

HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday January 15, 2019

Attendance

Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Chair
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair
Brian Warburton
David Maurer
Stephen LaBranche
Jerry Znoj
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative
Frank DeLuca, SAU90 Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Jones

3. Introduction of Members

In Attendance: Rusty Bridle, Chair, Board of Selectmen; Fred Welch, Town Manager, Kristie Pulliam, Finance Director, Jamie Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager, Chief Jamieson Ayotte, Fire Department, Chief Richard Sawyer, Police Department, Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent, Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator, Hampton School District, Representatives Michael Edgar and Pat Bushway; Jennifer Hale, Deputy DPW Director;

4. Budget Committee Public Hearing – Discussion of Location

Mr Jones set forth the protocol for speakers and the rule for reconsideration of a Budget Committee vote. Because attendance was over capacity, Chief Ayotte said for safety reasons those who were standing needed to leave the meeting room and proceed to the first floor where the meeting would be televised; anyone wanting to speak would be allowed into the meeting room and then return to the overflow area.

Discussion ensued among Committee Members and the public as to whether the meeting should be transferred to the Academy building [so everyone could be seated]. Superintendent Murphy said the Academy was already set up for the meeting if the decision was to move to that location - the meeting would then be recorded. Mr Jones offered the alternative of postponing the schools hearing for two days. Individuals from the public as well as BudComm members

disagreed on how to proceed, some cited the discomfort at the overflow in the room and would move the venue; others acknowledged the inconvenience for those in attendance, but wanted to get the Public Hearing done at this meeting as the interested persons were already present. The Chair had to following the legal obligations and act fairly.

Motion	Frank DeLuca	to change the location of this Budget Committee Public Hearing from Town Hall to the Academy building.
Second	Regina Barnes	In Favor: Robert Ladd, Frank DeLuca, Regina Barnes OPPOSED: Stephen La Branche, Michael Plouffe, David Maurer, Brian Warburton, Jerry Znoj, Timothy “Citizen” Jones, MOTION FAILED: 3-6-0

General Public Comments:

Maurine DeLuca cited the BudComm negative vote on the operating budget believing the interventionist position (as in Winnacunnet) was essential for academic and emotional assistance, - noting that an out-of district placement could amount to \$100,000. Amy Hansen said objectionable comments made by some Committee members in prior meetings were unacceptable - she called for civility; the Academy renovation and reconstruction was passed by 60% of the voters – ongoing maintenance could not wait; the interventionist assistance for students dealing with trauma is needed; taxes should not be the only priority. Ms J Kennedy supported both the town and schools budgets and thanked the department heads and staff for their careful preparation; she felt the recent tone of BudComm members, especially the enmity toward Ms Murphy and Mr Lunney, was a disservice and disrespectful. She called for civility, humility, and respect. Michael Pierce reminded hearing attendees to stay on the budget article and refrain [from extraneous comments]. Joe McCoy said the custodial staff was essential, noting the small increase. Mike Muldoon commended the Hampton Academy Building Committee

School District Warrant Articles Attending: Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent; Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator;

Warrant Article #2

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.

Jackie McCoy said the paraprofessional union is a team of 50 persons with various skills who work with students at the highest risk who suffer from trauma and stresses and are the most in need of help to achieve success in the community; outsourcing is far more costly; this group also raised and donated approximately \$50,000 e.g. Hobbs House, and an individual combating cancer. They thank BudComm for passing their contract, although they are concerned about the recent negativity;

Article #3 :To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to continue maintenance, repair and modernization ... at the Marston and Centre Schools...

Sarah Elliott cited the school buildings' security flaws e.g. concern about the accessibility of doors especially for the youngest and most vulnerable children.

Article 4: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 for...a second School Resource Officer to serve Centre School and Marston School...

Nancy Stiles said the students should be secure and safe in the excellent teaching and learning environment; at an early age children need contact with personnel who are trained to react in crisis situations;

Amy Hansen said providing safety for education and community building use does not waste money; the community should decide.

Chief Sawyer said taxpayers deserve mature, factual, reasonable discussion and should not allow mudslinging by BudComm, commenting that some don't like the police; but (taxpayers) should vote.

Keith Lessard said security was a hard job and always in mind; he cited the Sandy Hook murders noting that a Hampton assistant principal had been at a shooting incident in 2012;, and how a police cruiser had been a deterrent; drills and evacuation training is money well spent to feel secure in buildings, and develop relationships.

Article 5: by petition:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,925 to provide child benefit services...for students who are residents of the Hampton School District and attend Sacred Heart School located in Hampton. [No Comments]

Mr Jones closed the School District Public Hearing at 7:55

BudComm Deliberations:

School District Warrant Article #1

Shall the School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately,.. the amounts totaling \$23,585,440? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,387,188...

