

**HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Minutes of the Budget Session of November 3, 2000**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman E. Lorraine Madison at 7:05 p.m.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Selectman Stewart.
3. **ATTENDANCE**

**Selectmen:** E. Lorraine Madison, Rhona Charbonneau, Shawn N. Jasper, Ann Seabury and Terry Stewart

**Staff/Others:** Paul D. Sharon, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Steve Malizia, Finance Director; Jim Michaud, Assessor; David Yates, Recreation Director; Cecile Nichols, Town Clerk; Bill Arseneault, Assessor; Pat Hetzer, David Alukonis and Gary Rodgers, Cemetery Trustees; Howard Dilworth, Jr., and Terry McLlarky; Budget Committee; Joyce Cloutier, Supervisors of the Checklist; Coleman Kelly, Cable Committee

4. **PARAMETER SETTING**

Chairman Madison said the budget is up 21% or \$8.70 on the tax rate. Trash pickup and insurance costs have soared, causing the greatest increases. The current rate is \$7.16 per \$1,000. Finance Director Steve Malizia offered several scenarios. To effect a 3% budget increase, \$1,699,000 needs to be cut.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, that the Board of Selectmen sets their target as a 3% budget increase carried unanimously.*

5. **BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

- A. **5020 Trustees of Trust Funds**

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 399 Miscellaneous by \$100 to \$100 carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Jasper, to reduce 303 Other Office Supplies by \$25 to \$100 carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 235 Registration Fees from \$100 to \$25 carried unanimously.*

- B. **5025 Cemetery Trustees**

*Motion by Selectman Seabury, seconded by Selectman Stewart to reduce 303 Other Office Supplies by \$100 to \$100 carried unanimously.*

**Warrant Article #1 – Purchase Hudson Poor Farm Cemetery Land--\$5,000**

Pat Hetzer said the Trustees received a 5-page legal opinion from Atty. Hodes, that really didn't say anything because there wasn't any precedent to guide them in formulating an opinion. She talked to Richard Maynard, who suggested making it a separate lot, which he would do pro bono. They would have to obtain an easement, for which they would have to compensate the owner. They would also like to put in the posts to mark the boundary.

(Start Tape 1, Second Side)

- C. **5030 Town Clerk**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 303 Office Supplies by \$400 to \$1,100 carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 216 Deeds, Legal Documents by \$300 to \$2,700 carried unanimously.*

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 234 Lodging by \$200 to \$100 carried unanimously.*

Selectman Charbonneau recommended that the Town look into leasing computers like the County is doing, which is less expensive, since computers are obsolete in three years. Mr. Malizia said that may be so with engineering work, but for the routine stuff, they don't go that quickly. Mr. Sharon thought leasing could be explored, but that it was important to stay with the plan. Selectman Jasper said this isn't the time to investigate a leasing plan. It should be done at the next budget cycle. Chairman Madison agreed.

**D. 5041 Moderator**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart to reduce 257 Equipment Programming from \$6,000 to \$2,500 carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 403 Small Equipment from \$14,500 to \$7,500 carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 102 Salaries Part Time from \$7,168 to \$5,000 carried unanimously. (There will be fewer elections next year.)

Mr. Arseneault said the helpers haven't had an increase since 1981 and suggested \$1 per hour more. Selectman Jasper said they've had minimum wage increases. They are also paid through the lunch and dinner hours, and their meals are provided.

Motion by Selectman Charbonneau, seconded by Selectman Madison, to increase the salaries of the poll workers by 50¢ to \$3.00 carried 3-2. Selectmen Jasper and Seabury were opposed. (Part-Time Salaries reduced to \$5,000; FICA reduced to \$382)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 230 Meals In Town by \$600 to \$800 carried unanimously.

Mr. Malizia announced that because of the reduction in salaries, 108 FICA would be reduced to \$382.

(Start Tape 2, Side A)

A. **5042 Supervisors of the Checklist** No changes were made to this cost center.

**F. 5045 Cable Committee**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 233 Mileage/Car Reimbursement from \$675 to \$400 carried unanimously.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to create line 204 Large Equipment Repair and fund it in the amount of \$1,000 carried unanimously. (For possible repairs to the second-hand ambulance purchased for a mobile cable vehicle.)

Mr. Kelly asked that his Warrant Article request be reduced by \$1,000 from \$16,000 to \$15,000. Chairman Madison said they weren't going to take up the Warrant Articles at this time, but would call this one #20.

**G. 5050 Treasurer** No changes were made to this cost center.

**H. 5070 Budget Committee** No changes were made to this cost center.

I. **5080 Ethics Committee** No changes were made to this cost center.

**A. 5400 Assessing**

Jim Michaud, Assessor, asked that 411 Computer Equipment be renamed to Computer Software.

