

## *Town Of Hollis Budget Committee*

Hollis Budget Committee

October 1, 2012

**Corrected draft October 9, 2012**

The Hollis Budget Committee Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Len Van Gaasbeek Jr. at 7pm on October 1, 2012 in the Community Building Hollis, Maine.

Members present were Len Van Gaasbeek Jr, Len Van Gaasbeek III, Bill Burns, Jonathan Waugh, and Martha Huff. Absent members Ericka Murray & Winifred Williams. No public or Selectmen were in attendance.

A quorum was determined to be present. Secretary Shelley Pelkey was not present. Len asked Martha to take notes.

The chairman reviewed the Budget Committee Ordinance noting the following; that if any member misses 3 consecutive meetings then they may be replaced and the chairman may serve only one year of a three year term. Chairman must maintain order at all times. 4 members are needed to conduct business. And votes are carried by a simple majority. Chairman may not vote except in the case of tie.

The budget committee ordinance was voted in 2002. And ordinance changes voted in 2010 and 2011. The budget committee may suggest items for changes for next year

Item B section 3. Chair 1 of 3 years. Limits someone with experience from serving. The BC may want to review changes at a future workshop. Testimony section 5: BC members “may not give or offer testimony- declarations.” Concerning before the committee. Len III stated that we should phrase all input, in the form of questions. A discussion was held that this is difficult, if elected are we not expected to offer and state our opinions on budgets.

#E. spouses- conflicts of interests. Bill Burns states that state law – states no one may supervise any one that is 7 degrees of relationship. Martha Huff stated in a small town like this, if we went back 7 degrees she would be related to every single person in town. Bill said they are penalties for not following the rules. It was decided we may want to ask for a future definition clarification for the word “relative. “

Bill Burns would like to see in the line item budget allocations of money – where money that is not spent in the current year be added back into that budget. It is currently added as Surplus or a reserve fund. Pet peeve is the recreation department view of audit fee of participating pay 50 % should remain in the line item. His opinion is folks who pay for the service should fund the service. The money should remain in that budget and not raised (by taxes) only \$50,000 for example instead of the \$100,000. The building department raises fees. Payments are made and go into the general fund. Acting Chairman Len

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explained that the warrant has an article which covers the anticipated fees raised by those accounts. Martha : added that is it the current accounting practice that projected revenues are added in with all the voted on expenditures from town meeting to set the tax rate. Bill Burns feels the people using the department should be the ones paying for the issue. Jonathan Waugh stated we should heed their reserve. We believe Y- therefore we raise z. Budget committee must go over there projections carefully. Martha Huff said if this money was used that year to fund that particular account. It would increase the tax rate. Bill Burns stated that snowplowing in the audit was carryforwarded and that should be done every year. Instead of that money being returned to the general fund. The chairman Len Vangassbeek reminded the committee that the Snow Account and Welfare account both may be legally overdrawn. Bill Burns (list) Changes – we would like to investigate. Martha Huff: the Selectman has the authority to carry forward any accounts they wish.

Discussions about Budget Committee requests.

Bill do we send out notices? Do We receive the requests? Do we take a hard nose approach?

Jonathan Waugh. Town Hall is not forgiving if we are late with our taxes. So how can we give them (requesters) money if they are late getting in budgets?

Have you legitimately given them any formal notice? No

Selectmen receive the budgets.

Budget committee only gives recommendation.

The town's people vote on warrant articles.

The selectmen set the tax rate.

The Budget Committee does not set budgets

Bill Burns- Article 9 from last year's warrant. Why are we funding charities? Len Vangaasbeek, because these are people, groups we use. The town's people get something out of it and it would cost much more to be funded by the town alone.

In January, We begin to meet. April the Warrant articles are due for public hearings.

Bill Burns- Income levels in Hollis and in the County have been going down. Bill is the representative on the York County Budget Committee. Should we be requesting zero base line budgets?

Budgets requests for 2013-2014 will be due Friday. January 11, 2013. Vote 3 yes. 1 no.

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### **Election of Officers.**

Leonard Van Gassbeek, Jr. Chairman nominated by Martha Huff, 2nd by Len Vangaasbeek III  
4 voted in favor. 0 no

Martha Huff Vice Chair. Nominated by Bill Burns. 2<sup>nd</sup> Len Vangaasbeek III,  
4 voted in favor. 0 no

Jonathan Waugh, Secretary. Nominated by Len Vangaasbeek Jr, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Len Vangaasbeek III,  
4 voted in favor. 0 no

Bill Burns would like to get the public out to the meetings, if effects every family in town. Why do people not attend meetings? Both working 6 days a week. In 2004. Bill, a meeting affected people in town and they showed up. Helpful during the process. Public is welcome to attend Budget Committee and will be given a time to speak about Budget Committee issues.

The Budget Committee would like to request the Selectmen to set the salaries for town employees' like they did last year and present them to the Budget Committee on Monday, November 12 at 7pm at the next meeting of the Hollis Budget Committee. Veteran's day is Nov 11<sup>th</sup>.

Budget requests are due in Friday, January 11, 2013.

The January meetings of the Hollis Budget Committee will begin January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm; we will not meet Jan 21st as that is Martin Luther King Day and meet again in January 28<sup>th</sup>,

Bill Burns made the motion to close the meeting at 8:25 pm. Approved 4 yes, 0-no.