Mr Jones asked for support to reconsider the Schools Article #1 because he found the testimony about the custodians and interventionist needs compelling. Mr Warburton said the issues were not just about these 2 positions; costs keep going up every year; even passing the Academy expansion was a close vote. BudComm represents the taxpayers and the members were well experienced. Mr DeLuca believes in the system improvements and felt a small increase for schools in his tax bill was ok. Mr Ladd's choice was to support the schools budget request and defer to the professionals. Mr Znoj recalled that he had fought for the Academy, but costs can't always go up (4%); understanding facts is needed to reduce budgets i.e. wage scales, job descriptions, professional evaluations, rates and cost; the actual cost per pupil is closer to \$21,000/year. Mr DeLuca said the School Board reviewed the budget requests and cut where they could; while enrollment is flat, the federally mandated special ed costs go up. The school are adding programs that would reduce those costs. Ms Barnes said there are a lot of extra costs but the issue is the children and parents who show up.

Motion	Timothy "Citizen" Jones	to reconsider and recommend to the 2019 Public Hearing School District Article #1 – to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately,.. the amounts totaling \$23,585,440? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$23,387,188...
Second	Jerry Znoj	APPROVED: Regina Barnes, Stephen LaBranche, David Maurer, Michael Plouffe, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Brian Warburton, Frank DeLuca, Robert Ladd Opposed: Jerry Znoj 8-1-0.

Mr Jones thanked the attendees for participating and closed the School District Public Hearing at 8:22PM.

Mr Jones opened the Town Budget Public Hearing at 8:27 PM

Town Warrant Articles for Reconsideration:

Warrant Article #11 Master Plan: Attending: Jason Bachand, Town Planner, Fran McMahon, Chair, Ann Carnaby, Member, Planning Board; Laurie Olivier, Planning Coordinator;
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?...

Mr Bachand distributed follow-up information describing the tasks, timeframe, professional guidance, technical expertise, and outreach needed to produce Phase 1 with innovative

planning and public participation. The principal deliverable in Phase 1 will be the Vision Chapter which, along with the Land Use Chapter, is a legislative mandate. According to state statute, Hampton's Master Plan (now with a comprehensive gap of 34 years), requires revision every 5-10 years. The Phase 1 Report will include the strategic template including an outline of revised and new chapters, and competitive cost estimates for implementation by the Planning Board to complete a concise, creditable Master Plan for Hampton's future in Phase 2. The objective in Phase 1 is to streamline the development of the master plan and likely save costs overall. Mr Bachand emphasized that under NHRSA 674:1-4 the town is required to prepare and amend its master plan every 5-10 years. Mr Bachand emphasized that as Town Planner he cannot do this project alone. Further, if Hampton has no current Master Plan, the town will be at a competitive disadvantage when seeking grants. He thought \$18,000 for Phase 1 was well worth it.

Ms Olivier said the Planner and some Planning Board members they met with the RPC in October 2018 for guidance on how to build an outline of an innovative user friendly, professionally constructed document, ways to reach out to various public groups via social media and surveys, developing the Vision section etc. so that the Master Plan will represent citizens' perspective; they believe the RPC is needed for assistance to ask questions of the public in various ways to be effective in learning what the public values for the town's future. The Planning Office needs the assistance of RPC in reaching out to the public.

Mr McMahon urged the Budget Committee to reconsider its Article 11 (\$18,000) vote, noting that the Planning Board endorsed this request 7-0 and the Selectmen endorsed by 5-0. The Master Plan is vital to Hampton's growth, and needs to be well thought-out and meet the Vision and Land Use requirements of the RSAs; this requires coordination with the public and community groups; utilities, the Zoning Board, Conservation Commission, Department heads and SAUs 21 and 90 will be key participants. The Vision Section and the Land Use Section, which typically translates to zoning provisions, would be accessible on-line, interactive, ongoing, and user friendly. The Capital Improvement section must have a longer timeframe. Other sections would include transportation, economic development, natural resources, hazardous issues, recreation, regional concerns, neighborhood hazards. community design, housing, coastal

Ann Carnaby **emphasized that the Master Plan is so very old, and read from the state Land Use regulations, NHRSA 674:1** in re updates, impacts, and funding by the local legislative body (BOS). The document has to be published and distributed with copies of related documents accessible. The Planning Board is asking for help to do its job – imagine trying to distribute the current master plan. She asked for Reconsideration.

Mr Lessard encouraged BudComm to reconsider the Master Plan to achieve a 21st Century approach based on public input. Replacement is necessary to achieve grants etc.

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...

Michael Pierce referenced the article re 2 garbage trucks/ escape clause – it was wrong for this to be in the default budget without additional approval. Selectmen Waddell said the department heads develop the budget with the Town Manager, it goes to the Selectmen for approval, and then it is forwarded to the Budget Committee which sets the final number. He asked how BudComm could set the number, and then not vote for it.

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 amounts 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?

