



TOWN OF HOLLIS BUDGET COMMITTEE

September 9, 2026
PUBLIC MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Present: Tom Gehan, Chairman; Christopher Hyde; Darlene Mann, Mark Kost; Tom Whalen, Select Board Representative; Raffi Zack, Hollis School Board Representative; Bill Moseley, Treasurer

Absent: Mike Harris, Vice Chairman; Mike Leavitt; Deb Padykula, Finance Director; Lance Flamino, Business Administrator SAU41

LOCATION

This meeting commenced in the Town Hall Community Room, located at 7 Monument Square Hollis, New Hampshire.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND AGENDA REVIEW

T. Gehan called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

T. Gehan reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any proposed changes. There were none.

REVIEW/ ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

MOVED by C. Hyde to accept the minutes of July 14, 2026 Budget Committee meeting as presented; seconded by M. Kost.

R. Zack noted that the first paragraph, 2nd to last sentence should be changed from "kindergarten" to "Pre-K".

Motion to approve minutes as modified, MOVED by C. Hyde; seconded by M. Kost. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

REPORTS

Schools - T. Gehan asked R. Zack to update the committee on School Board business. R. Zack stated since the last Budget Committee meeting the Hollis School Board has had two meetings. He began with an update from the Hollis Renovation & Expansion Committee (HREC), formally the Enrollment Committee. Enrollment for 1st and 3rd grades at HPS are under the projected NESDEC numbers. Kindergarten is a little higher at 89, NESDEC is at 90. However, class sizes are all within the desired range. Current enrollment for HPS is 370. R. Zack stated NESDEC is projecting kindergarten to significantly high for next year's incoming class. HUES enrollment has had little change and falls in line with the NESDEC reporting.

R. Zack noted that HREC has a community survey in progress. This survey has been available to town residents since August and has an end date of September 21st. Over 300 responses have been currently received. The survey can be located on the HREC page of the SAU41 website, social media, the library and Town Hall. The goal of the survey is to prioritize the needs in order to narrow the scope of the existing renovation/ addition plans to HPS to decrease the cost.

It was noted that HPS has gone from two pickup lanes back to one lane with an emergency lane. The paving on Drury Lane is still happening although timing is to be determined.

The new data dashboard on SAU41 website is now live. Residents can find state testing, enrollment, athletic and graduation data on this new platform.

SAU41 has approved a Retained Fund Balance of \$324,456 for FY27. They are expecting approximately \$300,000 to be returned to the tax payers.

T. Gehan asked if the school board would be coming to the March meeting with a revised plan for HPS.

R. Zack said that this is still to be determined.



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Town – T. Whalen stated that quotes for contracted cleaning have been received. It is undecided if the contract will be for individual departments or the town as a whole.

T. Whalen stated that the CIP is almost up to date minus a few items for police.

Replacement of the septic system at the police station will begin on September 14th. Funds have been allocated for this project.

An update on the new fields at Hardy West is scheduled to take place at the September 28th Select Board meeting. A warrant article for this project is anticipated for Town Meeting in March.

Warrants from Department Heads are due by October 15th.

On behalf of the Select Board, T. Whalen asked when the Budget Committee's guidance number would be given. T. Gehan said that the committee plans to have a preliminary number by the October meeting with that number to be finalized at the November 10th Budget Committee meeting.

T. Gehan is working to complete the 26/27 Budget meeting schedule. D. Mann requested to have the due date for the MS-27 added to this schedule.

T. Whalen said no CBA's are up for discussion during this budget cycle. However, due to the dissolution of the 1801 union a consideration will have to be made for previous members of this union to be changed to the non-union wage scale.

C. Hyde asked for an update on the structural analysis of Town Hall. T. Whalen stated that the Town Administrator will be presenting the initial findings from the study at the September 28th Select Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

R. Zack spoke to discussions that were had regarding HB1300 at the recent School Board meeting. He said that the schools are waiting on guidance from the DRA especially because of the pending litigation regarding this bill due to confusing and misleading language. He stated that this bill will cause further confusion when it is on the ballot as it is written as one question but actually covers 2 separate limits, the 6% limit to the SAU operating budget and the inflation adjusted tax cap.

D. Mann stated that the DRA will be the authority in figuring out how to implement the wording of HB 1300. The calculation will be using data from March of 2026. The definition provided states the percentage of property tax growth is added to the inflation percentage. The net new taxable property growth is comprised of change in prior year new construction, physical expansion or improvement of structures, subdivisions, or redevelopment of land, and conversions from exempt to taxable status. Any physical change that increases taxable market value. It is not to address market appreciation, reevaluations and changes in assessment methodology. C. Hyde asked to clarify if the percentage of property growth is additive to the CPI. D. Mann confirmed that this is how the bill currently reads. She stated that Input from DRA is forthcoming and will prove to be helpful when factoring this calculation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by C. Hyde seconded by M. Kost at 7:50pm. All in favor. None opposed or abstained. Motion passed unanimously 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jackie Hill
Tax Collector/ Deputy Finance Director