

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
Minutes
March 9, 2011 – DRAFT Minutes**

Present: Janet Krzyzaniak, Chairman; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; David Luneau, School Board Representative; Tim Carney; Mark Hemmerlein, CVP Representative; and Karen Irwin.

Absent: David Lancaster; Jim O'Brien, Selectmen Representative; Cameron Ford and Don Lane

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

The Chairman opened up the meeting and we reviewed the minutes one change was requested by Karen Irwin and that was that the minutes state on page four that the operating budget proposed is \$16,523,601 and that is roughly a \$767,000 increase in the tax rate because of the increase in expense and a reduction in revenues. Tim Carney made the motion to approve the minutes as amended seconded by David Luneau. The minutes were approved.

David Luneau requested that he go over the presentation to be made at the School District Meeting the following Saturday. He said that he had presented before the Rotary and asked for feedback of the budget committee whom has been in the weeds of the budget for some time. He went over the expense increase of \$356,541 operating budget increase and a \$331,541 total appropriation increase or roughly 2% or \$16,648,601. When the budget presentation got to the contingency fund slide in the budget presentation the slide did not mention paying for the retirement system as an example of uses for the fund this resulted in a lot of debate with the budget committee because that was our understanding of the primary purpose when we voted for the \$75,000. The Governor had eliminated all payment for municipality retirement matching funds in his budget the previous week, but municipalities would be allowed to have another public hearing to raise additional funds if necessary. David Luneau stated that the School Board had voted to ask for the full budget and come back and ask for any additional appropriation depending on what passed in the State Budget process in June. The amount of approximately \$400,000 would be what was needed to cover the shortfall assuming that the state did not reinstate any of the governors revenue reductions the \$75,000 would not cover that contingency. The School Board might still not ask for all the revenue sharing reductions but would expect to have a public hearing depending on the final amount of the reduction. Total increase in the budget requested for the school was \$331,541 in expense increase and \$271,756 reduction in revenues for an ending net increase in the tax rate of \$628,297 prior to any adjustments regarding the State Budget.

Then Janet Krzyzaniak asked Karen Irwin to go over the MS forms where adjustments had been made. One error had been made on the budget committee supplemental schedule on the MS forms another on page 6 regarding the maximum allowable increase to the Budget Committee's recommended budget. They were easy mistakes to make and we all just go over these once a year. Janet Krzyzaniak asked about how I reviewed the numbers was it from the public hearing documents and I stated that was what I used to review the MS forms for accuracy.

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No comments came from the general public.

A motion was made to adjourn by Mark Hemmerlein and seconded by Tom O'Donnell.

The budget committee adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Irwin
Vice Chairman