

Hope Budget Committee Minutes

January 27, 2010, 7:00 PM

Members Present: Dana Daniels, Nancy Dowling, Jean Ettlenger, Jill Lang, Lewis Merrifield, Bill Pearse, Vera Rand

Members Absent: John Jensen Terry Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The Committee elected Lewis Merrifield as Chair, Bill Pearse as Vice Chair, and Jean Ettlenger as Secretary.

Lewis reported that he attended the School Committee meeting on Monday. He said the School Committee would like some guidelines from the Budget Committee early in the process to make the process go smoother this year. Significant factors affecting the budget that are currently unknown are: 1) the amount of state funding, outcome of teachers' contract negotiations, oil prices and a possible new student with special needs. Only projected expenses have been worked on so far, and the current draft has only a \$48 increase in expenses over last year.

The Committee voiced concerns that the economy will continue to be weak for the next few years. This will put more pressure on paying for operations from property taxes. It is very likely that state revenues will be down which will result in less revenue sharing and lower educational funding.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 7:00 POM. The school and town budgets will be presented to the Committee at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Ettlenger  
Secretary