



Minutes of Budget Committee Meeting 6 March 2017

Call to Order: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chair Win Williams.

Roll Call: Win Williams, Chair; James Dyer, Vice Chair; Rita Anderson; Len VanGaasbeek Jr.; Lenny VanGaasbeek III; Jack Rogala; Meg Gardner; Martha Turner, Sec.; Mike Seeley, Select Board.

Review of Minutes: Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of 27 February 2017. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Correspondence: Memo from the Select Board to Win Williams, Chair, regarding the Town Clerk's concerns about the accuracy of minutes from Budget Committee meetings on 6 September 2016 and 23 January 2017. A copy of this memo and the response will be attached to tonight's minutes.

Mr. Williams stated that the Budget Committee members are well aware that this is an advisory committee, not a finance committee. He stated that he misspoke when he referred to the Budget Committee as a Finance Committee at the workshop meeting on 23 January 2017. Motion was made to remove the phrase "functioning as the Finance Committee" from the minutes of 23 January 2017. The motion was seconded and discussed. The motion carried 6-0-1. The minutes from 23 January 2017 will be so amended.

Len emphasized that all Budget Committee meetings are open to the public, and any Hollis resident may have the opportunity to speak. He noted that such testimony then becomes part of the official record of that meeting. He made a motion to make no further changes to the Budget Committee minutes for either of the two meetings in question. The motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 6-0-1.

Mr. Dyer stated that the Town of Hollis voted ten years ago to establish a Finance Committee, separate from the Budget Committee. He noted that since that time the Select Board has not moved forward with this task.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

0900 Health & Sanitation/Solid Waste Disposal. Mr. Seely presented a revised **draft** budget request for 0900. He explained that since the date the Committee voted to approve this budget, the Select Board has received and accepted a bid for 17-18 which slightly exceeds the amount previously approved.

Mrs. Anderson asked Mr. Seely why the Town no longer holds bulky waste days. Mr. Seely explained that the bulky days were established during a period when Hollis residents did not have access to any other disposal option. The Town now has an agreement with Waterboro to allow any Hollis residents to dispose of bulky items at the Waterboro transfer station after they have purchased a permit at the Hollis Town Hall. A disposal fee may be required for certain items.

Mrs. Anderson asked what has become of the \$5000 approved last year for bulky days. Mr. Seely replied that this will go back into the General Fund, and he has removed this item from the 17-18 budget request.

Motion was made and seconded to approve \$240,200 for 0900 as requested. The motion carried 7-0-0.



BUDGET COMMITTEE

TOWN OF HOLLIS

34 TOWN FARM ROAD

929-8552

Non-municipal Budget Requests

Mr. Dyer noted the absence of requests from: 2300 Visiting Nurse Service, 2306 Day One, 2310 Cub Scouts, 2319 York County Food Rescue, 2321 Saco River Theatre, and 2322 Sexual Assault Response Services.

Lenny stated that the criterion generally used is: what is the benefit to the Town of Hollis? How many residents benefit from each of these services? For example Visiting Nurses definitely provide a vital service to Hollis residents. Len asked for more information about the four Girl Scout troops asking for funding for the first time. Mr. Seely discussed the numbers of girls and the types of community projects involved.

In response to questions regarding LaDawn Therapeutic Riding Center, Mrs. Turner described some of the various services offered, and explained that three Hollis residents have been receiving therapy at this stable and the funds requested will be partial payment for the services these three students have been receiving.

Mr. Dyer moved to approve \$21,006 for non-municipal requests. This amount will include funding for the six that did not submit requests this year, equal to the amounts approved for each of the following in the previous year:

2300	Visiting Nurse Service	\$1,850
2306	Day One, Inc.	\$ 500
2310	Cub Scouts	\$ 700
2329	York Cty. Food Rescue	\$ 800
2321	Saco River Theatre	\$ 200
2322	Sexual Assault Resp.	\$1,000

Review of Draft Warrant Articles

Mr. Seely emphasized that this document is only a draft. Mr. Williams reminded the Committee that this meeting will only address those proposed articles which have dollar figures attached. The rest of the articles will be addressed at the Select Board's public hearing. He suggested that any items that might affect the tax rate should be reviewed by the Committee, and either "Recommended" or "Not Recommended."

The first two articles discussed tonight asked if the town shall authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$500,000 "to fund and meet unanticipated expenses and/or emergencies that may occur, with the unanimous vote of the Select Board and approval of the Budget Committee per occurrence." There are two separate articles with this amount, one to be spent from the Undesignated Funds, and the second to be spent from TIF funds. Mr. Seely noted that in last year's budget only \$100,000 was set aside, and this has all been spent on renovating the Community Building.

