

# Town of Hudson Budget Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

## Minutes of the November 21, 2024 Meeting

### **A. Call to Order**

Chairman Lawrence called the meeting to order in the Buxton 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, Robert Wherry, Selectman (BOS) Liaison Heidi Jakoby, School Board Liaison Grace Kennedy

**Excused:** Richard Weissgarber

### **Town Staff/Others Present:**

Town Administrator Steve Malizia, Fire Chief Tice, Selectman Dave Morin, Town Engineer Elvis Dhima, Town Accountant Beth McKee

### **(0:02) D. Public Input**

Chairman Lawrence opened Public Input at 7:03PM. With no citizen present for input, declared Public Input closed at 7:03PM.

### **E. Acceptance of Minutes**

Chairman Rice recognized Clerk Walsh who noted minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting available for review and acceptance. Mr. Jasper moved and Mr. Wherry seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2024 meeting as presented. No discussion, Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairman Lawrence waived items F: Nominations; G: Reports, H: Old Business and proceeded to move to New Business.

### **(0:02) I. New Business**

Hudson Board of Selectmen: Proposed FY 26 Town Budget Wrap-up.

Chairman Lawrence then recognized Town Administrator Mr. Malizia to review the Proposed Town Budget and proceeded to address the November 20, 2024 memorandum regarding Fire Department Suppression Overtime Account 5730-105. The proposed amount in the budget took into consideration the current vacancies, resulting in a higher than anticipated budget amount. As such Mr. Malizia noted the adjusted amount should be \$970,925, a reduction from the proposed budget of \$1,230,458, resulting in a reduction of \$259,533. Mr. Malizia then recommended the Committee consider a motion to reduce the account accordingly. Ms. Jakoby motioned and Mr. Jasper seconded the motion to amend the line item as noted. Chairman Lawrence commended Chief Tice in reviewing the budget and coming forward with the recommendation to reduce the Overtime account. Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Malizia then recommended the Committee consider a motion to reduce the Fire Suppression FICA Account 5730-108 from \$72,748 to \$68,985, a reduction of \$3,763. Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Jakoby motioned and Vic chair Rice seconded the motion to amend the line item as noted. Mr. Malizia then recommended the Committee consider a motion to reduce the Fire Suppression Retirement Account 5730-114 from \$1,445,249 to \$1,369,595, a reduction of \$75,654. Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Jakoby motioned and Mr. Jasper seconded the motion to amend the line item as noted. Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Malizia noted for the record the those reductions totaled \$338,950.

**(0:08)** Mr. Malizia then referenced documentation regarding the IT budget Software Subscriptions and Budget



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Summary document which reflected the budget as it stands prior to tonight's Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Malizia then noted the discussion/recommendation of the Board of Selectmen to add \$13,200 to the Moderator's budget to add the purchase of two (2) Poll Pads. Mr. Wherry stated it would be better to delay the purchase until the next budget cycle given the Town only had the Town Election in the 2025 budget cycle, when 2026 would see the additional 2026 mid-term elections. Mr. Brownrigg concurred. Mr. Malizia noted that given the reduced Moderator's budget, given only 1 election, it would be better to absorb the \$13,200 now, rather than in 2026 given the number of elections to be held would necessitate a higher budget in 2026. Mr. Jasper expressed it prudent to purchase now, perhaps delaying the actual purchase until the end of the fiscal year and encumbering into 2026. Mr. Malizia noted a motion to amend the Moderator's Budget Line Item 5041-340 Small Operating Materials from \$2,000 to \$15,200, an increase of \$13,200 to purchase two (2) additional Poll Pads. Mr. Jasper so motioned and Ms. Jakoby seconded. After discussion, Chairman Lawrence called for a voice vote and could not determine the outcome. A roll call vote resulted in defeating the motion with Mr. Wherry, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Brownrigg, Ms. Rice voting in the negative and Ms. Kennedy abstaining.

With no further discussion on the General Operating Budget, Mr. Malizia noted the new recommended budget totaled \$38,797,101. Mr. Jasper mentioned reviewing the Revenue, which could be discussed upon motioned for the General Operating Budget, Water and Sewer Budgets.

