



TOWN OF HUDSON

Budget Committee



Charlotte Schweiss, Chairwoman

Joyce Goodwin, Vice-Chairwoman

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Minutes: April 21, 2011, Hudson Municipal Budget Committee

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

Vice Chairman Jonathan Maltz excused absent

School Board liaison Amy Sousa present

Selectman Liaison Thaddeus Luszey present

Committee members present:

Michael Buczynski

John Drabonowicz

Joyce Goodwin

Stephen Nute

Stuart Schneiderman

Charlotte Schweiss

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

Chairman Martin asked for February and March meeting minute input from the board; Mr. Drabinowicz moved to accept February and March minutes as presented seconded by Ms. Goodwin. Minutes accepted 7 yay 0 nay 1 abstention by Ms. Schweiss. Selectman Luszey commented that a voice vote tally need not be counted and basically passed on a voice vote.

Committee Reports

Selectmen's Liaison Luszey said that the budgeting process has already started. Department heads were asked what it would mean to cut labor costs by ten percent to hold and maintain the budget. Selectman Luszey told The Board that he was also appointed to The Joint Planning Committee and requested membership from The School Board and the Town Administrator. Ms. Schweiss questioned which budget Selectman Luszey was referring to. He answered that it was the 2012-2013 budget compared to the 2011-2012 budget. He further explained that The Joint Planning Committee would bring The Town and The School District together to eliminate redundant functions. Chairman Martin asked if The Budget Committee would be included to which Selectman Liuzzi answered in the affirmative.

Chairman Martin then welcomed newly appointed School Committee Liaison Amy Souza. Ms. Souza introduced Superintendent of Schools Rand Bell to report. Mr. Bell addressed concerns about the lack of historical budget data and levels of detail and its accessibility. He then reviewed roofing problems, funds transfers and fund balances. Superintendent Bell then assured the Budget Committee that The School District should fare well under the new State budget and detailed the issues and adjustments that may be made.

Finance Director Kathy Carpentier presented March 2011 actuals to budgets and explained how transfers are dealt with. Ms. Schweiss brought up concerns that transfers were not reported. Ms Carpentier replied that they are not reported as they occur only within each department and the concern is balancing to the total of each department's bottom line. Chairman Martin asked how overspending, for example, by the Moderator is handled. Ms. Carpentier explained that would be covered within The Board of Selectmen's budget.

The Committee vacancy was then addressed. Chairman Martin read a statement from Committee applicant Lise Tucker who was absent due to prior commitments. He then asked committee consensus how to proceed and it was decided to interview all applicants. Applicant Leo Bernard was interviewed.

Discussion about building four subcommittees ensued. This will be continued after new officer elections.

Elections: Ms. Schweiss was nominated to serve as Chairman by Mr. Drabinowicz, seconded by Ms. Goodwin who accepted on the condition that all step up to assist. Election was unanimous. Ms. Goodwin was nominated to serve as Chairman by Mr. Drabinowicz, seconded by Ms. Schweiss. Election was unanimous. Mr. Schneiderman was nominated for Clerk by Ms. Goodwin, seconded by Mr. Drabinowicz. Election was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Stuart Schneiderman
Clerk