

Minutes: October 21, 2010
Hudson Municipal Budget Committee

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

Where: Town Hall – Community Development Room

Date: 10/21/2010

Attendees:

Normand Martin (NM)

Jonathan Maltz (JM)

Susan Guarino (SG)

Joyce Goodwin (JG)

Thaddeus Luszey (TL)

Steve Nute (SN)

John Drabinowicz (JD) arrived 7:47 pm

Charlotte Schweiss-(CS)excused

Roger Coutu-(RC) excused

Laura Bisson (LB)

Michael Buczynski (MB)

Gary Rodgers-not present

Ken Massey-not present

Guest: Superintendent Randy Bell

1. NM called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. NM led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Input –None. JG asked about getting contact information re Budget Committee members. SG asked about getting the minutes and agendas loaded onto the website. NM will follow up on these two items.
4. Committee reports:
 - a. LB presented the following information to the Budget Committee:
 - i. The list of “Staff Changes for 2010-2011” was handed out. This list had been requested by the Budget Committee at the previous meeting. This list was reviewed by members.
 - ii. An update regarding current contract negotiations was given. Both contracts (secretaries and custodians) have completed negotiation. A brief summary was provided.
 - iii. The budgeting process continues. An overview was given of the current review schedule.

- iv. An update re surplus funds was given. Three hundred twenty-five thousand dollars will be returned to the fund balance.
- v. An overview of the recent Hills Memorial Library Project was given. Twenty-five thousand dollars was used to get the conference center at The Hills Memorial Library up and running. They now are utilizing it for meetings. TL asked how many conference rooms were available in the SAU as well as the justification of the spending of surplus tax money for this purpose that had not been approved by the voters. Other details re this project were requested. RB addressed these questions and also discussed the conference center being a community resource. JG discussed concerns re the costs of utilizing this building for this purpose and pointed out that the taxpayers were not asked. SG asked a question re capacity of the conference room. JM asked if the operating expenses for this new facility are available at this point. RB reported they are being worked on.
- vi. SN requested we decide if we want a motion to request information. SG stated she would like information re what went into making this decision. A motion was made by TL to request from the School Committee as well as the Town the following: that a report be made to the Budget Committee re the surplus funds from 2009. This report would include what were the surplus funds, what was spent, rationale for the spending, cost/benefit analysis of the decision, and was it a one time or recurring expense. The motion was seconded by SN. JD requested and received clarification of the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- vii. The projected health insurance changes were reviewed. There was initially an expected increase of 15%. It is currently estimated to come in at a maximum of a 9% increase instead.
- viii. JD asked how the kindergarten budget would be presented. He discussed he would like to get information regarding the total impact of kindergarten on the overall budget. JD motioned to request information from the School Committee outlining the total financial impact of kindergarten to the budget. TL seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ix. TL reported that the Budget Committee was expecting an updated technology report from the School Committee and has not received it. TL motioned to request an updated technology report and that specific information re what is the current utilization of the technology that has been put in place during the past two years. He also requests information regarding whether or not there is a development plan in place for teachers to learn to use the technology. JG seconded the motion.
- x. LB offered to set up a demonstration to the Budget Committee re the Star Boards and related technology if we would like this. A discussion followed re the decisions to purchase this type of technology, cost, benefits, etc. LB will work at organizing this some evening. Committee members can contact her if they would like a classroom demonstration.
- xi. JG discussed her reading information in the Hudson News re unavailability of hand soap in the schools. She requested information re who oversees the maintenance of the school buildings?
- xii. TL made a motion to request the following information:

1. Updated technology report/plan
2. Information regarding how the technology that has been implanted in the past two years has been utilized.
3. Is there a technology plan in place to train teachers in the new technologies that are being implemented.

The motion was seconded by JG. The motion passed unanimously.

- xiii. JG made a motion to request information as to who is in charge of overseeing the maintenance of the school buildings (also who supervises the contract). The motion was seconded by TL. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- xiv. TL discussed in 08-09 a virtualization project was started. He reported that at a recent BOS meeting that the Fire and Police requested monies to buy hardware and software to replace dispatch software. NM commented that the request was related to replacing outdated software for recording calls. TL states there has been an effort to get all servers on a common set of boxes. He asks why didn't they migrate that functionality over to the virtualization project instead of buying dedicated software? TL made a motion- Our technology plan over the past few years has invested heavily on the town side. How are we doing against it? Where are we heading? Are we getting the projected savings/bang for our buck? JD seconded the motion. Discussion followed. SN requested the motion be restated. TL states the motion was-for the technology we have employed over the past two years, how are we doing? Are savings realized? Where are we going? A unanimous vote in favor followed.
- xv. TL made a motion to request from both the SAU and the Town a report re what have been the IT consulting costs for this past fiscal year and for the year projected forward. What is the rationale for the consulting and estimated costs. SN seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- xvi. TL made a motion to get a report from the SAU regarding what was last year's spending for textbooks and student consumables. MB seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- xvii. JD asked a question re how are the decisions made re what textbooks get purchased. RB responded with an explanation.
- xviii. JG discussed a rumor she had heard re a town department making a monetary donation to a private fund ie re Zachs Field. JG made a motion to get clarification re whether or not a town department had made a donation to a private fund and if so, from what line item did it come from? TL seconded the motion. Discussion followed. NM stated he would bring this to the BOS. The motion passed by a unanimous vote in favor.
- xix. JD made a motion to get information about as to whether or not surplus funds have been or will be used to supplement paving during these past two years. TL seconded the motion. Discussion followed. A unanimous vote in favor followed. NM reports he will bring this to the BOS.
- xx. SG requested it would be preferable to receive requested information prior to the meeting.

- xxi. JM made a motion to request the matrices of the Scott Foreman Program. JD seconded the motion. Discussion followed. JM amended the motion to include the Read 180 program as well. JD seconded the amended motion. A unanimous vote in favor followed.

5. New Business:

- a. NM reports he has distributed The Department of Labor Inspection Report to Committee members tonight. Discussion followed.
- b. NM reports he will request copies of “Basic Law of Budgeting” and will get them out to Committee members

6. Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the last Budget Committee meeting were reviewed. A correction will be made to change NC to RC throughout the minutes. TL motioned to approve the minutes as amended. JG seconded the motion. The motion passed. Eight votes in favor. There was one abstention.

7. JG made a motion to adjourn. LB seconded the motion. A unanimous vote in favor followed.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.