

**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
HOOKSETT MUNICIPAL OFFICES  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
35 Main Street  
Thursday, February 28, 2013  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

M. Miville called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

M. Miville, S. Peterson, N. Haas, T. Keach, T. Jennings, T. Young and N. Comai, Town Council Rep.

Excused – F. Bizzarro

J. Hyde arrived at 7:02

C. Morneau arrived at 6:50

D. Argo, Central Water Precinct and Village Water - absent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 24, 2013**

*T. Young motioned to approve the minutes of January 24, 2013. Seconded by T. Peterson. Vote unanimously in favor.*

*T. Young, T. Jennings and N. Comai abstained*

**January 31, 2013**

*T. Young motioned to approve the minutes of January 31, 2013. Seconded by S. Peterson.*

*Vote unanimously in favor.*

*N. Comai and T. Young abstained*

**February 2, 2013**

*S. Peterson motioned to approve the minutes of February 2, 2013. Seconded by N. Haas.*

*Vote unanimously in favor*

*T. Young, T. Keach, and N. Comai abstained.*

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**Municipal Budget Discussion**

The current budget is \$377,428, which is a 1.43% increase over the default budget. We added to the fuel line for the police department.

T. Young asked if there were items over \$5000 that is no longer in last year's budget. Something that was off set due to new technology changes. We are looking at a budget that is close to prior years.

M. Miville: Most of the increases are from the retirement downshift from the state, the insurance, the 2% cola raise for non-union employees and the union contract. There were additional increases that were non-discretionary. A lot is forced on us by the State.

C. Soucie: We paid off the plow lease truck \$28,000 and the \$265,000 for the TIF bond that was paid off. The rowing club had \$5000 for scholarships that was in the contract however it never was expended so it was cut by the Council. The Rowing Club pays the town \$5000 to use the area and we agree to put that \$5000 toward scholarships.

T. Young: We are looking at an \$850,000 overall increase over last year.

T. Jennings stated that she felt all presentations were reasonable and would like to review more closely the warrant articles.

N. Haas: I feel that it is difficult to cut when the programs are needed. I looked at midway through the year have we spent those lines and in most cases we have. I think it is tight budget and it will be difficult to sell this budget and we need to communicate to the public.

S. Peterson: I agree that it is tight budget and cuts would be difficult.

N. Comai: The only line I would like to defend would be the cable line. The amount of money for the services provided is well worth it. I'm proud of how our town handles our money. I'm fine with looking at each line. There are large numbers that we need to absorb until State and Federal Government changes.

***T. Young motioned to increase line 401-61-918 Volunteer Appreciation night be increased from \$500 to \$5000. Seconded by N. Comai.***

T. Young felt that this is a positive for employee morale.

T. Withdrew his motion. N. Comai withdrew her second.

M. Miville stated that he feels this is a well thought out budget. We've used the word investment this year for the Town's future. We need to educate the voters so they understand the need for the investment. I agree with the Council adjustments.

T. Young motioned create a line item for an employee appreciation night.  
Motioned failed with no second.

Line 401-92-145 Workman's Compensation with LGC.  
155,000 for the department request. We are now at \$119,000 at the half way mark. Is that amount because of history; I saw no back up. Are we charged additional if our losses are higher?

C. Soucie: The \$119,000 is paid up front and won't change. It is based on experience mod. As you have more claims, you pay more. Also as payroll goes up your workmen's comp goes up. The \$118,000 from this year, because we didn't have a fully staffed town (police) we didn't have to pay for all the employees. If we will be going to full staff, we will have to pay \$158,000. We have a very good modification rate. WE get a return premium, they estimate what we will pay and then do an audit on how much wages were actually spent. Because we have a trim package, we get a discount for example.

***T. Keach motioned to accept the Municipal Budget as amended by the Committee for a total of \$16,398,036. Seconded by T. Young.  
Withdrew***

C. Soucie: Administration – Benefits 01 401 31 223 Professional Services  
\$4000 currently in the budget, \$3000 is for the health insurance evaluation (\$1000 affordable care act) after talking with Dr. Shankle that we felt it was not the right time to bid out the insurance. We would like to reduce that line to \$1000.

***N. Comai motioned to reduce the line \$3000 to \$1000. Seconded by N. Haas.  
Vote unanimously in favor***

C. Soucie: Assessing, revaluation, in negotiating the contract, there are \$3000 for letters and that is being done by the contractors. We want to reduce that line \$3000.

***C. Moreau motioned to reduce \$3000. Seconded by T. Jennings.  
Vote unanimously in favor***

C. Soucie: Under Fire, 431 31 018. Manchester Water has increased their water rates 3% which will increase the fees \$2400.

T. Young: Last year there was more than \$6000 remaining at the end of the year.

A discussion ensued regarding the Fire Department's uniform line.

C. Soucie will provide the breakdown of the fire hydrant costs.

T. Young 420 01 941 Family Services.

***T. Keach motioned to accept the budget for \$16,392,036. Seconded by C. Morneau.***

The Committee discussed the merits of the budget and whether cuts could or should be made.

***J. Hyde motioned to amend line 401-06-110 to reduce by \$13,999. Seconded by T. Jennings.***

***Vote 1:6:2***

J. Hyde motioned to amend Volunteer Appreciation to reduce to 0.

J. Hyde motioned to amend Hooksettites to 0.

J. Hyde motioned to amend Historical Society to 0.

***J. Hyde motioned to amend Old Home Day to 0. Seconded by T. Jennings.***

***T. Keach motioned to move the question.***

***Vote failed. Discussion continued***

***Vote 1:7:1***

***T. Young motioned to call the original question.***

***6:2***

***Vote on original question***

***8:1 motion passes.***

### **Warrant Articles**

Dr. Shankle: The employees in DPW and Recycling decided to form a union which is why there was no raise last year.

The new contract, from the Council's point of view was happy with the contract. Most of the non-cost items were in line with non-union employees.

The overall cost is 4% for year one and 3% for the second year. The union employees are looking at making up for last year where no increase was received.

Scott Marshall, Union Representative: We are here to ask support for the union. We feel it is a fair contract and we negotiated with Dr. Shankle and his negotiating team. We feel it is fair and we are asking for nothing extraordinary. The 4% is to make up for last year's wage increase which was not received. We appreciate your support.

T. Jennings: Why 3% for next year when the rate has been 2% per year.

Dr. Shankle stated that in looking at other contracts, there have been different amounts. We didn't want a lot of items changed and in limiting the changes we offered a higher salary increase in exchange.

*T. Young motioned to recommend this warrant article for the Union Contract.  
Seconded by C. Morneau.  
Withdrew*

*All Warrant articles were reviewed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Miville adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Moynihan