

Present: Dorianne Almann, Bruce Bellville, Joseph Conroy, James MacDonell, Lewis Major, Peter Zavorotny  
Present: Selectman Richard Schill  
Excused: Morris Klein  
Absent: Michael Carrier, John Hartnet

Mr. Zavorotny called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm in the Town Hall. Mr. MacDonell made a motion to accept the minutes for meeting 611 as printed that was seconded by Mr. Major. The motion carried with one abstention.

Mr. Zavorotny noted that TA Jill Collins is concerned that the public hearing date of February 6 (February 13 is the snow date) may be an issue; the printer needs at least 20 days to produce the town's annual report. Can a different date be set for the public hearing?

A related issue is that the Local Government Center suggests setting a second date because if changes are made to the budget, another public hearing is needed.

Mr. MacDonell asked about changing the date for the public hearing to January 30, a week earlier. Mr. Zavorotny voiced concern about the budgets getting done—"the committee needs to get behind people, to push them to get their budgets done." Mr. Bellville asked if the school committee could agree to get the school's budget done early; Mr. Zavorotny noted school personnel are sure to agree in spirit, but it will be a challenge to actually get the school's budget done any earlier. Mr. Bellville asked what is 20 days before the publishing date? (February 12).

Mr. Major made a motion to set February 6 for the public hearing with February 7 the snow date with the potential to set a second hearing. Mr. Conroy seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Conroy made a motion to set 6:30pm as the start time for the public hearings. Mr. Schill seconded the motion and it carried.

Mr. Major made a motion to set the start time of budget committee meetings at 6:30pm. Mr. Schill seconded. The motion carried. Mr. Zavorotny said he would ask Ms. Collins to change the time on the website; Mr. Schill volunteered to follow up to see that the change was done.

Mr. Schill briefed the committee on budget-related discussions the selectmen held at their meeting. Basically, the tax rate is anticipated to be in low \$23's. The County is looking at a \$0.50 drop; Mutual Aid dropped \$0.45-\$0.50. Hinsdale signed MS-1. Hinsdale is \$380 million; \$382-\$389 million total assessment. The residential rate went down; the

commercial rate went up with utilities and communication going up “quite a bit” from the \$369 million of last year.

TransCanada came in for an abatement of \$28-\$29 million (\$88,886,000 million last year compared to \$79,706,000 million for this year). New England Power sees a \$5.1 million increase. Wal-Mart is at \$18,500,000. Debra George put in for abatement; six months ago it was denied.

Mr. Schill noted that the news was “actually pretty good for the town.” The amount utilities was increased was almost \$16 million. Hinsdale Real Estate LLC was reappraised from \$451,000 to \$1,255,000. Mr. Bellville asked if Hinsdale Real Estate can apply for abatement; Mr. Schill replied they cannot.

He read an email (Oct. 3, 2012) from Ms. Collins to the selectmen: \$382,527,179 up from \$368,983,090 from last year. Using last year’s county rate (this year’s rate has not yet been set) means Hinsdale’s tax rate looks to be \$23.13, give or take.

Mr. Schill concluded by saying the pay telephones (located by the library, T Bird, and possibly one in the school) transferred to Pacific TeleManagement. He noted the town is charged for their presence. General discussion as to whether the pay phones can be removed; Mr. Zavorotny wondered if there was some liability to not having them. Mr. Schill volunteered to check.

Mr. MacDonell had several questions about the budget. He wondered about the unemployment amount. Mr. Zavorotny noted it is based on a percentage and Mr. Schill said the rate has probably gone up.

Tentatively, town employees will see a 1% raise. Ms. Collins is preparing a spreadsheet from 2008 to 2011 and including the 18 month budget, noting estimated and actual. Mr. Schill noted the increases in salary for town employees was 0%, 1-1/2% (two years ago), and 3% (last year). Mr. Conroy noted that Social Security is going up 1.7% in January.

Mr. Bellville asked if there was an estimate on health care increases. (Not yet)

Mr. Schill noted that Ms. Collins says things “look good” financially for the town. The selectmen will see budgets starting to come in the week of October 20.

Mr. Zavorotny reiterated he would like the budget committee to get budgets ahead of time so committee members have time to review them beforehand. He noted the state continues to reduce the share it sends to towns; Mr. Schill agreed, noting the town is responsible for 18% of the police department and 8% of the town.

Mr. Schill noted the town will see money back from the Local Government Center, although the exact amount is unknown as the case is still in court, as Mr. Bellville observed.

Mr. Zavorotny had questions about the fire department (page 8). Has the department heavily overspent? For what are the encumbrances? A negative encumbrance means that income is coming in from some place. Mr. Schill said he remembers the department set up a special trust last year for safety equipment—money was taken from an expendable trust for equipment the selectmen OK'd. Mr. Zavorotny said that it's not income and should be charged against the reserve.

On page 10 the highway department's figure for material put down on the roads (\$34.9) is "probably the same sort of thing."

Discussion moved to welfare.

The town is one quarter the way through the year and 50% of the budget has been spent. Mr. Schill noted there has been "a huge influx" of people needing help. People are coming before the selectmen because they can't pay their taxes. Mr. MacDonnell asked why so much money has been spent on the welfare director? Mr. Schill replied that the financial person was also doing welfare administration and the arrangement was not working. The town is looking to hire a welfare administrator for 15-20 hours/week. Mr. Major observed that last week there were 16 new applicants to the food bank in Winchester; Mr. Schill says Hinsdale sees 6-7 new people weekly.

Discussion moved to the school.

A big payment is made to the Hinsdale schools because all money comes to the Hinsdale town treasurer. The school then comes to the treasurer and requests money who then writes a check to the school: \$1,960,000. 23.2% of the money for the school has been spent with 76.8% remaining.

Mr. MacDonnell asked why the amount spent on summer programs was as high as it was. Mr. Zavorotny replied that it was likely due to the municipal pool.

Budget committee members were invited to a non-public meeting with the Selectmen on Monday, October 29, 2012, 7:30pm. Informational in nature, it is not an official Budget Committee meeting and no business will be transacted nor action taken.

Mr. Conroy noted that during the last meeting taxes were discussed; he went ahead and called several towns to ask about their tax rates. Hinsdale had a tax rate of \$26 last year. Out of 293 towns in New Hampshire, Hinsdale ranks 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Schill noted that on an equalized tax rate, Hinsdale falls slightly lower—“the true tax rate last year was \$23.84 based on a 12 month period. The \$26 amount covered the transition to a fiscal year.” This put Hinsdale between Dublin and Fitzwilliam, county-wise. Mr. Bellville noted the town is doing the “right things; the tax rate is falling.”

Mr. Zavorotny said “Hinsdale is a property poor town. The activity on Rt. 119 is helping.”

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm after Mr. Schill made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Mr. Bellville.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorianne Almann  
Recording Secretary