

**HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

*Thursday January 10, 2019*

**Attendance**

Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Chair  
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair  
Brian Warburton  
David Maurer  
Stephen LaBranche  
Jerry Znoi  
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative  
Frank DeLuca, SAU90 Representative

**Absent**

Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

**Attending:** Fred Welsh, Town Manager, Kristie Pulliam, Finance Director

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Jones**

**3. Introduction of Members**

**4. Old Business**

**Information Requests:**

Mr Jones said the letter received from Town Council was inadequate as it did not provide the legal opinion requested by the BudComm concerning the language for the lease-purchase of equipment over time. Ms Barnes said there was discussion by the Board of Selectmen; the DRA response was only a recommendation; the big concern is transparency. BudComm could consult with NHMA, which Mr Warburton thought lobbied on behalf of the Selectmen. Ms Barnes clarified that maybe questions for of Town Counsel should be allowed. Ms Barnes is participating on a local committee concerned about flooding issues in the town. A change is needed to address this problem.

**5. Budget Workshop**

**School District Warrant Article #2** Attending: Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent; Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator;

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Professionals Association covering the 3 year period from July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2022...calling for certain increases in salary and benefits at the current staffing levels...and to appropriate the sum of \$38,246 for the 2019-20 fiscal year...Recommended by the School Board 5-0-0. (Majority Vote Required.)

Mr Lunney described the step increases (\$22,000), noting that the top rise for new steps was 1.75%.

BudComm Comments: Mr Znoi thought salary issues should be evaluated by an outside professional expert using a point system, and setting a minimum and maximum range; benefits amounted to 12%. Mr Warburton, called attention to several offensive memos he received following the postponement of this vote from the January 9 meeting, he has continually supported the schools.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Brian Warburton</b>	<b>to recommend to the Public Hearing 2019 School District Warrant Article #2 – to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Professionals Association covering the 3 year period from July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2022...calling for certain increases in salary and benefits...and to appropriate the sum of \$38,246 for the 2019-20 fiscal year.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Michael Plouffe</b>	<b>APPROVED: Stephen La Branche, Michael Plouffe, David Maurer, Regina Barnes, Brian Warburton, Timothy “Citizen” Jones, FrankDeLuca; Opposed: Jerry Znoi 7-1-0</b>

**Town Warrant Articles:** Text of Selectmen’s approved 2019 Money Warrant Articles have been provided by Mr Welsh. The full text can be accessed on the Town of Hampton website and/or hamptonbud.com. [Note: Some article numbers have changed].

**Warrant Article # 26 Lease-Purchase Plow Truck:** Shall the Town of Hampton vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease-purchase agreement for a Mack 6 -Wheel Dump Truck with plow, patrol wing and Stainless Steel Sander in the amount of \$210,050 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,010 to fund said lease-purchase agreement in year one; said lease-purchase agreement shall contain a non-appropriation clause?

Mr Plouffe said this truck is very needed; the lease purchase would be paid over 5 years, and then the town would own it. Mr Warburton commented that the town has paid for vehicles which sit out there and don't last; there is no program for maintenance. Mr Jones called attention to the DRA advise to have separate yearly appropriations; Ms Barnes noted the Selectmen, the Town Manager, and the Town Attorney are in agreement with the article language as presented. Mr Znoi said the DPW needs to replace this truck for hauling and transportation i.e. universal use; the DRA recommendation did not say the warrant language is illegal.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Jerry Znoi</b>	<b>to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #26 – to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a 5-year lease-purchase agreement for a Mack 6 -Wheel Dump Truck with plow, patrol wing and Stainless Steel Sander in the amount of \$210,050 and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$42,010 to fund said lease-purchase agreement in year one; said lease-purchase agreement shall contain a non-appropriation clause?</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Michael Plouffe</b>	<b>APPROVED: Stephen La Branche, Michael Plouffe, David Maurer, Regina Barnes, Brian Warburton, Jerry Znoi Frank DeLuca; Opposed: Timothy “Citizen” Jones, 7-1-0</b>

**Warrant Article #50 (Petitioned) - ...shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$520,000 for construction of a sidewalk on Mace Road within the Town’s right of way for the safety of our residents?**

