10/31. As of 10/31 the town has spent about 79% of the budget. The revenue collected stands around 73%.

#### **Questions:**

- Karen Irwin –
1. When will Hopkinton get flood control reimbursement?
  2. A breakdown of Share Grants and Revenue Block Grants.
  3. A breakdown of State Grants.
  4. Amount of Sewer fees collected – balance sheet shows 0.
  5. When will Rooms and Meals Tax be paid?

**Bohanan Farm** – The Budget Committee does not have to hold a Public Hearing. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Selectmen will hold a Bond and Information Hearing in the High School cafeteria.

- The committee members discussed whether they should offer an opinion. Currently 44% of Long Term Debt is for Open Spaces.
- The Selectmen have no recommendation and have voted to leave it up to the registered voters.

Regardless of board recommendations, Danny Coen stated that if the town votes favorably at the Special Meeting, it is up to the Selectmen and Budget Committee to make it happen.

The discussion then turned to other possible options for financing other than a 20 year bond. The tax impact on the proposed 20 year bond would be \$.045 per thousand assessed value.

## Public Comment

**Jim Paxton** – He is disappointed in the Selectmen for not having other financing options.

**Al Bloomquist** – The easement is to prevent property from being developed. He questioned how much of the property is in the flood plain zone and cannot be developed.

**Merle Dustin** – Stated that she has heard from a couple of residents claiming that a favorable decision has already been made and do not understand why meetings are being held.

Chair Gerseny and Marion Paxton responded - The Open Space Committee meetings have been presenting just one view point.

**Klaus Von Kleiner** – He feels that the amount is not so large that the town can't gat the monies needed. He encourages all to prepare and to go to the Public Hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark  
Secretary