Selectman Rusty Bridle said the SAFER grant pays toward a desperate need to add manpower to overworked and stressed firefighters. Calls have increased since 1985; the town loses money on mutual aid calls. He encouraged BudComm to support the SAFER Grant.

Article #24: Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$243,165 for the purchase of the following replacement vehicles for the Department of Public Works: one 1-ton dump truck with plow and wing; two (2) ¾ ton trucks with plows, and two (2) sidewalk maintenance vehicles... with said sum to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance?

Ms Hale said the issue is how the DPW vehicles are funded. The taxpayers have already paid into the Undesignated Fund Balance, so there is no additional tax. Mr Welch clarified that a 4-4-0 vote means no recommendation [not opposed].

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.

Rep Mike Edgar said that the USS Hampton Committee had good attendance at the 1/14 meeting; currently they are welcoming those on the USS Virginia who are helpful with town projects. Mr Bridle is a proud committee member; Hampton was asked to serve as the host town; benefits include free help with the Christmas parade. He asked for reconsideration to show appreciation to honor vets for their service and gain good will. [No action taken]

Article #48 Petitioned: shall the town raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,500 to reimburse the Hampton American Legion Post 35 for the purchase of 200 bronze service

flag holder grave markers... to properly honor the graves of veterans in the High Street Cemetery...

Mike Edgar, Keith Lessard, and Rusty Bridle believe the town has to support, recognize and honor those who serve; reconsideration requested. [No action taken]

Mr Jones closed the Public Hearing on the Town Warrant Articles at 9:10PM.

Deliberations: For reconsideration by Ms Barnes:

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 \$28,141,882. 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...

Ms Barnes referenced a letter from the Town Manager conveying that the DRA says unless the Budget Committee supports a figure stated within the warrant article, there could be consequences. Ms Barnes recommended that unless the BudComm presents a figure it can approve, it go back to the figure originally approved by the Selectmen. Mr LaBranche recalled that the Budget Committee had voted on the number to be in the Warrant Article, and it was approved. The subsequent vote was in the negative.

Mr Znoj said the town's budgeting system is faulty and irresponsible, although Ms Pulliam had made some improvement it is full of puff and fluff; the Town Manager's Budget goes down .07%. the BOS budget goes up .1%. Therefore he would vote in the negative. Mr Warburton concurred and did not like the preparation of the budget and/or the lack of information to the public e.g. outsourcing the assessor, and changes to the Parks Director [wage increase and fewer responsibilities]; the trend is not helping taxpayers.

Ms Barnes agreed there was lots wrong, including increased overtime in every department, but the Town Manager and Finance Director worked hard and gave constant updating; Because of default budgets during the last 2 years, they were still working off 2017 numbers; taxes go up with little offsetting revenue. Mr Znoj's concern was the lack of after analysis; the public was not looking just for cuts but rather credibility of the process. He had studied the line-items, but sees no cost justification, rationale, or analysis given to the public.

Mr Ladd also thought the process was confusing and needing consistency to avoid a crisis. Actually, the number was about \$30,000 less than the Selectmen's original figure. Mr DeLuca was ok with reasonable numbers in the current budget noting that the costs are passed on to the taxpayer. In Mr Maurer's experience companies would mandate a 10% cut across the board so people would work together to look at the entire picture and consider cutting costs and/or

repurposing; income for people on social security depends on the CPI – town costs can't just keep going up. Mr Jones said the operating budget figure presented in the Warrant Article represents the Budget Committee's best number and thought that voters look at the "delta between the proposed budget and the default budget; other ideas were discussed but not adopted; an alternative preference is the Default Budget. Mr Maurer reported on the steady increases over the last 10 years, pointing out that if this continues, people on social security may have to sell their homes. He recommended working with management and schools administration to try to come up with effective ideas.

Ms Barnes commented that depreciation now outstrips asset value, **within a few months approximately \$800,000 will be spent on outsourcing, and emergencies such as with the marsh pipe**; the town needs a plan for the future that anticipates its needs, for example, where tall buildings at the Beach or the hotel and assisted living complexes ought best be situated rather processing them one by one, how the town can keep its workers, as well as increase revenue. The people will speak at the Deliberative Session. Mr Znoj thought the state should pay for the services at the Beach, and wanted to know the status and particulars of the marsh pipe project e.g. purchase price of materials and whether the budget was followed.

Motion	Regina Barnes	to reconsider and 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...
Second	Stephen LaBranche	APPROVED: Stephen LaBranche, Regina Barnes, Michael Plouffe, Robert Ladd, Frank DeLuca Opposed: David Maurer, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Brian Warburton, Jerry Znoj 5-4-0

6. New Business

There being none

7. BudComm Meeting Schedule

Mr Jones said he was proud of the Committee's work this session.

**This Public Hearing is the last BudComm meeting on the 2019 Operating Budget.
The Deliberative Session is in February.**

8. Adjournment

Mr Jones adjourned the January 10, 2019 Municipal Budget Committee meeting at 9:57 PM.

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