Ms Barnes explained that Mace Road had no sidewalks; the amount is the same as requested last year; this project should be on the DPW list. This would be a five-foot sidewalk for somewhat less than 2 miles. Mr Warburton recalled that parents used to hold kids hands to cross the street, and felt there were more pressing priorities e.g. the water treatment plant; last year the voters said “no”.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to recommend to the Public Hearing Petitioned Warrant Article #50 – to raise and appropriate the sum of \$520,000 for construction of a sidewalk on Mace Road within the Town’s right of way for the safety of our residents?</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Jerry Znoi</b>	<b>OPPOSED: Stephen La Branche, Michael Plouffe, David Maurer, Brian Warburton, Jerry Znoi, Timothy “Citizen” Jones, Abstained: Regina Barnes, Frank DeLuca MOTION FAILED 0-6-2</b>

**For Reconsideration by Ms Barnes**

**Warrant Article #30 - Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund. Shall the Town of Hampton vote to establish a Sidewalk and Americans With Disabilities Improvement Capital Reserve Fund ...for the purpose of estimating, designing, building new, replacing and improving sidewalks...and accessibility pursuant to the Americans Disabilities Act and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to go into said Capital Reserve Fund...and Further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any Federal, State or local grants and funds... to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund created hereunder?**

Ms Barnes said setting up the Fund would help with grants so that it would be easier for the DPW to plan and go directly to the Selectmen for allocation. Mr Warburton thought this is too little to late – wait to next year. Mr LaBranche wants to vote on expenditures. Mr Jones liked the idea; voters could disburse at town meeting; no new building; funding maintenance should be ok. Mr Znoi wanted streets/roads to be specified. Mr Welch commented that \$300,000 had been reserved in prior years.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to reconsider and recommend to the Public Hearing 2019 Warrant Article #30 –to establish a Sidewalk and Americans With Disabilities Improvement Capital Reserve Fund ...for the purpose of estimating, designing, building new, replacing and improving sidewalks...and accessibility pursuant to the Americans Disabilities Act and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to go into said Capital Reserve Fund...and Further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any Federal, State or local grants and funds... to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund created hereunder</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Jerry Znoi</b>	<b>OPPOSED: Unanimous. MOTION FAILED 0-8-0</b>

**For Reconsideration by Ms Barnes**

**Warrant Article #19 Firefighter SAFER Grant: Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$414,616 for the purpose of employing 4 additional full time Fire Fighter/EMT’s for the Hampton Fire Department, over and above those positions funded by the 2019 operating budget, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, accept and expend Federal Homeland Security SAFER funding estimated to equal \$276,405 to be applied against said appropriation... [Additional costs in years 2 and 3.] Federal SAFER grants pay for salary and benefits. This article shall be null and void if the Federal funding is not approved or received?**

BudComm Comments: always will be adding paramedic service; best paramedic services but potential for outsourcing; potential impact of grant availability after federal shutdown; need for cost analysis by the year.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Frank DeLuca</b>	<b>to reconsider and recommend to the Public Hearing 2019 Warrant Article #19 – to raise and appropriate the sum of \$414,616 for the purpose of employing 4 additional full time Fire Fighter/EMT’s ...over and above those positions funded by the 2019 operating budget, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, accept and expend Federal Homeland Security SAFER funding, estimated to equal \$276,405...Federal SAFER grants pay for salary and benefits. This article shall be null and void if the Federal funding is not approved or received?</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Regina Barnes</b>	<b>In favor: Regina Barnes, Frank DeLuca OPPOSED: David Maurer, Michael Plouffe, Timothy “Citizen” Jones, Jerry Znoi; Abstained: Stephen LaBranche, Brian Warburton 2-4-2</b>

**For reconsideration by Ms Barnes:**

**Warrant Article #11 Master Plan: Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 for the purpose of contracting professional planning services for the completion of a series of Phase I tasks intended to provide the foundation for a future update of the Town of Hampton Master Plan... Most chapters of the existing Town of Hampton Master Plan are considerably older than 10 years?....**

