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Board of Selectmen Budget Hearing 02/12/2013

Town of Hillsborough
Board of Selectmen's
Budget Hearing
February 12, 2013

Present: Selectmen Russell Galpin, Steven Venezia and David Fullerton, Town Administrator Laura Buono and Selectmen's Secretary Iris Campbell.

Mr. Galpin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Galpin read the posted notice: The Hillsborough Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Police Station Training Room located at 22 Municipal Drive for the purpose of hearing public comment on the proposed 2013 Operating Budget and Warrant Articles including a petitioned article to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2). Pursuant to RSA 32:5,1.

Mr. Galpin said Article 1 is the election of officers. He said Articles 2 through 4 pertain to zoning changes and the Planning Board has already held a hearing on them. He said Article 5 is by petition and will appear on the official ballot.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 6 - Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB 2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Hillsborough on the second Tuesday of March? (By Petition. 3/5 vote required)

John Segedy said the budget can be changed at the deliberation session and allows the opportunity for more people to vote on the budget.

Robert Burton said there is no intimidation.

Herman Wiegelman said this means there will be no town meeting.

Mrs. Buono answered yes.

Thomas McClure said the default budget could be higher than the proposed budget.

Mr. Galpin said yes because all contracts and state regulations have to be honored in the default budget.

Mr. Urquhart asked if the town meeting could be moved to Saturday.

Mrs. Buono said it would be up to the Selectmen to discuss with the Moderator.

Mr. Burton said SB2 puts more pressure on the Selectmen to keep the budget down.

Mr. McClure commented on how well the SB2 hasn't been working at the school in keeping the budget down.

Paul Plater felt SB2 gave voters more time to analyze the budget numbers.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 7 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,540,141.00 (Six Million Five Hundred

Forty Thousand One Hundred Forty-one Dollars) as a 2013 Operating Budget? This amount does not include amounts from any other warrant articles. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen).

Mr. Galpin said the budget has been reduced by \$10,000 from the prepared handout.

Virginia Burton asked if the town's health insurance buyout would ever be discontinued.

Mr. Venezia said an employee who can have health insurance from two employers can take the buyout. This saves the town most of the cost of the coverage the employee would be entitled to.

Marion Baker asked why there was a payroll budgeted under Fireworks and Patriotic Purposes.

Mr. Galpin said the cost for police coverage for the Balloon Festival, Schnitzelfest and Hillsborough Historic Event is not reimbursed and is budgeted here so it won't affect the Police budget.

Robert Fredette thanked the Board for keeping the budget down.

Mr. Galpin thanked Mr. Venezia for standing strong on creating flat budget.

Mr. Segedy asked if the Board will be selling the two buildings on W. Main Street now that the town offices have been moved.

Mr. Galpin said Project Genesis, Youth Services, Project Lift and SNHS fuel assistance are still housed in those buildings.

Mr. McClure asked if we have always supplied SNHS with office space.

Welfare Director Dana Brien answered yes because they bring \$330,000 of fuel assistance to Hillsborough which the town doesn't have to pay for.

Mr. Galpin said there have been changes in the planning department. He said the new planning director has been hired as part-time and the code enforcer has been changed to full-time. He added if business booms then there is money in the budget to change the hours of the planner.

A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of having a part-time planner verses a full-time planner.

Mrs. Buono suggested waiting to see if having a part-time planner works. She said she would be looking at all the departments to make sure they are all working efficiently.

Mary Lou Lannon asked about the cruiser the town voted down and was then purchased by leasing.

Police Chief David Roarick said the 2012 cruiser was approved through a warrant article but the lease for the 2011 cruiser was a line item in the budget.

Mr. Galpin said there are two cruiser articles: one to purchase and one to ratify and pay for the leased cruiser.

A discussion ensued regarding the size and cost of the police department compared to surrounding towns.

The discussion moved onto the size and cost of the dispatch center.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 8 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$654,690.00 (Six Hundred Fifty-four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars) for the purpose of operating the Water Department during 2013? Of that sum, \$654,690.00 (Six Hundred Fifty-four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars) to come from Water Department income. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Ms. Baker asked what the point was of voting on this every year.

Mr. Galpin said in order to spend the money we need a vote to authorize the spending.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 9 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$681,800.00 (Six Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of operating the Sewer Department during 2013? Of that sum, \$681,800.00 (Six Hundred Eighty-one Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars) to come from Sewer Department income. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

There were no comments on this article.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 10 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of supporting senior events and to formally recognize the "Senior Advisory Committee" as a Selectman's Committee? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Galpin said seniors like trips but there are more needed services and activities. He said they are presently using the meeting room at St. Mary's Church for regularly scheduled events as well as sending out a monthly newsletter and offering monthly luncheons.

Leigh Bosse asked why it has to be a Selectmen's committee.

Mr. Galpin said in order to spend town money and be covered by the town's insurance the committee has to be appointed by the Selectmen.

