

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 8, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Mike Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin, Selectman Representative
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative
Sandra Nickerson, School Board Representative
Russ Bernstein
Victor DeMarco
Dick Hansen
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Maury Friedman
Norman Silberdick

Not Excused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Woolsey said this was the annual work session for the special money articles for budget year 2008.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes – January 3, 2008

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of January 3, 2008.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Hansen). Motion passed.

Hampton School District

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Jim Gaylord, Superintendent SAU 21. Mr. Gaylord discussed the warrant Article #2 (SESPA Contract). Mr. Gaylord said this is for the aides. It is a 1.75% increase plus steps. Ms. Nickerson said these aides are para-

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

<u>Article #36 – A Safe Place</u>	\$ 5,500
<u>Article #37 – Area Home Care & Family Services</u>	\$ 12,000
<u>Article #38 – Big Brothers-Big Sisters</u>	\$ 6,500
<u>Article #39 – Child & Family Services</u>	\$ 5,000
<u>Article #40 – Cross Roads House</u>	\$ 15,000
<u>Article #41 – New Generation Shelter</u>	\$ 2,000
<u>Article #42 – Red Cross</u>	\$ 1,000
<u>Article #43 – Retired Senior volunteer Program</u>	\$ 1,800
<u>Article #44 – Rockingham Community Action</u>	\$ 25,000
<u>Article #45 – Seacare Health Services</u>	\$ 10,000
<u>Article #46 – Seacoast Hospice</u>	\$ 7,500
<u>Article #47 – Seacoast Mental Health</u>	\$ 8,000
<u>Article #48 – Seacoast Visiting Nurses</u>	\$ 40,000
<u>Article #49 – Seacoast Youth Services</u>	\$ 2,500
<u>Article #50 – Sexual Assault support Services</u>	\$ 2,000
<u>Article #51 – The Ritchie McFarland Children’s Center</u>	\$ 6,000
<u>Article #52 – Aids Seacoast</u>	\$ 2,700
<u>Article #55 – Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels</u>	\$ 4,952
<u>Article #64 – Lamprey Health Care Senior Transportation</u>	\$ 4,200

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to NOT recommend the following to the Public Hearing.

<u>Article #67 - Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network</u>	\$ 2,000
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Chairman Woolsey said this is a situation where a church or churches take families and house them. There may be violations of zoning ordinances. The Board of Selectmen did not recommend this article.

Ms. Latimer said she knows nothing about this and would like more information.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to NOT recommend the following to the Public Hearing.

<u>Article #65 - Children’s Christmas Carnival</u>	\$ 4,000
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Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the following to the Public Hearing.

Article #16 – Roadway Maintenance \$350,000

Chairman Woolsey welcomed John Hangen, Director of Public Works.

Chairman Woolsey asked if this was for the 2008 year only and then it would go to the reserve fund. She asked if it was a bridge. Mr. Welch replied that it is for 2008 and then would go to the capital reserve fund.

Chairman Woolsey asked how much money is spent for this each year. Mr. Hangen said that every time there is a successful vote, about \$350,000 is spent. The Town has not kept up with the roads and this is a good investment.

Chairman Woolsey said she thought this should be an annual operating budget expense. Mr. Welch replied that the capital reserve fund is easier.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Nichols, Silberdick). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Griffin, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Article #23 – Drainage Study Update \$ 65,000

Vote: 0 yes, 8 no (Friedman, Hansen, Latimer, Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey), 5 abstentions (Bernstein, DeMarco, Griffin, Kubik, Lessard). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following:

Article #24 – DPW Capital Reserve Fund \$340,000

Mr. Hangen said this will be a start to replace the department's equipment on a 10-year basis.

Vote: 10 yes, 3 no (Hansen, Nichols, Pierce). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

<u>Article #69 – Construct Bicycle Route</u>	\$752,000 (\$601,600 from State)
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Ben Moore, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, said this bicycle path will go from Route 1 to Route 1A.

Vote: 6 yes, 6 no (DeMarco, Friedman, Kubik, Nichols, Plouffe, Woolsey). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

<u>Article #68 – Sidewalk Landing & Winnacunnet Roads</u>	\$ 97,520
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Vote: 1 yes, 12 no (DeMarco, Friedman, Griffin, Hansen, Kubik, Latimer, Lessard, Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

<u>Article #10 – Teamsters Local 633</u>	\$ 43,722
<u>Article #11 – State Employees Association</u>	\$ 48,053
<u>Article #12 – Hampton Police Association</u>	\$102,078
<u>Article #13 – Hampton Police Association (Sergeants)</u>	\$ 6,280
<u>Article #14 – Hampton Firefighters Local 2664</u>	\$115,433
<u>Article #15 – Hampton Fire Supervisory Association</u>	\$ 23,961

Mr. Moore said these were the collective bargaining agreements and they are related to salaries and benefits for 2008, 2009 and 2010. He said there is 2% increase for health insurance for all contracts. When employee share is computed, it will not be over 20% per year. There are also step increases. In Article #11 a benefit for overtime employees will be added (meals). The uniform allowance and safety outerwear will be increased. There are also educational incentives in some articles.

Mr. Nichols said that the salary increases are typically 3% per year and this only reflects a part of the increase because of the steps. The average increase over six years is almost 6% when everything is considered. Mr. Moore said there are no consistent steps. They go contract by contract. Mr. Nichols said he felt 6% was too high.

Mr. Pierce asked when benefits for these employees will be brought in line with private industry.

Mr. DeMarco asked what the Town contribution for police and fire retirement is. Mr. Welch said it is 13.65% for police and 15.92% for fire.

Chairman Woolsey said that the labor statute says that any decision the Budget Committee makes is not prejudicial. She said she was impressed with the work that went into these contracts.

Chairman Woolsey asked the Committee if they wished to go over these articles one by one or vote on the group. It was decided to vote on the articles as a group.

Mr. Griffin left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Vote: 5 yes, 6 no (Bernstein, Friedman, Nichols, Pierce, Silberdick, Woolsey). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to NOT recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #31 – Purchase Doggett Fish House \$ 22,700

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Bernstein, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #17 – Tennis Court Repairs \$115,000

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Friedman). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #21 – Mosquito Control \$ 50,000

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to NOT recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #59 – Create HBVD Improvement Fund from Parking Receipts \$5,500

Vote: 10 yes, 1 no (Kubik). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #60 – Appropriate \$171,994 from parking receipts for lighting \$171,994

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Ms. Latimer to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #71 – City Year New Hampshire Hampton’s Team Support \$ 15,000

Chairman Woolsey said the Board of Selectmen did not recommend this article because they felt it belonged with the school district.

Vote: 5 yes, 5 no (Lessard, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey), 1 abstention (Nichols). Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. Friedman, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the following.

Article #72 – Old Town Hall Senior Center \$150,000

Mr. Pierce said that the seniors have no home. Plans that have been put forth are not likely to happen for a long time. Professionals have looked at the building and deemed it salvageable.

Chairman Woolsey said that if the bond for the uptown fire station passes, it is planned to tear down this building.

Vote: 1 yes, 10 no (Bernstein, DeMarco, Hansen, Latimer, Lessard, Nichols, Pierce, Plouffe, Silberdick, Woolsey). Motion failed.

Chairman Woolsey asked about the radiant heat aspect for the fire building. Mr. Welch said he called an architect and it would cost about 30% more to make the building “green”. He is still working on the cost for the heating alone.

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Mr. Nichols said that there is a 5.9% increase in operating budget and warrant articles over last year.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting which is a public hearing will be held at the Junior High on Thursday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. At this time, operating budgets and warrant articles for the school and the Town will be addressed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman

