

Town of Hudson Budget Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Meeting

A. Call to Order

Chairman Lawrence called the meeting to order in the BOS Conference Room at Town Hall at 7:00PM and declared a quorum was present.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Lawrence led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Attendance

Members Present: Donna Boucher, Randall Brownrigg, Shawn Jasper, James Lawrence, Kimberly Rice, Kevin Walsh, Richard Weissgarber, Selectman (BOS) Liaison Heidi Jakoby (arrived at 7:03), School Board Liaison Grace Kennedy

Excused: Robert Wherry

School District SAU Staff/Others Present:

Superintendent Dr. Daniel Moulis, Assistant Superintendent Jessica Benson, Director of Special Services Rachel Borge, Elementary Building Principals (ELC) Mary-Ellen Labrie, Theo Tufts (Hills Garrison), Scott Baker (Nottingham West)

(0:02) D. Public Input

Chairman Lawrence opened Public Input at 7:03PM.

Craig Powers, 31 Cedar St, Hudson, came to the table with questions regarding the budget details, referring to the information he submitted to the committee and administration. He expressed interest in returning to the next meeting in deference to the agenda for the nights' meeting, using regular process order to review his concerns and coordinating with HCTV to potentially include his presentation for viewing should the need arise.

With no other citizen coming forward, the Chairman declared Public Input closed at 7:03PM.

Chairman Lawrence then requested review of the minutes be moved to the end of the meeting to allow the meeting to proceed to New Business, waiving items F: Nominations; G: Reports, H: Old Business and proceeded to move to New Business.

(0:03) I. New Business

Hudson School Board: Proposed FY 26 School Budget.

Chairman Lawrence recognized and invited Superintendent Moulis to the table. Superintendent Moulis referenced handouts addressing previous committee questions and requests, an overview of NH's Special Education Aid Reimbursement Formula, FY2026 Adequate Education Aid (How the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education is determined) and Course Offerings/Student Enrollment at Alvirne High School. The Superintendent noted all Elementary School Principals were in attendance and stated that Dr. HO Smith (ELC) Principal Mary-Ellen Labrie would present the consolidated Elementary Schools budget. Principal Labrie joined the table and proceeded with the review of the budget for the Elementary Schools, including new positions, increases in various accounts and respond to questions from committee members. Several comments noted anomalies in salary and benefit line items (objects 100 - 232), for example LTD and Dental benefits, and the Superintendent responded that there will be a need to review with Finance and could require the committee to make the necessary corrections given the budget as presented by the School Board is now in the hands of the Budget Committee. IT was noted that a requests for six (6) classroom assistants for Grade One was cut by the School Board and questioned by the committee regarding this need given similar positioned existed at the Kindergarten and Elementary Schools, but not at Dr. HO Smith; total cost \$115,207 for those positions not considered going forward by the School Board. Principals Tufts and Baker joined the table to discuss the committee's question regarding the request for part-time math and reading interventionists at their schools. Question from the committee regarding how to assess impact of interventionists, as well as

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the decision for upgrading the Librarian Assistant to Librarian status and expected impact on students. With no further questions, Principal Labrie left the table.

(1:03) Director of Service Borge joined the table to review the Special Education budget and respond to questions from the committee. Director Borge proceeded with the review of the budget, explaining the process and timing for receiving the Special Education Aid from the state, noting the excess to plan received for FY25 as the projection was conservative. None-the-less, this aid represents aid for funds already expended by the school district to provide services to students. Director Borge spent time review Medicaid reimbursement, IDEA funds, Out of District student tuition and transportation, Homeless transportation (NOTE: provide spending history to justify the \$140,000 budget request), Charter School Services. including new positions, increases in various accounts and respond to questions from committee members. With no further questions, Director Borge left the table.

Questions to the Superintendent from the committee regarding the estimated Tax Rate impact for the Budget and Default Budget, timing to finalize the Default Budget, and Legal expense breakdown, recurring versus non-recurring expense and copier leases. The Superintendent will review and update the committee.

(2:00) H: Old Business

None.

E. Acceptance of Minutes

Chairman Lawrence recognized Clerk Walsh who noted minutes for the December 4 and December 5 meetings were available for review and acceptance. Mr. Jasper move to accept the minutes as presented with Mr. Brownrigg seconding. Chairman Lawrence asked for any comments and seeing none called the vote and passed unanimously.

J: Other Business/Comments

General comments by committee members on the presentations and reminders of the Public Hearing, Deliberative Sessions and Town Voting/Elections dates. Ms. Jakoby noted the hiring of Roy Sorenson as the new Town Administrator with a start date of February 10, 2025, noting Steve Malizia will remain in the position through the Town Deliberative Session.

K. Next Meeting – December 19, 2024 in the Buxton Conference Room

(2:50) L. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Rice, seconded by Mr. Brownrigg. Motion carried on a voice vote. Chairman Lawrence declared the meeting adjourned at 9:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Walsh

Clerk

Reference Hudson Community Television video [Budget Committee Meeting of 12-11-24](#)