



TOWN OF HUDSON

Budget Committee

· Bob Guessferd, Chairman , Ted Trost, Vice-Chairman



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Budget Committee Meeting Minutes October 2, 2019 FINAL

A. Call to Order

Chairman Guessferd called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Buxton Conference Room located in the Hudson, NH Town Hall.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

J. Fernald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Attendance

Members Present:

Bob Guessferd, Ted Trost, Joe Fernald, Michael Fedele, Alejandro Urrutia, Hasan Goode, Shawn Murray, Rich Weissgarber, Board of Selectmen Representative Norm Martin, School Board Liaison Diana LaMothe (quorum of 10 is present)

Members Absent:

Jim Weaver

Staff/Others: Finance Director Kathy Carpentier, SAU 81 Business Administrator Karen Brunell

D. Public Input

None

E. Meeting Minutes

September 04, 2019 - Amendment – change name of Police Chief David Avery to William Avery Motion by N. Martin (A. Urrutia second) to accept minutes as amended; motion passed unanimously.

F. Reports from Committees

School Board:

- Collaborative efforts with Board of Selectmen continuing, School board is looking for ways to condense budget items
- Implementing and amending district policies, annual report received clean report from auditors
- Karen Brunell presented FY 2019 year-end financial report (attachments given to committee members)
 - Unassigned fund balance of \$827,000; \$100,000 committed to Capital Reserve Fund, per warrant article
 - Revenue - \$184,000 higher than anticipated (special education, interest income, vocational tuition)
 - \$722,000 unexpended appropriation (Highlights - tuition and charter school costs of \$76,000, special education contracted services costs of \$73,000, utility costs of \$60,000, insurance costs of \$43,000, professional development costs of \$36,000)



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- Other items, transfers, and descriptions in attachments presented to Budget Committee

Board of Selectmen:

- Fire Chief Buxton requested \$1,542,287 for a communications system that ties the Fire, Police, and DPW together. This will be funded by a \$736,132 transfer from the Capital Reserve Fund and article asking for a \$810,000 transfer from the Unassigned Fund Balance.
- The Board of Selectmen set budget parameters. A motion for a 0% increase from the FY2020 budget failed. A motion to increase the budget by 2.5% (excluding labor costs) passed.

Capital Improvement Program

- Skipped

G. Old Business

- Deliberative schedule discussion – Motion by T.Trost , second by R. Weissgarber to accept schedule as amended (one typo correction), passed unanimously
- Amendments to Budget Committee by-laws

H. Amendments to Budget Committee By-Laws

The following is the amended text of the by-laws (motions below text):

Voting on Warrant Articles

Section VII, subsection G

- Voting on warrant articles will take place at the meeting in which the warrant articles is presented in its entirety. Votes will be taken by raised hand and the results announced aloud following the vote. This will allow the public to understand the position of the Budget Committee so the public can decide if they would like to provide input or discussion at future meetings.
- Warrant articles will be re-voted on following the Budget Committee Public Hearing to allow for input and discussion from the public present to be taken into account. Votes will be taken by raised hand and announced aloud following the vote. The result of this vote will be printed on the Sample Ballots that are to be advertised before the Deliberative Session.
- Following each Deliberative Session, the Budget Committee shall convene and vote for the final time on each warrant article. Votes will be taken by raised hand and announced aloud following the vote. This vote will be printed on the official ballots. No further votes will be made following the final vote after the deliberative session.

SECTION X

- Email correspondence within the Budget Committee shall only be sent to the entire Budget Committee by the Chair or Vice Chair.
- When sending correspondence to the entire Committee, the Chair/Vice Chair shall only blind copy (bcc) all members of the Committee. (As a bcc, if any member replies to the email, that member's email reply will only go to the original sender and therefore avoid an open communication to the entire Committee making the email compliant with RSA 91-A.).
- In all cases, any replies shall be limited to reply to the sender only.
- E-mail communication will be limited to procedural/scheduling matters, and the distribution of materials in advance of a meeting. E-mail will not otherwise be utilized to discuss or deliberate on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

Motions (Sections A-1 through A-3 refer to draft of by-law changes):

- T. Trost/S. Murray – Strike section A-1 from proposed by-laws, motion fails 4-6 (R. Weissgarber, J. Fernald, T. Trost, N. Martin on losing side of motion)



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- T. Trost/N. Martin – Strike the terms “budget or” and “during the budgeting season” from section A-1, motion passed 9-1 (S. Murray against)
- D. LaMothe/R. Weissgarber - Accept section A-2 as edited, motion passed 9-1 (S. Murray against)
- T. Trost – Strike three instances of “final” in A-3 (Withdrawn)
- T. Trost/A. Urrutia – change instances of “final” and “the final” to “each” in section A-3, motion passed 8-2 (D. LaMothe and S. Murray against)
- M. Fedele/T. Trost – Change instances of “may” to “will” and remove “the Monday following the final deliberation” from section A-3, motion passed unanimously
- T. Trost/S. Murray – Strike section A-4, passed unanimously
- T. Trost/M. Fedele – Approve section B-1, motion passed 9-1 (D. LaMothe against)

K. Carpentier will pass along amended by-laws to town attorney to be vetted.

I. New Business

- None

J. Other Business/Comments

- None

K. Member Comments

- D. LaMothe – school budget transfers available at every meeting and presented
- M. Fedele – asked K. Carpentier when the tax rate will be ready; waiting to hear from Department of Revenue Administration
- S. Murray asked when the Alvirne football field will be rebuilt – D. LaMothe and K. Brunell replied spring (April) of 2020
- B. Guessferd – thanked the school board and administration for undergoing budget scrutiny and reminded committee members to look over the budgets and ask questions

L. Next Meeting

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 06, 7:00 P.M. at the Buxton Community Development Meeting Room

M. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn (M. Fedele/N. Martin). Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Prepared by: Joe Fernald, Clerk Alternate