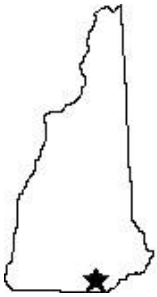


TOWN OF HUDSON

Budget Committee

Richard Weissgarber, Chairman • William Cole, Vice-Chairman

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Budget Committee Meeting Minutes 15 December 2021

A. Call to Order

Chairman Richard Weissgarber called the meeting to order in the Buxton Community Development Meeting Room at Town Hall at 7:00pm, and declared that a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robert Clegg.

C. Attendance

Members Present: Richard Weissgarber, William Cole, Ted Trost, Normand Martin, Shawn Murray, Grace Hopkins, Kathy Leary, Robert Clegg, Selectmen Liaison Alternate Bob Guessferd, School Board Liaison Diana LaMothe

Members Excused: Alejandro Urrutia

D. Chairman's Statement

Chairman Weissgarber read a statement regarding member conduct. The statement is attached to the minutes as "Attachment 1".

E. Public Input

Chairman Weissgarber opened the floor for public input. No member of the public provided input.

F. Acceptance of Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of 16 November 2021 and 01 December 2021 (Martin/Hopkins). Motion CARRIED 9-0-1, with Selectman Guessferd abstaining.

G. Reports from Liaisons

Selectman Guessferd provided an update on the search for a new Town IT Director, and discussed that the Town is working on a plan to implement the American Rescue Plan funds.

School Board Liaison Diana LaMothe informed the Committee that there is an ongoing search for a new school Superintendent. The SAU is seeking input from the public and other stakeholders. There is a survey on the SAU81 website and Facebook page until 17 December 2021.

H. Budget Discussion

Town Administrator Steve Malizia and representatives from town departments were present and provided an overview of the budgets for Assessing, Trustees of the Trust Fund, Cemetery Trustees, Treasurer, Sustainability Committee, Benson Committee, Budget Committee, Ethics Committee, Police, and Recreation.

MOTION: Reduce 5110-119 (Board of Selectmen Salaries and Benefits) by \$17,224 (to \$0). Murray/Martin.

MOTION: Amend to change the amount of reduction in the Main Motion to \$10,765 (to new budgeted lines totaling \$6,459) to include FICA. Murray/Clegg. Motion CARRIED 6-2-2 (Leary, LaMothe opposed; Guessferd, Weissgarber abstained).

Main motion CARRIED 5-3-2 (LaMothe, Hopkins, Leary opposed; Guessferd, Weissgarber abstained)

MOTION: Increase 5671-320 (Police, Ammunition) to \$32,300 (Martin/Murray) Motion CARRIED 10-0-0.

MOTION: Increase 5070-4199 by \$7,000 for part-time minutes clerk. (Murray/LaMothe). Motion WITHDRAWN after discussion.

MOTION: Reduce 5835-104 by \$28,213 (Part-time Recreation salaries). Motion FAILED 5-5-0 (Leary, Murray, LaMothe, Guessferd, Weissgarber opposed).

I. Other Business/Comments

The floor was opened to the members for additional comments.

Mr. Clegg stated purposefully for the record his belief the liaisons should not have been allowed to vote and the vote counted in a manner that creates an opposing position from the elected board members.

J. Adjournment

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting (Martin/Leary). CARRIED 10-0-0.

The Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Prepared by: Ted Trost

ATTACHMENT 1

Chairman's Statement Read at Hudson Municipal Budget Committee Meeting, 15 December 2021

Before we begin the public input portion of the agenda, I am making a brief statement as the Chairman in regards to RSA 32 and the currently adopted Hudson NH budget committee bylaws:

- After review of RSA 32, Municipal Budget Law, I find no language in that specific RSA that describes the budget committee being empowered to have discussions or debate in a negative way related to any person's public or private service as an elected or appointed committee or board member, Town or School employee and especially as a resident. The budget committee will not be leveraged in any way as a means to demean, discredit or bad-mouth anyone and committee members must adhere to RSA 32 in full as it relates to the budget committees intended purpose.
- Any future negative comments made by any budget committee member will be immediately addressed by the Chair and managed under Section VII, Conduct of Meetings, within the currently adopted bylaws.
- If a committee member does not comply with the Chair's out of order request to stop their unruly behavior after two attempts, the meeting will be adjourned by the Chairman or the member will be directed to immediately leave the meeting