Warrant Articles

Commercial Appraiser/Assistant Assessor

Property Deeds/Elderly Exemption Specialist

Mr. Michaud said in case the Property Deeds/Elderly Exemption Specialist doesn't pass, he included \$36,000 for 50 weeks of temporary office coverage in 265 and \$40,000 for a Commercial Evaluation Consultant.

(Start Tape 2, Second Side)

Mr. Michaud outlined his justification for including these items both in the budget and as Warrant Articles. If the articles do not pass, then the positions will still be in the budget because he can't deal without any help for another year. He said if the positions do pass, the budgeted amounts can be encumbered so the money is not spent. The Selectmen said they could not vote for appropriating the funds twice. Selectman Jasper suggested that Jim put in an article for the Commercial Appraiser, and leave the other position in the budget. Selectman Charbonneau felt those two requests should be reversed. Mr. Sharon said the Board could decide to put two positions in the Operating Budget and not hold them out as targets on separate Warrant Articles. Selectman Jasper said the voters opposed doing that and besides, the Budget Committee would pull out those requests. Mr. Michaud termed this contingency planning. He said a lot of money is paid for his and Kathy's expertise in the field. It is a waste of money for them to man the office. Discussion continued, including renaming the office position. He said he has a re-val coming up, for which he needs a trained office person. If he had to choose, he'd prefer the Property Deeds/Elderly Exemption Specialist go to the Warrant (and he will come up with a different title) and leave the Commercial Appraiser in the operating budget for \$40,000 which will be a temp position. He asked that the Warrant Article indicate the breakdown between the base salary amount and the benefits amount.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 265 Outside Hire by \$36,000 from \$76,000 to \$40,000 carried unanimously.

(Start Tape 3, Side A)

#### A. **5800 Recreation**

Mr. Yates said he and Road Agent Kevin Burns have been talking about transferring this as a seasonal employee to the Highway Department because if the Recreation Department needs some field work done, he has to call Kevin's guys, who have CDL's. However, if this transfer is effected, it would amount to firing Reggie. Dave would like to keep him on for about eight hours a week to maintain the Rec Center.

Motion by Selectman Stewart, seconded by Selectman Charbonneau, to add \$4,025 to 102 Salaries Part-Time, carried unanimously. (FICA increased by \$308.) (This would keep the 22-year employee on at the Rec Center, 8 hours a week, to do various maintenance tasks. The seasonal position was transferred to the Highway Department because whomever runs the equipment to maintain the fields needs to have a CDL.)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to increase 206 Electricity to \$1,900 carried unanimously. (This amount was included in the backup but inadvertently omitted from the budget request.)

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 252 Other Professional Services by \$15,000 to \$10,000 carried unanimously.

**5815 Merrifield Park** There was no change to this cost center.

**5821 Supervised Play** There was no change to this cost center.

The Selectmen would like the Recreation Director and Committee to review the fee schedule and make recommendations to the Board for increases.

**5822 Robinson Pond** There was no change to this cost center.

(Start Tape 3, Second Side)

**5823 Babe Ruth** There was no change to this cost center.

#### **5824 Ball Fields**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to reduce 403 Small Equipment by \$12,000 to \$10,000 failed 1-4. Selectman Jasper voted in favor.

**5825 Instructional Tennis** There was no change to this cost center.

#### **5831 Winter Basketball**

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to reduce 104 Seasonal Salaries by \$250 from \$4,650 to \$4,400 carried unanimously. (FICA was reduced \$19 to \$279.)

**5834 Soccer** There was no change to this cost center.

**5836 Teen Dances** There was no change to this cost center.

**5837 KNOT Nights** There was no change to this cost center.

**5838 Adult Aerobics** There was no change to this cost center.

**5839 Community Activities** There was no change to this cost center.

**Revenue** -- Selectman Jasper said the Board has given Recreation the directive to increase their fees. They get \$5,000 for the adult program, and if they go up \$10 on Supervised Play, that's \$6,000. (Recreation Revenue is increased from \$95,000 to \$106,000.)

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Stewart, to increase the revenue on the Recreation Department by \$11,000 carried unanimously.*

Discussion of Community Grants requests.

(Start Tape 4 Side A)

**1. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to enter Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) the hiring of a public employee carried 5-0 by roll call vote.*

Nonpublic Session was entered into at 10:16 p.m. and was terminated at 10:20 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Seabury, to hire Juliette Kennedy as Receptionist in the Department of Community Development, effective November 19, 2000 at \$11.33 per hour, Grade 6, Step 3, in accordance with the Administrative and Support Staff union contract carried unanimously.*

**2. ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn at 10: 22 p.m. by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Madison, carried unanimously.*

Recorded and Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert

Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman E. Lorraine Madison**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rhona Charbonneau**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shawn N. Jasper**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ann Seabury**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Terry Stewart**