

DEFAULT BUDGET: WHEN THE VOTERS "JUST SAY NO"

For whatever reason, the voters at a town meeting or on the SB2 ballot may reject the proposed budget. When this happens there is a provision under RSA 40:13 to continue to operate the town or school district or other district. In New Hampshire we call this the default budget.

What the default provision says is that since approval was withheld from what was proposed then the previous budget will be used since that was approved of by the voters.

Further the law requires the use of the previous budget and may include increases and decreases by items such as: contracts negotiated and already approved, debt service, also one time expenditures of the previous budget are removed. One time expenditures are those "not likely to recur in in the succeeding budget".

Included in the one time category are those items that were budgeted but not used. [Warning! School Boards are repeated abusers of default budgets. They accomplish an increase in the default budget by leaving in items that are properly classified as one time expenditures and should not be included in the default budget.]

Remember that you're entitled to have your voice heard. A few persons at a town meeting can have a large effect on the outcome of the process.

Protect your property, defend what you have earned from the malicious or misinformed efforts of those who are supposed to be representing you.

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