

Minutes: December 1, 2010  
Hudson Municipal Budget Committee

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

Where: Town Hall – BOS Room

Date: 12/1/10

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)-excused

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. NM led The Pledge of Allegiance.
3. KM introduced and explained the Town of Hudson Operating budget. Questions and answers followed. Significant time was spent discussing the town ambulance service.
4. Town revenues were reviewed. KM and Kathy Carpentier presented and also answered questions. TL made a motion to request a cost benefit analysis of private versus public ambulance service. JG seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (10-0-0),
5. Questions and answers re revenues continued.
6. The Town default budget was reviewed. No questions were asked.
7. CS made a motion to take up a discussion of The Town of Hudson's Operating Budget in the amount of 28,283,391.00. JG seconded the motion. The motion carried (10-0-0).
8. Chief Murray presented the Fire Department budget. Chief Murray presented staff members that were present. Questions and answers followed.
9. JG made a motion to amend detail 0142205710105000 re Fire Administration Salaries Overtime by striking the amount of 2,052.00 and inserting 0.00 (a decrease of 2,052). CS seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion failed (4-6-0).

10. Questions and answers continued re the Fire Department Budget. KM explained the BOS directive to reduce the Fire Department budget by 100,000.00. Discussion followed. Fire Chief Murray discussed the potential impact re this budget reduction. JM made a motion to obtain the benefits amounts for the recently filled dispatcher position 5720. JD seconded the motion. The motion passed (10-0-0). CS made a motion to amend detail number 01-4220-5710-101-000 re Fire Administration Salaries-full time, by striking the amount of 344,135.00 and replacing it with 444,135.00 (increase of 100,000). NM seconded the motion. Discussion followed. JM moved to table the motion. JD seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-4-0). The motion will be brought back to the table no later than Town wrap up. JD commented that it might be beneficial to break up the overtime line to the specifics of its use. TL made a motion to request from Fire Chief Murray the specifics as to how the removal of 100,000.00 would compromise the safety of Hudson citizens. JD seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (10-0-0).
11. A ten minute recess was called at 8:25 PM.
12. The meeting was reconvened. It was noted that CS had left the meeting.
13. Questions and answers followed re the Fire Department Budget.
14. Warrant Article B was presented by Chief Murray (re the purchase of the defibrillators). Captain Steve Gannon was there to present information about the proposed defibrillator. Questions and answers followed.
15. Warrant Article D was presented by Chief Murray (re developing a capital reserve account for special equipment). The amount of 1,000.00 is just an amount to start the account. Questions and answers followed. JD made a motion to request the BOS to change Warrant Article D to reflect that the funds would come from unexpended funds. There was no second. The motion died.
16. The Assessing Budget was presented by Mr. Michaud. Mr. Michaud highlighted his budget which included the allocation of funds for an existing capital reserve fund for the 2012 property reevaluation. The amount allocated this year is 15,000. This would bring the total in the fund to 55,000. The expected amount needed is 70,000. Questions and answers followed.
17. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget was reviewed by Ms. Patti Barry. She gave an overview of increases in costs in her budget. Questions and answers followed.
18. JD asked the BOS Representative a question re whether or not any more raises would be going onto Warrant articles other than the Tax Collector position. KM answered this question explaining the rationale for not putting the management team salary increases onto a warrant article. Discussion followed. SN made a motion to recommend Warrant Article D. JG seconded the motion. The motion failed (3-6-0).
19. NM presented Warrant Article C. A motion to recommend was made by KM. The motion was seconded by TL. No discussion followed. The motion carried (8-1-0).
20. NM presented Warrant Article D. A motion was made to recommend Warrant Article D. JG seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (7-1-1).
21. NM presented Warrant Article E. A motion was made to recommend Warrant Article D. JD seconded for discussion. Discussion followed. KM explained the progress made in this negotiation re cost containment of benefit costs. The motion failed (3-6-0).
22. NM presented Warrant F. A motion was made to recommend Warrant Article F by KM. SN seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion carried (6-3-0).

23. A motion was made by JG to lay on the table the Town of Hudson Operating Budget in the amount of 28,283,391.00. The motion was seconded by JD. The motion carried (9-0-0).
24. NM reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.
25. A motion was made by JG to adjourn. The motion was seconded by JD. The motion carried (9-0-0).
26. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00PM.