



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Budget Committee



Charlotte Schweiss, Chairman

Joyce Goodwin, Vice-Chairman

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Meeting minutes May 19, 2011

Chairman Schweiss called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Vice-Chairman Joyce Goodwin present  
School Board liaison Amy Sousa present  
Selectman liaison Thaddeus Luszey present

Committee members absent:  
Michael Buczynski not excused  
Normand Martin excused  
Stephen Nute excused

Committee members present:  
John Drabinowicz  
Jonathan Maltz  
Stuart Schneiderman

Chairman Schweiss called for public input. There was none offered.

Chairman Schweiss sought consensus that candidate Lise Tucker's absence disqualified her as a candidate for Budget Committee membership.

Selectman Luszey nominated Leo Bernard as interim member. Vice-Chairman Goodwin seconded the nomination. Chairman Schweiss called for discussion. Board member Schneiderman asked how long the term for the open seat was. Chairman Schweiss replied that it will be until March and then the seat would be on the ballot. Committee member John Maltz expressed his support for the nomination. Chairman Schweiss called for the vote. Mr. Bernard was approved by a vote of six voting aye, zero voting no and one abstention. Member-elect Bernard was seated as a non-voting member pending his swearing in.

Selectman Luszey reported that The Board reviewed The Master Plan and projects from The Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Projects include the sidewalk from Market Basket on Lowell Road to Hannaford's on Derry Road. Additional discussions about Lowell Road traffic will also be discussed. The Budget Committee was invited to attend The Selectman's workshop meeting on June 7, 2011 to study property tax appraising. Selectman Luszey concluded by urging The Budget Committee to support The Information Technology Department's fiber optic ring project. Chairman Schweiss asked for details of money transfers that The Selectmen approved to finance The Senior Center and funds approved for the playground at Benson Park. Selectman Luszey agreed to report back with the details. Mr. Schneiderman asked Selectman Luszey about The Joint Planning Committee. Selectman Luszey explained that he was awaiting a reply from The School Board and that it would be composed of members from different departments.

School Board Liaison Sousa reported that The Joint Planning Committee was not on their last agenda and she will follow up with Chairman Lavoie. The fiber project costs are now forecasted at \$66,398.00 against a budget of \$80,000.00. The Chairman and Superintendent are attempting to meet with the Selectmen to discuss joint ventures including running optic fiber to the Recreation Center and will report back when progress is made.

Minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting were accepted as amended on a voice vote.

Building tours will be scheduled and Committee members will decide on their preferences for participation day and/or night and which buildings they tour. Ms. Sousa, Mr. Drabinowicz, Vice Chairman Goodwin, Mr. Schneiderman, Chairman Schweiss, Selectman Luszey, Representative Maltz volunteered to participate. Ms. Sousa will coordinate school tours and Selectman Luszey will coordinate with the Town and Clerk Schneiderman will coordinate communications.

Finance Director Carpentier will attend the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss assessing, taxation and budget issues. Vice Chairman Goodwin reminded The Committee that a portion of education funds come from out of town sources. Mr. Drabinowicz inquired about State matching funds. Chairman Schweiss wants to follow up program expenditures and productivity. Selectman Luszey expressed a desire to evaluate results of spending against expectations and how to measure academic rigor. Ms. Sousa and Mr. Drabinowicz clarified that student achievement and teacher effectiveness must be measured against performance metrics.

By consensus, there will be no July Budget Meeting.

Town and school audits should be available for the November Budget Committee agenda.

The Library Trustees will be invited to discuss plans for The Hills Library.

Mr. Drabinowicz wants the schools to turn off the lights at night. Ms. Sousa will investigate.

Vice Chairman Goodwin extended the invitation to the Selectmen's ice cream social. Chairman Schweiss inquired about the availability of sugar free ice cream and took a count of committee members attending.

Vice Chairman Goodwin asked Selectman Luszey for a cost analysis comparing privatizing EMT, EMTI and paramedic services to keeping them in house in order to economize without cutting services. Fire, Police and Public works have the highest payroll and the Selectmen want to see a proposal to reduce payroll by ten percent. The Selectmen are looking for opportunities to reduce the operating budgets of the remaining smaller departments by ten percent. Selectman Luszey explained that the largest expenditures are in labor and that is where the emphasis should be.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Stuart Schneiderman

Clerk