

Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
January 6, 2010
Draft Minutes

Present: Patrice Gerseny – Chair, Danny Coen, Cameron Ford, David Lancaster, Karen Irwin, Bob Carpenter - CVP, George Langwasser – Selectmen, Tom O'Donnell – HVP, Liz Durant – School Board Rep.

Absent: David Luneau – School Board

The meeting began at 6:34 pm.

Review Minutes

Review and discussion of minutes of December 30, 2009. Cameron Ford moved to accept the minutes as amended. David Lancaster seconded. A vote was taken.

Yes – 5 No – 0

The minutes passed as amended.

School – Liz Durant, School Board presented. In attendance: Michelle Clark, SAU Business Administrator; Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent.

Ms. Durant passed out the proposed School Budget, discussion will begin next Wednesday. A noticeable addition to the Budget is the line for Additional Federal Project the amount of \$450,000 is recorded as revenue as well as expense. The overall budget at this point is up about 0.17%.

Any questions Committee members have are to be given to Chair Gerseny. She will forward them to David Luneau, School Board.

Superintendent Chamberlin noted the contracts will be available next week, if ratified by the School Board.

Committee member questions

Karen Irwin

- Enhanced Medicaid reimbursement amount?
Michelle Clark – SAU is taking a conservative approach.
- Explanation of benefits increase – more detail of what's driving the figures.
Michele Clark – has a form and will bring next week
- Would like an Excel print out comparing '09 budget with proposed '10 budget.
- Number of student from Independent School?
Steve Chamberlin – believes 2 admitted to the lower schools.
- Safe Routes to School & all grants in operating budget?

Danny Coen

- HESS salary increases, why is it in the budget when the current contract has not expired?
Steve Chamberlin – No
- Has the school had any layoffs?
Steve Chamberlin – No
- Has there been any increase in what the employees pay for their benefits?
Michelle Clark – No, some pay and that amount depends on which plan the employee chose.
- Has anyone had their number of work hours reduced?
Steve Chamberlin – No

Precincts

Contoocook Village – Bob Carpenter presented.

The precinct is in the process of closing the books on 2009 and does not have information available.

Hopkinton Village – Tom O'Donnell presented.

The MS37 for the Hopkinton Village Precinct was passed out with a warrant article.

Town responses to questions

George Langwasser, Selectman presented. Neal Cass, Town Administrator.

Replacement pages for the large budget book were handed out.

- Fire Chief – Selectmen decided on a warrant without funds attached.
- Raises – this budget – 2010 - is the 3rd year Town employees have gone without a raise.
- Capital Reserve – Chair Gerseny asked what amounts were asked for by the departments.
- Highway Budget – David Lancaster would like to know in 10% increments the cost of road maintenance and what would be accomplished - Take it up to 100% for road maintenance.
- Reclassification of employees – Cameron Ford asked what has been done. He is concerned that the supervisors authorize their own OT.
George Langwasser – Selectmen decided not to pursue.

- Layoffs – No

- Cut number of hours worked – No

- Required employees to contribute more to pay for benefits – No

- Retirement amounts are mandated by the State.

- Generator at High School – There is a grant that expires in March that would pay for half of an emergency generator, about \$54,000. Liz Durant said the School does not want to be the sole purchaser and has tabled it until further discussions with the town. George Langwasser said the Selectmen are not going to pursue it.

Karen Irwin would like to see any additional Grants, even if they are in and out accounted for in the operating budget.

Neal Cass responded that it would not be a good thing if all grants that may or may not be received during the fiscal year were included in the operating budget.

Karen Irwin asked about a grant for energy efficiency.

Neal Cass said the buildings are being looked at.

Liz Durant left at 8:10 pm.

Town Current

George Langwasser handed out the latest on the town financials. December books are not final. Revenues exceeded 2009 estimates.

Questions/Observations –

Danny Coen - Hopkinton Independent School

Is the school eligible to be a Pilot?

What needs to be done to get the property on the tax rolls?

Karen Irwin – Landfill payment from Warner. When is the remaining amount due scheduled to be paid?

Inspection Fees/Electrical Permit/Plumbing Permits

George Langwasser said the charges at first were minimal and a committee looked at adjusting them. It was determined the increase in the fees would pay for the Building Inspector.

Karen Irwin – The increase in the Tipping fee isn't scheduled to take effect with the haulers until April 1. What is the cost to the town going to be?

Neal Cass advised the Selectmen have sent a letter to the Regional Compact stating that Hopkinton and Webster will withdraw from the compact as of January 30th.

Public Comment

None

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Clark
Secretary