

BUDGET COMMITTEE
Town of Hollis
Seven Monument Square
Hollis, New Hampshire, 03049
Tel. 465-2209, FAX 465-3701

Minutes of April 14, 2026.
Meeting was held in the Community Room, Hollis Town Hall.

The Budget Committee was called to order by Tom Gehan at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Tom Gehan, Chairman; Mike Harris, Vice Chairman; Darlene Mann, Raffi Zack, Hollis School Board Representative; Chris Hyde, Mark Kost, Mike Leavitt

Officials Present: Deb Padykula, Town Finance Director

T. Gehan lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Budget Committee Officers

1. Chair - *MOVED by M. Harris to nominate T. Gehan as the Chair of the Budget Committee; seconded by C. Hyde. None opposed, T. Gehan abstained. Motion passed 6-0-1.*
2. Vice Chair - *MOVED by C. Hyde to nominate M. Harris as the Vice Chair of the Budget Committee; seconded by M. Leavitt. Motion passed 7-0-0.*
3. Secretary - *MOVED by M. Harris to nominate M. Leavitt as the Secretary of the Budget Committee; seconded by C. Hyde. None opposed, M. Leavitt abstained. Motion passed 6-1-0.*

Review/modification to agenda

T. Gehan reminded the board that there would be no meetings in August. He also noted that the Select Board representatives were unable to attend, and they have an excused absence.

There were no proposed changes to the agenda

Approval of the minutes

MOVED by M. Harris to approve the meeting minutes of 1/28/26 as presented; seconded by C. Hyde. Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

MOVED by M. Harris to approve the meeting minutes of 2/10/26 and 2/11/25 as presented; seconded by C. Hyde. Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Public input

There was no public input at this time.

Reports

Town - D. Padykula commented that the revenues and expenditures were on track. There are several areas of concern, namely the budget for salt was overspent by \$69,000, and the DPW overtime was overspent by almost \$20,000. They are working on bond applications for the Transfer Station Wall and Solar Project. Until the bonds come through in July, the town is planning on using the incoming tax revenue to cover costs.

School - L. Flaminio shared that Linda Sherwood will be retiring, and her last day will be June 4th, 2026. They will begin interviewing for that position soon. There were no major changes in the expense and revenue report, however the consistent piece in the negative is Special Education. It is in the negative of \$325,000. An additional Para Teacher and School Psychologist were hired. The facilities are in the negative by \$34,000 primarily due to snow removal. They are anticipating \$197,000 in the general fund.

R. Zack shared that the last day of school is set for June 16, 2026, and the committee chairs remain the same. He commented on some other updates on the kids, and community's request to look back at the Farley Building or a Building Committee.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of a building committee, and who would be involved with that.

Debrief of recent budget cycle

M. Kost commented that it would be helpful to have a member of the Budget Committee be involved in negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

M. Harris commented his concern for how high the taxes are going up, even without the school expansion. T. Gehan noted that the largest increases have been because of infrastructure updates, CBA's, and Warrant Articles.

There was a brief discussion on the Select board processes, and CBA.

D. Mann noted that it might be helpful to have a workshop for budget committees in surrounding towns. She also noted that there were several presentations, both on maintenance and food service, that might be helpful to share with the Budget Committee in future meetings.

T. Gehan noted that there might be a way to be more cost effective in the budget regarding the special education, due to the increases. M. Kost commented that the costs should be looked at as a whole, rather than as compartmental only. This would allow for a way to properly prioritize the funds. There was a brief discussion on the best way to allocate funds.

M. Kost commented that the Select Board has the decision making power to make the Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee a permanent committee. He noted that the communication between the members of the committee has been very productive, and that they could continue informally if it is decided that the committee will disband.

T. Gehan will be following up with David Petry regarding the Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee and if it will be a year long committee, or if the member terms are 1 year.

There was brief discussion on having M. Kost bring a wish list/summary report before the select board from the Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee.

Adjournment

MOVED by T. Gehan to adjourn the Budget Committee meeting at 8:06pm; seconded by C. Hyde. Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amiee Le Doux
Recording Secretary