

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Draft Minutes
December 2, 2009**

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

Absent: None

Invited Guests: Neal Cass – Town Administrator, Bob Blanchette – Finance Director

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Review of 11-12-09 meeting minutes

After making changes, David Luneau moved to have the minutes accepted with changes. David Lancaster seconded. All were in favor of accepting the minutes as changed.

Town – George Langwasser presenting.

No current financials.

2010 Proposed Budget

Mr. Langwasser then presented the proposed budget.

2010 Warrant Articles – Operating budget and warrant articles are down from 2009.

Town Clerk & Tax Collector – Overall budget is down. Election costs are up due to 3 elections in 2010.

Cemetery – The 2010 budget is up. They have signed a professional contract to mow.

Conservation Commission – Level funded.

Economic Development – Level funded.

Recreation Department – Overall budget is down. The summer day camp staff paid through the town budget is gradually reducing. Following 2010 the camp should be self-sustaining

Executive Department – The 2010 budget is up.

Finance Department – 0% increase is projected. Revenues through interest rates are down.

Personnel Department – Level funded.

Assessing Department – Overall budget is down. The major town re-evaluation has been completed and now it's mainly maintenance.

Planning & Zoning Department – Overall budget is up. The part time code enforcement officer has been transferred from the Fire Department. The salary is paid through fees paid for services. Danny Coen asked if the new Fire Chief could handle the responsibility of Code Enforcement. Karen Robertson, Planning & Zoning Officer, responded by saying the new Chief does not have the qualifications.

Property Liability – Overall budget is down.

Community Health – Level funded. This department includes CAP/Community Action Program and the Rescue Squad.

Patriotic Purposes – Level funded. The Town Band requested \$2800. The Selectmen propose \$2000. The Selectmen have requested a budget for next year.

Debt Service – This department covers Debt Interest and TAN. The Selectmen do not anticipate TAN will be needed but this needs to remain part of the budget.

Capital Budget – Warrant Articles – Neal Cass, Town Administrator explained that the town looked 20 years ahead and determined the amounts are okay this year, but next year the amounts should return to previous amounts in order to keep the fund balances at a reasonable level.

Village Precincts

Contoocook Village - Bob Carpenter presenting.

Nothing at this time

Hopkinton Village – Tom O’Donnell presenting.

Nothing at this time.

School – David Luneau presenting.

The Schools are looking at a very strong yearend balance.

The School Board expects the HESS and HEA contracts to be ratified by 01-12-10.

At this early point in the School Board budget process, they are looking at an increase of just under .5%.

The ‘Race to the Top’ funds seem to be going to the lowest 5% of schools.

Public Comment

Scott Flood – asked if there is any progress on procuring a generator.

David Luneau – Nothing as of this date.

Bohanon Farm

Cameron Ford moved to bring forth a previous motion –

Should the Budget Committee act in an advisory position.

Karen Irwin seconded.

The committee discussed new developments. The bonding company suggested that Executory was too remote of an interest. A 4th Purchase and Sales agreement was in process.

Cameron Ford withdrew his motion.

David Lancaster moved to have a vote to vote whether to have or not have an advisory position on the purchase with justification.

Karen Irwin seconded.

After some discussion a vote was taken.

Yes [to have] – 3 David Lancaster, Tom O’Donnell, Karen Irwin

No [not to have] – 5 Danny Coen, Cameron Ford, Marion Paxton, David Luneau, Bob Carpenter

Abstain – 1 George Langwasser

Chair Gerseny did not have to vote.

The Budget committee will not have an advisory position.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary