

1 **HOLLIS BROOKLINE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**
2 **PUBLIC HEARING**
3 **FEBRUARY 20, 2023**
4 **MEETING MINUTES**

5
6 A Public Hearing was conducted by the Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board on Monday, February 20,
7 2023 at 6:33 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline Middle School Library, Hollis, NH.

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9 Holly Deurloo Babcock, School Board Chairman, presided:

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11 Members of the School Board Present: Tom Solon, Vice Chairman
12 Kate Stoll, Secretary
13 Krista Whalen

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15 Members of the School Board Absent: Tom Enright
16 Beth Janine Williams
17 Cindy VanCoughnett

18
19 Members of the Budget Cmte. Present: Darlene Mann, Chairman
20 Raul Blanche, Vice Chairman
21 Brian Rater
22 Anthony Stanizzi
23 Tom Whalen

24
25 Members of the Budget Cmte. Absent: David Blinn
26 Matthew Maguire
27 Cindy VanCoughnett, School Bd. Rep.

28
29 Also in Attendance: Andrew Corey, Superintendent
30 Gina Bergskaug, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
31 Kelly Seeley, Business Administrator

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34 **PUBLIC HEARING**
35 **BOND**

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37 Chairman Deurloo Babcock explained the purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive input on the proposed
38 bond for Hollis Brookline Cooperative School District Warrant Article for the energy efficient purchase and
39 installation of boilers and LED lighting for both the middle school and high school.

40
41 The proposed warrant reads:

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43 To see if the School District will vote to appropriate the sum of **\$3,076,806** (gross budget) to finance the
44 acquisition and installation of energy efficient LED lighting and propane boilers with associated costs for oil
45 tank removal for both the Hollis Brookline High School and Middle School; to authorize the issuance of not
46 more than \$3,076,806 in bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA
47 33); to authorize the School Board to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the
48 rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to raise and appropriate an additional sum
49 of **\$76,920** to pay debt service on such bonds or notes in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. (3/5 ballot vote required)

1 A presentation was provided by Superintendent Corey (can be viewed [here](#) beginning at tape counter 34:14).

2
3 Superintendent Corey went over the items that would be addressed as part of the project for which the bond is
4 proposed. At the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS), proposed is LED lighting with an estimated cost of
5 \$558,603 and a projected yearly savings of \$42,036 (potential for \$40,000 in rebates) and propane boilers
6 consisting of oil tank (underground) removal for \$52,000, installation of tanks \$75,000 and installation of
7 boilers \$1,053,000. Projected yearly savings is \$47,670 (potential rebate of \$16,000).

8
9 Removal of underground tanks is favorable from an environmental standpoint. Environmental agencies in the
10 State have changed piping requirements for oil tanks. As a result, the oil tank into HBHS itself would require
11 approximately \$150,000 of piping change to meet the new standards coming out. That happens whether or not
12 a bond is the direction taken. Superintendent Corey commented were the piping changes to be done outside of
13 this project, he is uncertain how quickly he would want to make adjustments. A new boiler would still be
14 needed, but if that were the scenario, consideration would have to be given to the cost of moving to a new
15 system. For the proposed propane tanks, it will be determined whether above or below ground is the best
16 approach.

17
18 The boiler at the HBHS dates back to 1996. The oil tank was put in on January 6, 1997.

19
20 At the Hollis Brookline Middle School (HBMS) the project consists of LED lighting with an estimated cost of
21 \$423,702 and projected yearly savings of \$26,810 (potential rebate of \$30,000) and propane boilers consisting
22 of oil tank removal for \$48,500, installation of tanks at \$60,000, and installation of boilers at \$806,000 with a
23 projected yearly savings of \$30,921 (potential rebate of \$16,000).

24
25 Total cost of project is estimated at \$3,076,805 with a projected yearly savings of \$147,437 and potential
26 rebates of \$102,000.

27
28 The boilers at the HBMS were installed in 1987 and mid '90s. There would also be a consolidation at the
29 HBMS resulting in going from 3 to 2 boiler rooms. The oil tank was installed on August 31, 1987.

30
31 The requirement for new piping at the HBMS would result in a cost of \$150,000. Total cost required to address
32 new environmental requirements is \$300,000.

33
34 A ten-year bond at 3.8% interest would result in a payment of \$364,000/year and a fifteen-year bond at 5.0%
35 interest \$291,272/year.

36
37 The warrant would allow the Administration to go out to bid and for results of the bidding process to go before
38 the Board for review and selection of interest rate and vendor.

39
40 The LED lighting would have the ability, if so desired, for future connection to solar. The Administration has
41 looked at the roofs as well as the potential of a solar farm on the property. Moving in that direction would
42 result in yearly savings. The example was provided of the savings in the electric bill (75-85%) achieved in the
43 Hollis School District as a result of solar. The boilers that would be able to be installed could be hooked up to
44 solar as well.

45
46 Studies conducted a few years back in Hollis considered wood pellets, wood, oil, propane, and electric. Not
47 much has changed in that data. Energy bills are increasing as a result of the economy. This is a good time for
48 consideration of these projects as the savings estimates may be increased because of increasing costs.

1 If the bond article is approved, the Administration would move forward with a construction committee (would
2 include the Facilities Director, Business Manager, Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent) and with the
3 participation of the energy experts from EII, would refer back to the information that Banwell Architects
4 provided and hold bi-weekly meetings to coordinate the completion of the project.

5
6 *Chairman Deurloo Babcock opened the floor for public input at 6:43 p.m.*

7
8 Steve Ettelson, 52 Crestwood Drive, Hollis

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10 Is the new Chair of the Hollis Energy Committee and is just coming up to speed on the work related to this
11 bond. He believes there to be opportunities, if combining the solar with possibly heat pumps, to come up with a
12 solution that is cashflow positive year one. With the proposal, the payback period goes beyond the life
13 expectancy of the equipment. He would like to see the group work with the Hollis Energy Committee as there
14 is historical knowledge there. He would suspect there would be a recommendation for another review of the
15 proposal.

16
17 Venu Rao, 37 Arbor Lane, Hollis

18
19 Member of the Hollis Energy Committee. The committee has a history of working on sustainable energy
20 solutions and has saved over \$1.5 million for the Town of Hollis. Suggested the COOP work with the
21 committee to find a better solution than that which is proposed; one which would be clean, cheaper and provide
22 a return on investment in approximately 10-12 years rather than 35 and 42 years.

23
24 Adam Jacobs, 15 Crestwood Drive, Hollis

25
26 Member of the Hollis Energy Committee. Is aware a lot of time has been spent looking at this complicated
27 system. The energy world is evolving. It is no longer new stuff, it is very mainstream and the way of the future
28 and if you make an investment now that will lock you in for the next 25 years, that is when you want to make
29 these investments; at the end of a useful life of a system. If you lock us into a 25 year fossil fuel system you
30 will not have the benefits of having these costs that could be used in alternative ways. The committee believes
31 there are at least partial if not full solutions that take care of these space issues that are being experienced.
32 Insulations and new equipment are coming out all the time. The committee wishes to have input.

33
34 With solar systems you have current electricity use, the heat pumps increase that a lot. You have to look at the
35 long term. Nobody is putting in these kinds of systems anymore because they are not as cost effective as solar
36 and heat pumps.

37
38 Eric Ryherd, 150 Witches Spring Road, Hollis

39
40 Was on the committee that did the work on the Hollis Schools. The problem he had then was that the
41 involvement began too late in the process. It was after the money had been approved and a plan in place for
42 propane. There is no reason the Hollis schools, even now, should be using propane. They have solar and
43 electric. Why isn't everything electric? Ask any of the teachers at HPS what they like about it; it is quiet and
44 cool in August, September, and June. They get comfort, can control it themselves, and everything is modern.

45
46 He has been through the middle and high schools extensively. The HBHS has all sorts of huge fans to take all of
47 the heat created in this room with those giant propane boilers and immediately throw it outside with no ability
48 to try to capture that. Let's look at a plan that recovers that energy and uses what we have at HUES (VFD

1 drives), which is much more efficient and allows you to dial the speed of these giant fans so that we can have a
2 smaller system in general, buildings that are more efficient and electric powered by solar.

3
4 Just on the other side of the field at the high school is upwards of almost 3 acres of empty field that cannot be
5 seen except from the air. We can use that field for solar to power likely both schools. The roofs on these
6 buildings are also probably useful.

7
8 Eitan Zeira, 31 Mill Road, Hollis

9
10 A member of the Hollis Energy Committee. In 2012 we replaced lighting for more efficient lighting. Vice
11 Chairman Solon responded lighting was replaced in the multi-purpose room.

12
13 There is already efficiency. Rather than taking all of the lighting out now, it might be worthwhile to do it
14 incrementally as replacements are needed. The savings will not be huge if replacing CFLs with LED.

15
16 Steve Ettelson, 52 Crestwood Drive, Hollis

17
18 Spoke of an organization called [Undaunted K12](#). There are 30-40% government subsidies under the inflation
19 reduction act for heat pumps. That should be a big factor when evaluating these systems.

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21 The Public Hearing was declared closed at 6:54 p.m.

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25 Date _____

Signed _____