Ms Barnes said she was becoming a participant in a team dedicated to flooding issues - this could become a Chapter in a Master Plan. A working document is needed. Mr Warburton thought a master plan worked for the people writing it, but there could be a new board so it could sit on a shelf; this needs more discussion. Mr Jones said this is for a plan to create a plan

for which there was no cost estimate; it could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Following the warrant language he did not see the costs for a steering committee, inter-department cooperation, a Vision Chapter, or a template. Mr Znoi wouldn't show the current obsolete plan – it should be convincing chapter by chapter.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to reconsider and recommend to the Public Hearing 2019 Warrant Article #11 - the sum of \$18,000 for the purpose of contracting professional planning services for the completion of a series of Phase I tasks intended to provide the foundation for a future update of the Town of Hampton Master Plan... Most chapters of the existing Town of Hampton Master Plan are considerably older than 10 years?</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Frank DeLuca</b>	<b>In Favor Regina Barnes, Frank DeLuca OPPOSED; Michael Plouffe, David Maurer, Brian Warburton, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Stephen La Branche, Jerry Znoi MOTION FAILED 2-6-0</b>

**For Reconsideration by Ms Barnes:**

**Article #41 Naval Committee Fund: - to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of creating and supporting the Town of Hampton Naval Committee Fund, with said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance.**

Mr Welch said work is created when active duty ships come to Hampton. For example the USS Virginia is providing \$30,000 for refurbishing Kids Kingdom. The host committee created by the town is at least \$10,000 out-of-pocket for trips, etc. Ms Barnes wants to bring in younger people to be communicators, but there has to be transparency. Mr Warburton recalled when hosting the USS Hampton, as a public service they raised money doing community service (T-shirts, hats, mugs).

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to reconsider and recommend to the Public Hearing 2019 Warrant Article #41 - to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of creating and supporting the Town of Hampton Naval Committee Fund, with said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Frank DeLuca</b>	<b>Approved: Frank DeLuca, Regina Barnes OPPOSED: Michael Plouffe, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Stephen LaBranche, Brian Warburton, David Maurer; Abstained: Jerry Znoi MOTION FAILED 2-5-1</b>

**Warrant Article #12 - Operating Budget:** Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant as amended by vote of the first session for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$28,178,529. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$27,595,116 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton or by laws...

Mr Warburton wanted to reduce the Parking Enforcement line-item for to the same amount as in previous years. Ms Pulliam said that some costs had been moved to the Police Budget.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Brian Warburton</b>	<b>to reduce the 2019 Budget Parking Enforcement line-item by \$36,647 to the amount of \$100,566.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Regina Barnes</b>	<b>APPROVED: Regina Barnes, Stephen LaBranche, David Maurer, Michael Plouffe, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Brian Warburton, Frank DeLuca Abstained: Jerry Znoi 7-0-1</b>

Mr Warburton recalled that there had been questions about how the Cemeteries budget was built. The questions concerned changes in salary levels and substantial line-item increases. Three warrant articles had been submitted. Mr Welch said the Trustees met and voted to increase the full time position salary and hire 2 part time workers; the cemeteries were in a mess. For example, so far 8 burials had to be moved causing deed issues for every plot. Substantial expense would be incurred for reseeded grass, some gas retrofit, maintenance and repairs, supplies, safety concerns, heavy duty tools and a tractor, improvements to or replacement of damaged stones, and tree revitalization. The Trustees and the Sexton were unaware they had been asked to return to the budget Committee. Mr LaBranche noted that cemetery trustees receive no pay for their service

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to reduce the proposed Operating Budget to \$28,141,882.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Frank DeLuca</b>	<b>APPROVED: Regina Barnes, Stephen LaBranche, David Maurer, Michael Plouffe, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Brian Warburton, Frank DeLuca Abstained: Jerry Znoi 7-0-1</b>

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Stephen LaBranche</b>	<b>to recommend to the Public Hearing the 2019 Article #12 – to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, the sum of \$28,141,882 not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately... Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$27,595,116 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton or by laws...</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>David Maurer</b>	<b>In favor: Stephen LaBranche OPPOSED: Regina Barnes, David Maurer, Michael Plouffe, Timothy “Citizen” Jones, Brian Warburton, Frank DeLuca Abstained: Jerry Znoi MOTION FAILED 1-6-1</b>

**6. New Business**

There being none

**7. BudComm Meeting Schedule**

**The Budget Committee Public Hearing is on Tuesday, January 15 at 7PM in Town Hall...**

**8. Adjournment**

Mr Jones adjourned the January 10, 2019 Municipal Budget Committee meeting at 9:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Barbara Kravitz, Recording Secretary,  
Town of Hampton, Municipal Budget Committee