

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 18, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Richard Nichols, Selectman Representative
Rusty Bridle, School Board Representative
Pat Collins (7:15)
Victor DeMarco
Maury Friedman
Dick Hansen
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Michael Pierce
Norman Silberdick
Larry Stuker
Peter Traynor

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2008

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard to approve the Minutes of November 6, 2008 as amended.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Friedman).

Amendments to the Minutes were as follows:

Page 2, paragraph 5 should read as follows: “Ms. Latimer said the Library budget was reduced last year by \$21,936 and she felt the \$836,875 was appropriate”.

Page 3, paragraph 8 should read as follows: “Ms. Latimer said this is about as tight a budget as could possibly be done. There is nothing to take out of this budget. The Police budget reflects a reduction in the part-time special shifts which in the future may have to be readdressed. This is a continuation over several years”.

Public Works Department

Chairman Woolsey welcomed John Price, Public Works Director, and Teresa McGinnis, Assistant Operations Manager.

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$2,017,812 for Highways/Streets/Bridges/Lighting.

Mr. Price said that he had been hired by the department in May of this year and promoted to Director in August. He worked in municipal government for 10 years and in private industry for 30 years.

Mr. Silberdick asked why part-time and overtime wages are up. Mr. Price said the part-time is up because of the summer crew that goes to the beach and picks up the trash and also for the mowing of lawns. Chairman Woolsey said the overtime is weather driven. Mr. Price said they are watching overtime very carefully and will try to save money there.

Mr. Price said the increase in drug and alcohol testing is due to DOT requirements for testing of CDL operators, all departments.

Ms. Latimer asked what rate was used for fuel. Mr. Nichols said \$3.75 for gasoline and \$4.50 for diesel. Ms. Latimer said the Committee might want to revisit fuel numbers later. Mr. Price said they watch the consumption of fuel and cut back as much as possible.

Chairman Woolsey said there was a corresponding reduction in the Recreation budget when lawn mowing was moved to the Public Works budget.

Ms. Latimer noted that only \$27,744 out of \$100,000 for highway resurfacing has been utilized. Mr. Price said there are still bills to be paid.

Ms. Latimer asked if there was a prioritized list of streets to be resurfaced. Mr. Price said there was a list, but sometimes something else may come up that has to be addressed first.

Mr. Traynor asked if any private lots were being repaired with Town funds. Mr. Price said there were not.

Mr. DeMarco asked why no money had been spent on sidewalk reconstruction. Mr. Price replied that it was necessary to finish sewer and drainage elsewhere.

Mr. DeMarco said he would like to see a report of expenditures every month. This would be more current and be a good tool for the Committee.

Chairman Woolsey asked about salt. Mr. Price said they are locked in for the year for salt prices. The price last year was \$59.23 per ton and about 1,800 tons were used.

Mr. Pierce asked how much would be saved if the salt was purchased in the summer and there was a place to store it. Mr. Price said savings would be approximately \$21,000.

Chairman Woolsey said a salt shed is going to be one of the warrant articles. Mr. Traynor asked what the salt shed would cost. Mr. Price said \$222,000.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,910,202 for Sanitation.

Ms. Latimer asked about the 11% decrease in regular wages. Chairman Woolsey said that was Doug Mellon's position which has not been replaced. Ms. Latimer said she would like to point out to the taxpayers that the Town is losing staff and services. To meet the budgetary needs for Public Works, there has been a reduction in staff which was the second Operations Manager.

Chairman Woolsey inquired about the new technology for disposal of sludge. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said there would be significant cost to upgrade the current treatment facility in order to adapt it to be able to use the new technology.

Mr. DeMarco said the two previous Public Works Directors had talked about upgrading the water treatment plant to a "pay per use" facility. Chairman Woolsey said this is going to have to end up as a tertiary treatment plant. Chairman Woolsey said one of her chief concerns is water use.

Mr. Silberdick asked if there would be a financial impact on Public Works if the mandatory recycling passes. Mr. Price said there would be on trash, but not on sludge.

Chairman Woolsey said tipping fees would be much lower if recyclables were removed. Mr. Nichols said the Town has established a Waste & Recycling Committee to help.

The fact that there are a number of households who do not recycle was discussed. Mr. Price said he would post on Channel 22 and the website instructions on obtaining the recycle bins.

Chairman Woolsey asked the group how many would prefer to see year to date numbers rather than annualization. The majority preferred year to date.

Mr. Silberdick asked about commercial trash collection and if recycling is going on at the beach. Mr. Nichols said the major businesses at the beach dispose of their own trash. Chairman Woolsey said she hoped the mandatory recycling will also be for the business community as well. Mr. Welch said it would.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

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Vehicles were discussed. Mr. Welch said there is a warrant article for \$340,000 a year for 10 years to replace rolling stock for the Public Works Department. However, this will have to be voted on each year.

Mr. Price said the vehicles are not being washed down and therefore have a shorter lifespan. Mr. Silberdick asked if a wash down shed might not be a better investment than a salt shed. Chairman Woolsey said the salt shed must be done or there will be EPA fines.

Mr. Friedman said he would like Mr. Price to get back to the Committee on what possibilities there are of better maintaining equipment. Mr. Price said they have started using a new maintenance schedule.

Mr. Friedman asked if there was a plan showing capital requirements for the future. Mr. Price said they are doing that through the CIP.

Chairman Woolsey thanked Mr. Price and Ms. McGinnis for their presentation.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 2, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the Fire Department budget will be addressed.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman