

The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com March 2022 603 735-6099

Budget Committee Reduces Proposed Budgets by \$59,900

Budget requires hard work and compromises

Donna Crisp Duclos
Chair, Budget Committee

On October 13, 2021 at 6 PM in the meeting room at the Andover Town Hall, nine residents sat down, all masked, and committed to working together to review, critique, and adjust as needed the School District, Town, Fire Department,

and Water Precinct budgets.

Little did the Budget Committee realize that five months, 12 meetings, 20+ hours, and over 700 lines of money requests on Excel spreadsheets would get us to February 9, 2022. This was a committed and hard-working group, with different opinions and reasons about what our taxes should be “buying” and what we should reduce or eliminate from these budgets.

Of the \$6,178,647 that the Andover School Board requested, the Budget Committee reduced the amount by \$54,000. We recommended keeping the present staffing level. The Budget Committee also felt that a 12.5% increase in health insurance costs was in all likelihood a large overreach. We recommended reducing the rate to 10%.

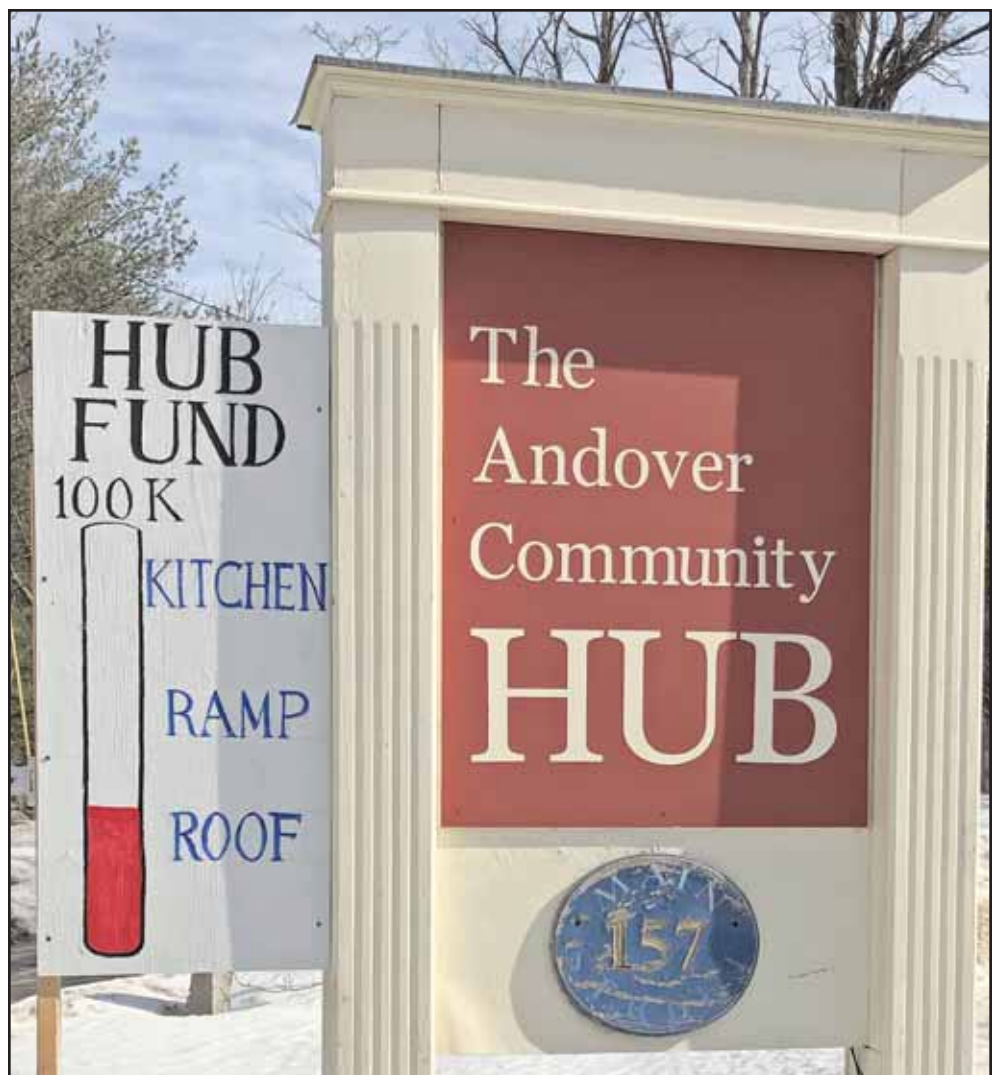
We also recommended reducing a special education line item (other professional services) by \$5,000 because that line item has not been more than \$700 the past several years. The Budget Committee also recommended removing the money for a half-time custodian because the school is functioning without that position.

Of the Select Board’s proposed budget—
See Budgets on page 3

TOWN of ANDOVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
March 7, 7 PM
Andover Elementary/Middle School
PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332

TOWN of ANDOVER
TOWN VOTING
March 8, 2022
11 AM to 7 PM
In-Person or Drive-Through
Andover Elementary/Middle School
PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332

TOWN of ANDOVER
TOWN MEETING
March 8, 2022
beginning at 7 PM
Andover Elementary/Middle School
PO Box 61 • Andover NH 03216 • 603 735-5332



The temperature’s about to rise on this large-scale “thermometer” mounted in front of The Andover Community Hub headquarters at 157 Main Street in Andover, and showing the Hub’s progress toward its goal of raising \$100,000 for capital improvements to the building, Andover’s old town hall. The photo, taken on February 14, shows gifts and grants received, at the time totaling about \$35,000. By March 1, the amount is expected to climb to about \$50,000.
Photo: Susan Chase

Andover Voters Will Choose Between Two Voting Methods

Ballot referendum or traditional Town Meeting?

John Kinney, Select Board

We’d like to begin with an apology for not getting the pros and cons of SB2 written in time for the February deadline of *The Andover Beacon*. As many can relate, life simply got in the way. Before we knew it, the February issue was in our mailboxes.

To recap what SB2 would mean for Andover:

SB2 is a ballot referendum form of voting that follows NH RSA 40:13. In short, SB2 only changes how we vote, not what is voted on.

If SB2 is adopted by those at Town Meeting this year, a public meeting similar to a Town Meeting, called the Deliberative Session, will be held, typically in early February, where attendees formulate the warrant articles to be

voted upon. All voters will then have an opportunity to vote individually on each warrant article by private ballot a minimum of 30 days later, during the all-day voting as part of Town elections on the second Tuesday of March. Voters may also vote via absentee ballot.

Researching articles posted in the past as other towns considered the same vote we have before us now, the arguments for or against SB2 seem to be the same. Some of their points have been taken in whole or in part here.

- Official ballot voting at the second session under SB2 allows more citizens to participate in the democratic process. Voting can happen before and after going to work or any time throughout the day, as well as via absentee ballot. This is in contrast to voting at the traditional Town Meeting, where residents must attend a meeting that begins at 7 PM

See SB2 on page 4

Pick Up Your Andover Town Report!

The Andover Town Report 2021 will be available on Tuesday, March 1. Town Reports will not be mailed (except by special request to 603 735-5332), so visit Andover-NH.gov to read it online, or pick one up at any of these locations:

- the Town Hall
- the town libraries
- the town post offices
- the Transfer Station

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