

Minutes: December 6, 2010
Hudson Municipal Budget Committee

Meeting: Budget Committee: Town of Hudson / Hudson School District

Where: Town Hall – Community Development Room

Date: 12/6/10

Attendees:

Normand Martin (NM)
Jonathan Maltz (JM)
Susan Guarino (SG)
Joyce Goodwin (JG)
Steve Nute (SN)
John Drabinowicz (JD)
Laura Bisson (LB)
Ken Massey (KM)
Charlotte Schweiss (CS)
Thaddeus Luszey (TL)
Michael Buczynski (MB)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. NM led The Pledge of Allegiance.
2. MB made a motion to remove from the table the Town of Hudson's Operating Budget in the amount of 28283391.00. TL seconded the motion. The motion carried (11-0-0).
3. The Highway Department budget was presented by Kevin Burns. Questions and answers followed. JG made a motion to amend detail number 01-4312-5551-105-000 re Administration Salaries Overtime by striking the amount of 1425.00 and inserting 0.0 a (decrease of 1425.00). CS seconded the motion. Questions and answers followed. The motion carried (10-1-0). Questions and answers continued.
4. Solid Waste Budget was presented by Kevin Burns. Questions and answers followed.
5. The Engineering Department Budget was presented by Mr. Webster. Questions and answers followed. TL made a motion to seek legal counsel as to what are the ramifications of putting a dollar figure in a line item for a staff position versus putting a zero figure in). JM seconded the motion. KM voiced concern re expending money for this legal opinion. Discussion followed. TL and JM withdrew their motion. JG made a motion to amend detail number 01- 4311-5585-105-000 re- Engineering Salaries Overtime by striking the amount of 2,375.00 and inserting 0 (decrease of 2,375). Discussion followed. The motion carries (10-1-0).
6. The Sewer Utility budget was presented by Bill Abbott, Chairman of the Sewer Utility. Questions and answers followed.
7. The water Utility Budget was presented by Mr. Webster.

8. A ten minute recess was called at 7:58 PM.
9. The meeting reconvened at 8:09 PM.
10. The Library Budget was presented by Mrs. Owen. Questions and answers followed. The funding and operation of the Hills Memorial Library/Conference Center was discussed at length. JD made a motion to request from the Library Board of Trustees to get the actuals for 2010 actual on the costs to operate the Hills Memorial Library. JG seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was withdrawn. TL made a motion to amend detail number 04-4550-5060-209-000 re Library Heating Oil by striking the amount of 5,000.00 and inserting 0.00 (a decrease of 5,000.00). JG seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (9-0-2). Questions and answers continued. TL made a motion to amend detail number 5060-322 re Library Janitorial Supplies by striking out 5,000.00 and inserting 3500.00 (a decrease of 1,500). JG seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (8-1-2). TL made a motion to amend detail number 5050-206 by striking the amount of 30,500 and inserting 27,000 (a decrease of 3,500) JD seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-1-3). Questions and answers followed. TL requested the Library Trustees have their IT staff speak to their technology plan. KM raised the question if the Library was aware that contracts spanning more than a year need to have voter approval. The Library will get a new one year quote. It was requested that the Library IT staff be present at next Wednesdays meeting to join the various IT representatives that will be there to discuss IT related issues. JG made a motion to amend detail number 5060102 Part Time Employee Technical Services Assistant-vacant by striking the number 11,416.00 and inserting 0.00 (a decrease of 11,416.00). JD seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Discussion related that that using the funding in this line item for extra hours for the part time positions in existence. The motion carries (10-0-1). Questions and answers followed. JM made a motion to request the cost of moth balling the Hills Memorial Library. TL seconded the motion. Discussion followed. TL and LM amended their motion to request a plan from the Library Trustees as to their future plans for the library and consideration of submitting a warrant article to reflect any plans for uses. The motion carried (11-0-0). KC suggested that it be considered for future budgets the possibility of setting up a new cost center for the costs of the Hills Memorial Library, so that the operational expenses will be clearer. The straw vote on the Warrant Article re the 3% salary increase for library staff was reviewed with Mrs. Owens.
11. TL made a motion was made by to lay on the table the Town of Hudson Operating Budget 28,258,175.00. The motion was seconded by JG. The motion carried (11-0-0).
12. NM reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.
13. LB gave an update re School Committee business. She reports that 1) the School Board is planning to remove the warrant article re increasing the School Board stipend 2) the School Board also plans to remove the warrant article re the Utilities Capital Reserve Fund 3) the School Board did bring up the pay to play issue. This is a larger issue that will require more discussion. 4) Superintendent Bell requested three areas re transportation in the budget be further addressed and this may result in further reductions in the budget. JD asked if he could have the information he requested re getting to the detail in the budget. LB will follow up on this. TL requested the remainder of the information that was requested which included the topology information re the school-wide network.
14. A motion was made by JG to adjourn. The motion was seconded by JD. No discussion followed. The motion carried (11-0-0).
15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31PM.