

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
December 16, 2009**

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

Absent: Marion Paxton

Invited Guests: Neal Cass, Town Administrator; Steve Clough; Craig Dunning

Meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Review of minutes

Review and discussion of the minutes of December 10, 2009: David Luneau moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Lancaster seconded. A vote was taken.

Yes 8 No 0

Minutes passed as amended

Town/Selectmen responses to committee questions

The responses were discussed and further questions were asked.

-David Luneau noticed the Welfare liens are not listed as an asset and wanted to know where they are listed.

Neal Cass said they were listed all over and George Langwasser said they are/will be listed but not as an asset.

-Danny Coen asked how the Selectmen created a new budget line, specifically 'Acting Fire Chief' when budget lines cannot be created during the year.

George Langwasser simply stated that the Selectmen created it.

Chair Gerseny commented that the Fire Dept. is budget neutral, but the spreadsheet provided did not agree with what the committee is being told.

-David Lancaster would like the monies used from the Community Center Capital Reserve be returned and takes from elsewhere.

David Lancaster expressed concern over the amounts appropriated in past years for Capital Reserves for the Fire Department and Highway Departments and the lack of appropriations in 09 and 10. He is concerned there will not be enough funds in the Capital Reserve to pay for equipment when needed.

Precinct Budgets

Contoocook Village Precinct – Bob Carpenter presented.

The overall budget is down. The MS 37 is not quite finished yet. The Precinct is looking for a Warrant article for \$100,000. The Precinct needs to look at improvements at the treatment plant. The original manufacturer of the treatment machines is no longer in business and since the machines were state of the art and exclusive to that manufacturer, the precinct needs to look at other companies.

Hopkinton Village Precinct – Tom O'Donnell and Craig Dunning, Precinct Chair presented.

The overall budget is up. Tom O'Donnell explained that he received a complete set of data from the HVP & Water Department Treasurer. He is in the process of plugging in the numbers on the MS37.

Mr. O'Donnell introduced Craig Dunning – Hopkinton Precinct Chair. Mr. Dunning explained the origins of the precinct and how it works as two separate but together entities. He answered a variety of questions and the committee members felt that they now understood the precinct.

-Bob Carpenter asked what happened to their fund balance at the end of the year.

Mr. O'Donnell explained the fund balance is what is left in the checkbook and it is used to reduce taxes.

Town Budget cont. – George Langwasser presented.

Public Works/Highway Department – Danny Coen wanted it noted in the minutes that there was no representative of the Highway Department present. Neal Cass, Town Administrator stated that Herme Blanchette was out on medical leave and could not be present. David Luneau stated that George Langwasser represented each department much the same as the Superintendent represents all of the schools.

Highway – The overall budget is down. There is a spike in computer services. Neal Cass explained computer services used to be in house and is now contracted out and each department is now absorbing its cost. Mr. Cass will put together a spreadsheet and identify where the dollars came from. A committee member suggested that it was by warrant.

Highway & Streets – This budget is level funded.

-David Lancaster asked what Herme needs to maintain the roads. Mr. Langwasser responded by saying the Selectmen feel this is a realistic budget for the time. The Budget Committee is concerned the budget requests are exactly the same as last year. It was noted that in previous years some lines went up and some lines went down. They have questions for Mr. Blanchette.

Transfer Station – Mr. Langwasser deferred to Steve Clough, Assistant Superintendent - Waste & Water. The overall budget is slightly down. Mr. Clough explained the process he uses when arriving at the amounts requested. He is usually within 1% - 2%.

Solid Waste – Mr. Langwasser deferred to Steve Clough, Assistant Superintendent - Waste & Water. The over budget is up. Mr. Clough explained the budget is in flux. It was underfunded \$7,000 - \$8,000 due to contracts and unexpected expenses that happened after January 1.

Sewer - Mr. Langwasser deferred to Steve Clough, Assistant Superintendent - Waste & Water. Mr. Clough stated this budget is funded entirely by fees. When asked about the status of the project bond, he responded by saying that when the Selectmen sign off and send it to the state – it will become public.

Building & Grounds – The overall budget is up.

Public Comment

None

The next meeting will be December 30, 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary