

# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Budget Committee

Shawn Murray, Chairman

Hasan Goode, Vice-Chairman



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### **Budget Committee Meeting Minutes September 2, 2020 Final**

#### **A. Call to Order**

- Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00pm in the Hudson Community Center (HCC).

#### **B. Pledge of Allegiance**

- Led by Chairman Murray

#### **C. Attendance Members**

##### **Present:**

- Chairman Murray, Vice Chairman Goode, Michael Fedele, Rich Weissgarber, Ted Trost, Bob Guessferd, Alejandro Urrutia, Nichole DeJesus, Selectman Liaison Norm Martin, School Board Liaison Diana LaMothe.

##### **Members Not Present:**

- Jimmy Weaver (excused)

##### **Staff/Others:**

- Chief Rob Buxton, Kathy Carpentier, Superintendent Russell, BOS Chair Dave Morin, Library Director Barbra Blue and various other support staff.

#### **D. Public Input**

- None

#### **E. Acceptance of Minutes**

- June 3, 2020, Motion made by Mr. Weissgarber second Mr. Goode passed 10-0-0

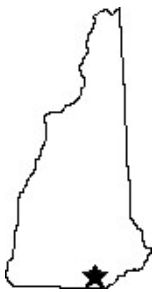
#### **F. Report from Boards and Liaisons**

- Select Board – SEE J Below
- School Board – SEE J Below
- Library – SEE J Below

#### **G. Filling Vacant BC Position – 2 Applicants**

- Candidate Hudson withdrew
- Candidate Fedele appointed (10-0-0) for 1 yr term which expires Mar 2021. Took oath from Selectman Martin and participated in Budget meeting.

#### **H. By Law Changes – if any**



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- Tabled until next BC meeting due to absence of committee member advocating for voting-related revision

### **I. 2020 Budget and Finance Virtual Workshop**

- Finance Director, Kathy Carpentier provided an overview of the all-day 24 Sept 2020 workshop available to committee members. She stated the workshop was a great opportunity to understand a 360 degree look at the budget and finance processes for NH. Cost is \$65 which will be reimbursed.

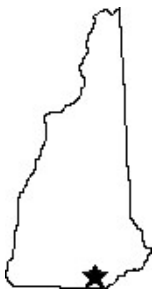
### **J. Town and School COVID 19 Presentations**

#### **a. Town**

- COVID 19 PowerPoint presentation by EOC Director Chief Buxton with assistance from Kathy Carpentier that addressed: major milestones, what the EOC has done the last few months, COVID - 19 in NH and COVID - 19 cost recovery summary for Hudson NH
  - Chief Buxton stated the EOC is typically stood up for 48 hrs. The EOC has been open since Mar (~140 days) to address COVID - 19 requirements, COOP and EOC directives
  - The Finance Director reminded all BC members that the BOS put a freeze on spending in regards to ensuring funds were available to mitigate the pandemic expenses.
  - Mr. Fedele inquired with the Finance Director about the revised tax rate and when to expect that information. The Finance Director stated the revised tax rate had not been posted as of the meeting.

#### **b. School District**

- COVID 19 PowerPoint presentation by Superintendent Russell for SAU 81 that addressed: reopening plan, staff impact, funding sources, ESSER Grant, other Federal Grants, remote learning Grant, other state funding, cost overview, cost categories, additional expenditures, expenditures for services *not* rendered, additional workload, total actual/expected costs, revenue impact, additional information: payroll taxes – CARES ACT, payroll taxes – FFCRA and payroll taxes – Presidential Memorandum
  - Question by Mr. Trost in regards to expenditures for services not rendered (a.k.a. payment to employees for not working). Superintendent Russell stated that they paid employees and kept them on board to mitigate a significant loss in staff.
  - Question by Mr. Goode in regards to keeping all bus drivers



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on board. Superintendent Russell stated he kept paying for all bus drivers to ensure the contracted company hiring bus drivers kept the drivers on board in the event they were needed at the last minute versus scrambling to hire a bus driver workforce.

- Question by Mr. Goode asked if there was a need for additional substitute teachers during the pandemic. Superintendent Russell stated that there was a significant increase in need due to COVID-19.

### c. Library

- Presented written script by Library Director Barbara Blue
  - The library Director spoke of the new curb-side book drop off due to the pandemic. She also mentioned that she retained her full library staff since Mar 2020.
  - The Director spoke about the mission of the library, highest expenditures and looking to the future of the library.

### K. Other Business/Comments

- Discussion on whether or not to move BC meetings back to the BOS Meeting Room. All agreed to keep the BC meetings in the HCC for the time being based on allowing for maximum social distancing related to the pandemic as well as reducing the AV moves back and forth between the BOS room and the HCC.
- FY22 Deliberative Schedule handed out to attending members. Chairman Murray requested a review and to report any possible absences to him as soon as possible.

### L. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday October 7, 2020 at 7pm in the HCC.

### M. Adjournment

- Motion made by Mr. Guessferd seconded by Selectman Martin motion passed 10-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

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Prepared by: Rich Weissgarber, Clerk