

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

Where: Town Hall – Community Development Room

Date: September 16, 2010

Attendees:

Normand Martin
Jonathan Maltz
Susan Guarino
Joyce Goodwin
Thaddeus Luszey
Steve Nute
Charlotte Schweiss
Roger Coutu
Laura Bisson

Absent: John Drabinowicz
Michael Buczynski

1. Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 9:05 PM.
2. Chairman Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Input – None
4. Committee reports:
 - a. Board of Selectmen-RC provided an update. He reports that the BOS has reviewed and is satisfied with the proposed schedule for the 2012 budget cycle. The deliberative sessions are set, with the Town going first and the School second. He reports that the BOS has requested that department heads come in level funded except for the impact that the contractual agreements will have on the budget. The department heads will send any “wish list” items separately and the BOS will review to see if the “wish list” requests can be delayed another year. He reported that there may or may not be contracts negotiated this year.
 - b. School Board-LB reported that she echoed the same sentiments. The school committee will be in the process of working on and reviewing the budget in the next couple of weeks. They have contractual obligations that will impact the budget as well. The secretaries’ and custodians’ contracts will be coming up for negotiation.
5. Budget Review Schedule-Chairman NM brought up that board members wanted to change the schedule to provide more time to deliberate some departments. A discussion regarding the schedule followed and was led by CS. Changes will be as follows:
 - a. November 18th meeting will be used to receive the budget books, discuss the process the committee will use to review the budgets, and to review the tax and revenue pages.
 - b. November 22nd meeting will be used to receive an overall review of the school district and review the SAU, SAU building, Administration, Memorial School, and have warrant article straw votes.
 - c. November 29th meeting will have all the elementary schools present. LB discuss a proposal from the superintendent to have just one of the elementary schools formally present the budget, but still have all principals available to discuss differences and answer questions. The consensus of the committee agreed to this plan.

- d. November 30th meeting will have the Alvirne High School budget presentation.
 - e. December 1st will be used to review the taxes and revenue pages for the Town. There will be an introduction to the Town budget from the BOS representative and the Fire Department, Assessing Department, TC/TC budgets will be presented.
 - f. December 6th meeting will have the presentation of the Highway, Solid Waste, Sewer OPTs, MTCE and Recreation budgets.
 - g. December 8th meeting will have the presentation of the Police and IT budgets.
 - h. December 13th meeting will have the presentation of the Con Com, Town Poor, Legal, Energy Comm., Grants, Budget Committee, BOS, and Library.
 - i. December 15th meeting will have Community Development, Finance, Insurance, Patriotic Purposes, Other Expenses, Trustees of the Trust Fund, Cemetery Trustees, Cable, Treasurer, Supervisor of the checklist, and Ethics present their budgets.
 - j. December 12th will be the Budget Public Hearing for the schools. This was changed from the 10th to the 12th to accommodate the potential for public petitions to come in.
6. Warrant Article Worksheet: NM discussed a request by committee members to use the Warrant Article Worksheet. CS explained its use and benefits. RC asked if CS and JG found it useful when they used it in the past. They both concurred that they felt it was helpful. RC made a motion for the Budget Committee to use the Warrant Article Worksheet as part of the budgeting process. CS seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
7. School Department request-A poll was taken re what format committee members would like to receive the school budget in-i.e. hard copy or electronic. The question was raised if the electronic version allowed for highlighting. LB will get the answer. Also, it was requested that the Budget Committee be notified of any changes to the budget after we receive it. It was stated that this is to avoid confusion during the budget presentations (i.e. committee members not having correct figures).
8. Other:
- a. TL discussed his suggestion to offer guidance to the Town and the School Committee re the need to come in below level funded. A discussion on this topic followed.
 - b. NM brought up his concern re non contractual raises are being added to line items within budgets. He suggests that these be placed on warrant articles for the voters to decide. Discussion on this matter followed. A motion was made by TL to request the Town and School Committee come in with a budget reflecting a reduction from the previous year's operating expenses after onetime expenses are taken out. CS seconded the motion. The motion passed 7 for and 2 abstaining.
 - c. The minutes of the August 19, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by NM to accept the minutes as presented. CS seconded the motion. The motion passed 8 for and one abstaining.
 - d. Attendance was discussed by Chairman NM. He will letter one committee member re attendance and policy.
 - e. CS requested that the Town and The School Department provide a list of any employee status changes. Representatives will provide this.
 - f. NM asked BOS representative RC if the report from the Department of Labor was available. NC said he had not seen it and will follow up with providing it when it is available.
 - g. JC brought up a question to RC re the paying for the architectural drawings for the proposed senior center. She reports the funds were given from the Senior Committee to the Town to facilitate payment. She requests clarification re how the funds given to the Town by the Senior Committee are being used and accounted for. BOS Representative will follow up on this.
9. A motion was made by JG to adjourn. The motion was seconded by CS. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 PM.