Motion made by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Mr. Brownrigg to recommend the General Operating Budget in the amount of \$38,791,101. After discussion, Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Malizia then recommenced a motion to approve the Sewer Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,457,392. Motion to that effect made by Ms. Jakoby and seconded by Vice Chair Rice. Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Malizia then recommenced a motion to approve the Water Fund Budget in the amount of \$3,974,199. Motion to that effect made by Ms. Jakoby and seconded by Mr. Brownrigg. Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Malizia then directed the Committee to the Revenue Detail pages. He expressed the conservative nature of the projected revenue. Mr. Jasper looked at the Meals and Rentals Tax (GF#4841) and surmised that \$2,200,000 would be a more reasonable number and made a motion to amend GR#4841 from \$1,793,865 to \$2,200,000., an increase of \$406,135. Motion seconded by Mr. Wherry. Mr. Walsh noted the history of the amount of funds sent back to the towns did not approach the legislated rate of 40% and hoped that the legislature would work to make that a reality going forward. Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Malizia then noted a motion to recommend the Revenue Budget in the amount of \$19,349,318. Motion by Mr. Jasper, seconded by Vice Chair Rice. Chairman Lawrence called for a vote and passed on a voice vote.

**(0:28)** Mr. Malizia then directed the Committee to the Warrant Articles currently proposed by the Board of Selectmen with the exception of collective bargaining agreements currently being negotiated. He noted there are no Petition Warrant Articles at this point in time, but citizens have until the January deadline to submit to the Board of Selectmen.

NOTE: Mr. Wherry departed the meeting at 7:30PM.

Vice Chair Rice inquired about the Lowell Road – Birch Street Improvement article and how long the project would take and Mr. Malizia noted the Town Engineer is working with the State and could go until 2030.

Chairman Lawrence noted Fire Chief Tice in the audience and invited him to join Mr. Malizia at the table to



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discuss Warrant Articles D-Hire 4 Firefighter AEMT's for Central Street Station, to handle more and multiple call situations, G-Mosquito Control Program – re-introducing a program that was in the budget previously and eliminated due to level-funding and in light of recurring mosquito-borne illness and disease, K- Fire Apparatus, Repair/Refurbish Capital Reserve Fund to continue funding the plan to repair and refurbish equipment and vehicles. General discussion followed and encouraged the Chief to provide more information in support of the articles, especially around data of service calls and multiple simultaneous call history.

On a side bar note, Chairman Lawrence recognized Clerk Walsh for a question regarding the status of the Public Safety Exaction in the amount of \$1,050,000 associated with the Logistics Center. Chief Tice responded that they were getting closer to that request as well as the Inspectional Services request and Planning Department, all necessary prior to the issuance of the Building Permit for the main building. The Chief estimated that would take place within the next few weeks or within a month's time.

Article E – Lowell Road/Birch Street Improvements and the time frame for this work to occur, and the work on the west side of Lowell Road which is private property and will occur by ownership.

Article F - Robinson Pond Improvements for a boat launch and improvements to the beach area for recreational and boating purposes. Concept is to help improve water quality and usage of the area at the cost of \$500,000. Selectman Morin commented regarding the NH DES MS4 for the Town and intent to improve water quality of the Pond and plan for limiting access to town/public to the beach area.

Article H – Property Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (CRF)

Article I – VacCon Truck CRF – split between Town and Sewer Fund

Article J – Drainage CRF

Article N – Establish a DPW Repair/Refurb CRF

Article O – Benson Park CRF

Article P – Public Works Dump Truck(s) Replacement – discussion included recommendation that the details of the lease/purchase agreement be included in the article's language.

Chairman Lawrence thanked Mr. Malizia for his time.

### **(1:14) H: Old Business**

None presented.

### **J: Other Business/Comments**

General comments regarding the process the Committee went through and looking forward to reviewing the School District budget and best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

### **K. Next Meeting – December 4, 2024 in the Buxton Conference Room**

### **(1:20) L. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Vice Chair Rice, seconded by Mr. Brownrigg Motion carried on a voice vote. Chairman Lawrence declared the meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Walsh

Clerk

Reference Hudson Community Television video [Budget Committee Meeting of 11-21-24](#)