

HOPKINTON BUDGET COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

HOPKINTON TOWN HALL -approved

Members present: Janet Krzyzaniak, Chair; Tim Carney, Mark Hemmerlein, CVP Representative; Michael Montore, David Lancaster, George Langwasser, Selectmen Representative; David Luneau, School Board Representative; Lance Whitehead, Karen Irwin, Neal Cass, Town Administrator

Not in attendance: Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative

1. Janet Krzyzaniak, Chair opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. The Budget Committee was unable to review the minutes of the December 7, 2011 meeting. Janet Krzyzaniak has a new computer and it is a different format from her past computer. The Budget Committee will review the minutes at the January 4, 2012 meeting.
2. Budget Committee Finalizes Town Budget:

Mark Hemmerlein began the meeting stating that he felt the Town of Hopkinton did a very good job with this budget. He felt it was done very responsibly. Karen Irwin requested at the December 7 meeting, the interest rates for the current bonds. Neal Cass reported the following:

Myron Bond 3.97%

Ransmeier Bond 4.39%

Community Well 3.2%

These are the only bonds that can be paid off early. Karen Irwin recommended that the town take the \$150,000.00 from the Fund Balance to pay off the Myron Bond. Karen Irwin reminded the Budget Committee that they have a Policy (attached to these minutes) that was put in place in January of 2007 for Budget, Taxes and Use of Surplus. George Langwasser stated that the Fund Balance is best used to reduce taxes at this time. He stated that "back in the day" when the interest rates were very high, it would have been in the town's best interest to use the Fund Balance to reduce debt. Currently the interest rates are so low, it is best to use the Fund Balance to reduce the taxes for the town.

David Lancaster recommended that the town reduce the Recreation Department Budget by \$60,000.00. He felt that spending money on this department is not a high priority for the town at this time when the economy is so poor. David Lancaster proposed that the town cut 50% of the wages, benefits and operating budget. George Langwasser replied by stating that cutting this budget would be a disservice to the town. The Recreation Department keeps the "children off the streets by giving them something to do."

David Lancaster recommended that the town also cut \$7,000.00 from the Library Budget in order to keep this budget flat like 2009 and 2010. David Lancaster recommended that the Library use its Generating Revenue Fund to put towards this budget.

David Lancaster posed the question of how much money is in the Capital Reserve Fund for the Community Center. Neal Cass responded by saying \$290,000.00. David Lancaster recommended that the town use this money to reduce taxes. Neal Cass stated that it takes a Warrant Article to eliminate this fund and use it for reducing taxes. George Langwasser spoke to the Budget Committee stating that the Community Center Fund was brought up at the last Selectmen's meeting. The Selectmen are looking at ways to use this money.

Ideas thought of at the meeting were:

- *an addition to the Slusser Center - multipurpose room (not a universal recommendation of the board)
- *fixing the foundation of the barn adjacent to the Slusser Center
- *reducing taxes

Nothing has been decided. George Langwasser stated that we may see something on this subject at the 2012 Town Meeting.

Karen Irwin questioned the following:

-sale of the 1983 Fire truck. This truck is 25 years old. It is past its useful life. Money from the sale of town vehicles goes into the General Fund.

-Transfer Station: Paving and cameras will be purchased with money that is in the fund. Break room for the Transfer Station employees - the town is raising funds for this project.

-Dump Truck and Backhoe: the backhoe died this year. Currently the town is leasing a new one that is working great. Money comes from the Capital Reserve Fund. For a dump truck, 10 years is about its useful life before one starts to put money into it. The town is not adding equipment, just replacing.

Welfare Budget: Karen Irwin wanted to know the job description of the Welfare Director. This job description of the Welfare Director is not the responsibility of the Budget Committee. George Langwasser stated that this position is responsible for the welfare of the town's people. Also to visit with the churches and organizations in town to seek out people who need assistance. The town voted in this position as full time a number of years ago. Concerning the Welfare Director's position the selectmen felt that they made a management decision that is in the best interest of the town. Karen Irwin recommended that the Budget Committee make the Welfare Director's position full time including salary and benefits until the March meeting.

Mark Hemmerlein made the motion to accept the Town of Hopkinton's 2012 budget as presented. Tim Carney seconded the motion.

Discussion:

* Karen Irwin made an amendment to this motion to take \$15,000.00 out of the Capital Reserve Funds for Replacement Systems for the Library. There was no second to this amendment.

*Karen Irwin made an amendment to cut the Library Budget by \$13,000.00. David Lancaster seconded this motion. Then David Lancaster amended this motion to \$7,000.00 instead of \$13,000.00. Karen Irwin seconded David Lancaster's amendment.

Janet Krzyzaniak called for a vote:

Lance Whitehead - no

David Luneau - no

Michael Montore -no

Mark Hemmerlein - no

Karen Irwin - yes

Tim Carney - no

David Lancaster - yes

George Wasserman - no

This amendment did not pass.

Back to the amendment for the \$13,000.00

Janet Krzyzaniak called for a vote:

- Lance Whitehead - no
- David Luneau - no
- Michael Montore - no
- Mark Hemmerlein - no
- Karen Irwin - yes
- Tim Carney - no
- David Lancaster - no
- George Wasserman - no

This amendment did not pass.

*Karen Irwin made the motion to increase the Welfare Budget by \$12,000.00 allowing the Welfare Directors position stay intact until town meeting. Please note that the selectmen are not required to use this money towards that position. Michael Montore seconded this motion.

Janet Krzyzaniak called for a vote:

- Lance Whitehead - no
- David Luneau -no
- Michael Montore - yes
- Mark Hemmerlein - no
- Karen Irwin - yes
- Tim Carney - no
- David Lancaster - no
- George Langwasser - no

This amendment did not pass.

Janet Krzyzaniak call for a vote on the 2012 Hopkinton Town Budget of \$3,432,743.00 as presented:

- Lance Whitehead - yes
- David Luneau - yes
- Michael Montore - yes
- Mark Hemmerlein - yes
- Karen Irwin - no
- Tim Carney - yes
- David Lancaster - yes
- George Langwasser - yes

The 2012 Hopkinton Town Budget passed the Budget Committee as proposed.

3. Contoocook Village Precinct: Mark Hemmerlein
Currently the CVP has expended \$259,000.00 out of their \$345,000.00 budget. Thus, they have spent 75% of their budget. This CVP does expect big bills to come from the Meter Project. Currently the precinct has received \$619,909.04 of the revenue expected. The budgeted revenue expected is \$639,550.00. So the CVP has received 96.93% of expected revenue.
4. Public comment and concerns: None
5. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Hemmerlein and seconded by George Langwasser. All were in favor. The Budget Committee adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise A. Damour