Mr. Venezia read: Article 11 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,792.00 (Twenty-one Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-two Dollars) for the purpose of joining the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact? Of that amount, \$688.13 (Six Hundred Eighty-eight Dollars and Thirteen Cents) to come from the Town of Windsor and \$21,103.87 (Twenty-one Thousand One Hundred Three Dollars and Eighty-seven Cents) to be raised from taxation. This amount represents the half year cost for the service. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Fire Chief Kenneth Stafford explained it is a twenty-one-town compact, they dispatch fire and rescue calls, offers hazardous material support, assists with grant writing, saves on equipment purchases and other services which would not be accessible to a small department.

Mr. McClure said the cost is only for half a year and would we be able to reduce the dispatch budget.

Kevin Belanger said the fire and rescue calls were about 1,330 of the more than 25,000 calls handled by dispatch last year.

Mr. Fullerton read: Article 12 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of repairing masonry at the Smith House? Of that sum \$25,000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Dollars) to come from Library Funds. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Alan Dobrowolski asked if this was enough money for the project.

Tamara McClure answered yes.

Mr. Fullerton read: Article 13 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 (Thirty-five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of outside trim painting of the Smith House? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. McClure said the whole building needs to be painted and questioned painting the trim before painting the rest of the building.

Mr. Galpin said the quote received two years ago was \$80,000 to paint the whole building.

Mr. McClure suggested changing the article to \$135,000 and obtaining an estimate to paint the whole building.

Mr. Dobrowolski suggested having the article be non-lapsing until 2014 to allow for enough time to complete the project.

Mr. Venezia read: Article 14 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-lapsing sum of \$60,000.00 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of repairing and replacing Bog Road Bridge? This article to be non-lapsing until December 31, 2014. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Venezia said the Bog Road Bridge has been red-listed by the State.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 15 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non lapsing sum of \$150,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of reconstructing Washington Circle and Jefferson Drive to the power lines and to shim Bog Road? This article to be non-lapsing until December 31, 2014. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

There was no discussion regarding this article.

Mr. Fullerton read: Article 16 - Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a 4-year lease purchase agreement containing a non-appropriation clause, in the amount of \$350,000.00 (Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars)~for the purpose of purchasing a Grader for the Highway Department and to raise and appropriate the amount of \$95,000.00 (Ninety-five Thousand Dollars) for the first six months of payments for that purpose? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Fullerton said the grader is twelve years old and is starting to need constant repair.

Mr. Venezia read: Article 17 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the amount of \$42,000.00 (Forty-two Thousand Dollars)~for the purpose of purchasing a Police Cruiser and related equipment for the Police Department? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Chief Roarick said the marked cruisers have the following mileage: 159,000, 135,000, 134,000, 126,000, 16,000 and 13,000 and the unmarked cruisers have 53,000 and 89,000.

Mr. Galpin said the year we didn't buy a cruiser the cost for repairs went up.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 18 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000.00 (Thirty-five Thousand Dollars) to be added to the already established Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

There was no discussion regarding this article.

Mr. Fullerton read: Article 19 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of the care, development, maintenance and benefit of Manahan Park? Of that sum, \$13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand Dollars) to come from the Manahan Trust previously set up for this purpose. (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

There was no discussion regarding this article.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 20 - Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500.00 (Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of providing support for a downtown concert series? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

There was no discussion regarding this article.

Mr. Venezia read: Article 21 - Shall the Town vote to ratify the three-year Lease/Purchase which was entered into by the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$29,364.60 (Twenty-nine Thousand Three Hundred Sixty-four Dollars)

and Sixty Cents) in 2010 for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,631.54 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-one Dollars and Fifty-four Cents) for the 2013 payment? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Venezia said the Board thought the purchase could be budgeted but has since discovered it can't. He said this article is to fix that misconception.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 22 - Shall the Town vote to adopt the provisions of RSA 72:37 Exemption for the Blind, or to take any other action in relation thereto? (Recommended by the Board of Selectmen)

Mr. Galpin said we couldn't find any record of when this exemption had originally been adopted.

Mr. Venezia read: Article 23 - Shall the Town vote to discontinue as a public highway, a piece of highway running from the east side of Bear Hill Road, approximately 80 (eighty) feet to the Hillsborough-Henniker town line? Said roadway was originally laid out as a 36-foot wide road and is recorded in Book 5, Page 304 of the Town records, or to take any other action in relation thereto?

Mr. Venezia said this is a road which doesn't exist off of Bear Hill Road into Henniker.

Mr. Galpin read: Article 24 - Shall the Town vote to have the name, position, and salary of every Hillsborough town employee printed in the Annual Town Report? (By Petition)

Mrs. Buono said the passage of this article would be advisory only.

Mr. Venezia said the inclusion of this information into the town report would add to the printing cost.

Lauralee LoMonaco said once the report is created anyone would be able to come to the office for a copy.

Article 25 - To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

This article was not presented nor discussed.

Mr. Galpin closed the public comment portion of the hearing at 9:25 p.m.

The Board discussed the suggestion made regarding increasing the amount and wording of Article 13.

Mr. Galpin suggested changing the article to \$100,000, creating a capital reserve fund for the purpose of maintenance and repairing the Smith House and appointing the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend the fund.

The Board agreed to the changes to article 13.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Galpin seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

Iris Campbell
Selectmen's Secretary

