**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Minutes**

**May 12, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Bill Keating, Steve Londrigan, Emily Reschberger, John Skidmore,

Jorge Mesa-Tejada

**ABSENT**: N/A

**VISITORS:** Penny Williams, Tri-Town Times; Priscilla Lindquist, Liaison to Selectmen

1. **Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order by Jorge Mesa-Tejada at 7:00pm in the Selectmen’s Office, Hampstead Town Hall. John Skidmore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting on 14 April 2016**

Motion by Steve Londrigan to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by John Skidmore. Emily Reschberger will adjust the footer formatting.

 **VOTE: YES: 5 NO: 0 Abstain: 0.**

**3. Discussion of Public Kindergarten**

 Jorge Mesa-Tejada passed out the following handouts regarding public kindergarten:

 Municipal Summary of Adequacy Aid, revised March 14, 2016;

 House Bill 1563-FN-Local introduced in the 2016 Session, 1/6/16;

 Copy of the Bill Status, HB 1563, status date 1/13/16

 Copy of the FY2017 Estimated Adequate Education Aid

 Copy of the 2005 Hampstead Town Warrant Article 5

 Public Kindergarten was discussed at the May 10, 2016 School Board Meeting. Changes to the program in Hampstead were approved: There will be two part-time classes and three full-time kindergarten classes offered beginning in the fall of 2016. This is a shift from the current configuration of three part-time classes and two full-time classes. The additional tuition cost, from part-time to full-time classes, will be funded by parents of participants. Jorge Mesa-Tejada reviewed the handouts, pointing out that HB 1563, which calls for funding full-day kindergarten state wide, was deemed inexpedient to legislate. Jorge Mesa-
Tejada questioned the need for the Central School proposed addition of four new kindergarten classrooms with bathrooms, when we already have four. Steve Londrigan noted that salaries and benefits are only part of the cost which comes in to play with the switch to three full-time classes and two part-time classes; wear and tear and need to expand have to be considered now that Hampstead is offering more services. Emily Reschberger also stated she has questions regarding the kindergarten program that were unanswered after watching the presentation by the principal. As liaison to the School Board, Emily Reschberger offered to be the point person to ask questions of the School Board. Committee members can forward to her questions they may have regarding the kindergarten program, so that the School Board and administration can have an opportunity to respond.

**4. Discussion: HSPA Contracts**

 Jorge Mesa-Tejada suggested that committee members review the previous HSPA contract line by line and section by section with the current contract. Contracts compared were dated July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2013 and July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2017. Each article was addressed. Articles I – VI, no changes were made. Article VII is titled Work Year and Work Week, covering lunch periods, vacations and overtime. No changes in Articles VIII, IX, X, XI. Article XII is titled Work Duties and Compensation; under section 12.2 the rates and steps for custodial, maintenance and cafeteria workers are delineated. Those rate tables reflect the negotiated rates in each contract. Jorge Mesa-Tejada asked Bill Keating to look at the changes in rates and evaluate the percent changes, contract-to-contract. Bill Keating agreed. Article XIII is titled Insurance. There will likely be adjustments to insurance coverage, as the Affordable Care Act is implemented. No changes in Articles XIV and XV. Jorge Mesa-Tejada noted that RSA 2734 is no longer in effect, the so-called “evergreen clause.” Contracts end on the date of expiration.

 Appendix A deals with Hourly Increases, Shift Differential, Hourly Stipends, Annual Stipends and Longevity Stipends. No changes were made between the two contracts compared. Bill Keating had questions regarding the stipends. Hourly stipends differentiate the different groups of workers. Seniority triggers stipends.

 Members became familiar with the different articles and sections of the HSPA contracts as a basis of comparison. It is anticipated that a new proposed HSPA contract will appear on the 2017 School Warrant.

**5. Members comments**

Jorge: No comments

Emily: She repeated the offer to the be the point person to collect questions and contact the School Board when questions arise.

 John: No comments

 Steve: No comments

Bill: He offered to fill the liaison positions to the Conservation Committee and Planning Board. He will look at their year-end expenditures.

**6. Next meeting agenda items**

* Review current HASS contracts. The Committee will go through the contracts section by section.
* Jorge Mesa-Tejada asked if members wanted to question the action taken by the School Board to remove the Budget Committee’s recommendations from the School Warrant. Should the committee question who was behind the effort and on what basis the recommendation was made by the School District lawyers. Bill Keating said he was interested in what was given to the lawyers and what did they use to base their opinions on. Steve Londrigan stated the Town does value the input of the Budget Committee. After some discussion, Jorge Mesa-Tejada said he will draft a letter requesting an explanation of the actions. This draft will be brought to the next Budget Committee meeting for discussion.

1. **Schedule next meeting date**

 Budget Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on June 9, 2016.

1. **Visitors Comments**

None

1. **Adjournment**

On motion by Bill Keating, seconded by John Skidmore, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily D. Reschberger