Mr. Dyer asked if the Select Board would call a special meeting of the Budget Committee if such an emergency should arise, and Mr. Seely replied in the affirmative.

Motion was made and seconded to recommend the article asking for \$500,000 from Undesignated Funds. Motion carried 6-1-0.

Motion was made and seconded to recommend the article asking for \$500,000 from the TIF. Motion carried 7-0-0.



BUDGET COMMITTEE

TOWN OF HOLLIS

34 TOWN FARM ROAD

929-8552

Mr. Dyer suggested separating the two library requests into two separate articles, instead of asking voters to vote on them together. Mr. Williams noted that several years ago the town ran a survey in the Smart Shopper asking residents about having one or two libraries, and a large majority voted in favor of two libraries. Ms. Gardner stated that the two libraries are run differently, and each has a different focus. She noted that one has a large video collection, and the other has a larger audio book collection. This year the combined article will continue to be offered. Although neither library is large enough to contain the combined libraries, a new combined library might be considered by the Long Term Planning Committee or the New Municipal Complex Committee.

Next article to be considered: "Shall the Town increase the property tax limit established for the Town by State Law, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles results in a tax commitment that is greater than this property tax limit?" Motion was made to recommend this article. Motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Next article to be considered: "Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to annually pay employee health and dental insurance for all elected/appointed employees hired to work 20 hours or more in a regular pay period at the annual rate set by the MMA insurance program?" Mr. Seely explained that the Select Board wrote this article in response to a request from the Budget Committee. He noted that if residents do not vote in favor of this motion, these benefits would stop. Motion was made to remove this article from the warrant. Motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

The next article to be discussed seeks approval for an additional \$8,000 from undesignated funds, to be used for repairs of the exterior of the Town Barn. Motion was made to recommend this article. Motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

Next article: "Shall the Town authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$450,000 from the Undesignated Fund Balance for Phase 2 renovation of the Hollis Community/Recreation Building?" The Chair of the Community Building Committee, John Paul Rondeau, addressed the Budget Committee about the ongoing renovation project. He stated that Phase 1 is wrapping up, and all previously authorized funds have been spent. He explained that Phase 2 will include several projects, the largest of which will be fire protection (alarms and sprinklers) for both levels, and ADA accessibility for both levels. Motion was made and seconded to recommend the requested \$450,000. Motion carried 6-1-0.

Next article: "Shall the Town vote to adopt the Citizen's Initiative titled "Shall the Town vote to authorized the Select Board to spend up to \$65,0090 of funds from the Undesignated Fund Account, which will not affect the tax levied funding, to fund the transition form of government to a 5 member Select Board – Town Administrator Government?" Mr. Seely explained that this article was submitted by a Hollis resident who obtained enough signatures to get it to appear on the warrant. He also pointed out that passage of the article will not affect the tax rate.

Mrs. Anderson noted that both the Select Board and the Budget Committee have the option to recommend or not recommend this article, and the voters should have the right to vote on it.

Motion was made and seconded to recommend this article. Motion carried 5-2-0. Mr. Williams emphasized that this vote should not be construed as the Budget Committee's approval of the proposed change in the form of government; the vote only approves the right of the Town of Hollis residents to vote on it.



BUDGET COMMITTEE

TOWN OF HOLLIS

34 TOWN FARM ROAD

929-8552

Next article: "Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$45,000 from the Undesignated Funds to perform surveys on potential land sites, further development, scope and design for a New Town Complex?" Mr. Seely noted that this will not affect the tax rate. He explained that the Select Board has identified five potential sites that might be appropriate, and has passed this information along to John Sheahan, Chair of the New Municipal Complex Committee. These sites will be surveyed to determine if any might be suitable.

Moved and seconded to recommend this article. Motion carried 5-2-0.

Next article: "Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$6,000 from the Undesignated Funds to replace/repair the HOLLIS Town signs at the various roads entering the Town?" Motion was made to recommend this article. Motion was seconded and discussed. Motion carried 7-0-0.

The final article to be reviewed tonight concerned the authorization of funds to enter into a three-year contract with the York County Sheriff's Office for a dedicated Contract Deputy for the Town of Hollis. Mr. Dyer pointed out that this article was on the warrant last year, and the voters turned it down. Motion was made and seconded to "Not Recommend" this article. Motion carried 7-0-0. The Budget Committee does not recommend this article.

Review of Budget Committee Bylaws will be postponed. Motion was made and seconded to schedule one more meeting for 13 March 2017 at 6:00, to include discussion of the bylaws. Motion carried 7-0-1. Mr. Seely thanked the Committee for their cooperation in this year's budget review process.

Next Meeting: Monday 13 March 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Community Building.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Martha Turner, Secretary
Approved as amended 13 March 2017