

Minutes: April 15, 2010 – Hudson Municipal Budget Committee Meeting

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

Where: Town Hall – Community Development Room

Attendees:

Normand Martin  
Jonathan Maltz  
Susan Guarino  
Joyce Goodwin  
Thaddeus Luszey  
John Drabinowicz  
Charlotte Schweiss  
Michael Buczynski  
Laura Bisson  
Roger Coutu

Absent: Steve Nute

Invited Guests: Kathleen Carpentier-Finance Director  
Randy Bell-Superintendent of School

Handouts: Town Budget to Actuals-through March 31, 2010  
Hudson School District FY 2010 Financial Statement

1. Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.
2. Roger Coutu led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Input – None
4. Acceptance of Minutes from the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
MB made a motion to accept minutes.  
JG seconded the motion.  
Unanimously approved with Roger Coutu abstaining as he was not present at that meeting.
5. Committee Reports:
  - a. Board of Selectmen—RC provided a summary of the budget to actuals that were reviewed at this week's selectmen meeting. He reported that the board was satisfied with the numbers that were presented. He reported if there are any budget shortfalls it may be necessary to dip into the reserves. It appears the town will fair relatively well in the long run.
6. MB arrived at 7:34 PM.

7. New Business:

a. Budget to actuals-Town

KC presented an overview of the town budget to actuals:

Town is currently in the 2010 default budget.

Department heads will not be giving back monies at the end of the year.

The gas and bus contingencies were not used

There are some grant monies that will be used to offset ice storm costs and police simulator costs.

The town has used 76% of the general fund at the ¾ year mark and we are on target.

Revenue shortfalls included the motor vehicle registration fees (400,000) and interest income (470,00).

Revenue offsets include 250,000 of revenue overlay and 200,000 of ambulance fees.

ML asked for clarification re “revenue overlay”

KC explained this further.

JM inquired re cost town has been paying for gas.

KC states 2.25 gallon.

KC inquired of the committee if the electronic version of the town budget is what we want for next year. The committee requests the electronic version. Two members have requested paper versions.

b. Budget to actuals-Schools

Randy Bell-Superintendent of Schools provided an overview:

Two thirds of the budget has been spent at the three quarter mark. This is because there will be a large balloon payment that will be paid out to teachers at the end of June.

A 324,000 revenue shortfall is projected. There is a planned under expenditure of 324,000.

Currently revenue only appears 218,000 short.

Repairs were under expenditure until today when an irrigation pump blew resulting in an 8,000 repair. We are still in good shape.

There is a plan to absorb the shortfall and still return the 324,000 to the taxes.

Under expenditures expected include gas (120,000) and electricity (144,000). These items have been reduced in next year's budget.

Some supply budget items have been frozen. We may be able to release some of them.

There is also an anticipated deficit in Special Ed Department of 150,000. This is related to out of district placement. This will be able to be covered without using the Expendable Trust Fund.

A discussion/inquiry followed re text book line items and movement of funds to virtualization.

RB discussed the adequacy of textbooks. LB and RB explained the goals and benefits of virtualization, etc.

TL inquired if any textbooks had been denied.

RB will follow up.

TL inquired about whether or not an after school assistance program had been approved for students at HMS and AHS.

RB explained the "Can Do" group which is run by volunteers at this time. He Reported that it not officially come before him yet for funding.

RC inquired if the "Can Do" program has a national model.

RB reports he is not aware of any.

RC inquired if there were any shortfalls from the state that were expected.

RB reported that catastrophic aide had been reduced. This had been anticipated and is reflected in the current budget. Next year it may be cut further.

Adequacy aide has not been cut due to concerns re legal/court issues. The state aide to retirement funding may also be further reduced in the future and there has been some discussion re increasing employee contribution.

Reducing building aide in the future has not been talked about. There has been talked about reducing funding for transportation for Voc Ed and funding for drop out programs.

c. Building Tours were discussed.

RM discussed the importance of touring the Central Fire Station in light of the discussion re needs of this building in the future.

RC discussed the CIP to be done and the inclusion of the Central Fire Station in this.

Discussion followed re this issue.

Tour schedule will be:

May-Central Fire Station and Town Hall

June-Nottingham West School

No meeting in July

September- possibly tour the Sewer Treatment Plant in Nashua.

TL inquired if the CIP re the Central Fire Station would include a plan for what would happen to the current facility if a new one is built.

RC will follow up on this.

Recess was deferred as few agenda items remain.

NM led the committee in a discussion re the format that we would prefer when we are reviewing the school budget. Viewing the executive summary versus detail was discussed. The consensus was that we would request and review executive summaries and the detail would be available for reference when needed by committee members.

TL motioned to adjourn

CS seconded the motion

Unanimously approved

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.