

TOWN OF HUDSON
Municipal Budget Committee Public Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Meeting date: 1 Apr 2026 in Buxton Room at Town Hall

A. Call to order: By Chairman Lawrence at 1900.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Shawn Jasper

C. Attendance: All Present- Donna Boucher, Randy Brownrigg, Bill Cole, Robert Everett, Shawn Jasper, James Lawrence, Kim Rice, Kevin Walsh, and Robert Wherry. School Board Liaison: Dan Kilgour, Board of Selectmen Liaison: Xen Vurgaropolous

D. Public Input: Nominations/ Elections: Chairman/ Vice Chairman/ Clerk results- James Lawrence as Chairman
Kim Rice as Vice Chairman
Donna Boucher as Clerk

Motion by Member Jasper to readopt Robert's Rules as the method of governance. Seconded by Liasion Vurgaropulos. All in favor. Motion carried.

No citizens came forward to provide Public Input.

E. Reports:

School Board Liaison- Dan Kilgour presented a summary regarding key topics from the most recent school board meeting and provided a copy of the Financial Statement dated 28 Feb 26 for review.

- Request for information from committee member related to recent Reduction in Force (RIF) at Alvirne High School's Veterinary Technician program.
- Inquiry for detail related to a \$400,000 transfer of funds from appropriations to support a food service shortfall.

Selectboard Liaison- Xen Vurgaropoulos reported that the Selectboard deferred its reorganization until the next meeting.

- Request for and discussion of the status for the disbursement of grants received by the school district to use for personnel compensation.
- Request for the availability of the Town and School District single audits that are necessary for expenditures of greater than \$1 million in Federal grant funding.

F. Old Business:

- Discussion regarding the proposed date for the Town and School District budget proposal submissions for FY 28 budget cycle.

Motion by Member Jasper to request that the Town and School District respond to the Budget Committee's request to receive their proposed budgets for FY 28 by 5 Oct 26. Seconded by Vice Chair Rice. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Comment provided about the possible need of the Budget Committee to author the FY 28 budget without conferring with the governing bodies.
- Request for school board to ensure that new software is tested prior to the production of the FY 28 budget information.
- Follow up inquiry regarding the status for closing out the school district's FY 25 encumbrances.

G. New business:

- Review of Plodzik & Sanders Audit-deferred to 6 May 26 meeting.
- Request for updated status of funds regarding the Target exaction elements.

H. Other Business/ Comments:

Member Cole: commented with ensuing discussion for the role of the Budget Committee as it relates to default budget planning and HB 1575.

Motion by Member Cole for the Budget Committee to establish a subcommittee entitled Default Budget, to examine the parameters for Hudson's Town and School district default budgets. Second by Member Jasper. All in favor. Motion carried.

Members Jasper (Chairman), Everett, and Brownrigg will serve as the Default Budget Subcommittee.

Member Everett: Thanked everyone for the warm welcome, and stated that he will be unavailable for meetings in July due to a work commitment.

Liaison Kilgour: Welcomed Mr. Everett to the Budget Committee.

Member Walsh: Reported that Hudson had the lowest voter turn out since 2017 and that there was strong interest from those voters for the school district's default budget to be calculated by the Budget Committee. Furnished information about a NHMA one hour online training opportunity, free to Town board and committee members, on 15 Apr 26 at 1200; called The ABC's of Tax/Budget Caps. Provided legislative updates for HB 1121 and HB 1815 regarding the state's funding of an adequate education, including that HB 1815 was signed into law.

Member Wherry: Highlighted HB 1300 and its premise that it is believed that if a larger voter body appears in November elections, then more voters could weigh in. The Secretary of State's Office would add to the official general election ballot a question asking voters whether the town, city, school district, or country should limit taxes. Once installed, the tax cap would be in place for two years.

Member Jasper: Respectfully opposed Mr. Walsh's stance on state funding of an adequate education by citing the Claremont decisions (1993, 1997) and the court's interpretation of the "cherish clause" in the NH Constitution as a binding legal duty of the State to fund the cost of an adequate education. Argued that HB 1815 will simply reallocate funds. Shared interesting historical facts regarding the Hudson Budget Committee in the 1930's.

Member Brownrigg: Welcomed Mr. Everett. Congratulated Mr. Jasper as Chair for the Default Budget Subcommittee. Requested information from the Town for the revenue obtained from Residential and Business taxes levied.

Vice Chair Rice: Thanked the committee for re-election to the Vice Chairperson position, and welcomed Mr. Everett.

Chair Lawrence: Welcomed Mr.Everett, and thanked the committee members for their commitment to create a more positive impact on the town.

I. Next Meeting: Wednesday, 6 May 26

J. Adjournment: *Motion by Vice Chair Rice to adjourn at 2028. Seconded by Member Brownrigg . All in favor. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Boucher, Clerk