

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 15, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Larry Stuker, Chairman  
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman  
Richard Bateman, Selectman Representative  
Maureen O'Leary, School Board Representative  
June White, Precinct Representative  
Brian Lapham  
Eileen Latimer  
Mark McFarlin  
Michael Pierce  
Michael Plouffe  
Richard Reniere  
Peter Traynor

Excused

Pat Collins  
Jack Lessard

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Stuker introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Stuker welcomed Mike Schwotzer, Hampton Finance Director.

Mr. Schwotzer presented the Income and Expense statements for the period ending May 31, 2010.

Mr. Schwotzer said there had been a question as to how much flexibility the Board of Selectmen has as far as setting the budget. He said there is not much flexibility. There is no flexibility regarding the warrant articles. Mr. Schwotzer said the total budget is \$26,467,764. He explained that from this number income, deletion of the "spike" and the transfer from the fund balance is deleted. Then you add overlay and war serv credits. This leaves the amount of \$19,375.861 for taxes to be raised. This results in a tax rate for 2009 of \$6.41. There is a decrease in the tax rate '09 vs. '08 of \$0.16.

Mr. Schwotzer explained that the one number the Selectmen can change is the amount of the transfer from the undesignated fund balance.

Mr. Schwotzer discussed town budget history from 2003 to 2010. Each year, except for 2010, the budget has increased. There has been a 7-year increase of \$4,249,424.

Mr. Traynor asked about the police station. Mr. Schwotzer said that would be paid off in 3 years. Ms. Woolsey said that because the police station was funded over 10 years it was a very heavy front load. Ms. Woolsey asked about the newest tax bill. Mr. Schwotzer said the present bill is calculated as half of the prior year and the results of this year's voting will not be seen until the fall. Ms. Woolsey said she felt the transferring of funds from the fund balance is confusing. Mr. Schwotzer said the money from the fund balance gives the ability to address larger projects. It is also a reserve for emergencies.

Mr. Reniere asked when the tax rate for the county and schools would be available. Mr. Schwotzer said it would be available in November.

Ms. Latimer asked if the Town is renegotiating with Waste Management. Mr. Schwotzer said a 1-year contract has just been approved with regards to recycling.

Chairman Stuker thanked Mr. Schwotzer for his valuable input.

Chairman Stuker welcomed Chris Silver, Hampton Fire Chief. Chairman Stuker asked Chief Silver to discuss the status of the proposed fire stations.

Chief Silver said all information is on the Town website for residents to view. Chief Silver said the budget for 2011 has not been prepared. The main consideration is balancing of needs. They are now focusing on physical facilities, but personnel needs must also be considered. The proposed site at the beach seems to be the most cost effective because it is in the existing footprint of the present station. Chief Silver said they had looked at the sites, and worked with an architect, and in-house fire department design team and community design team. An engineer also participated in this endeavor. They ultimately ended up with the documents posted on the Town website. There is also a "Frequently Asked Questions" section on the website. Chief Silver said the Beach Precinct has voted to provide the land requested and has given the Precinct Commissioners permission to work with the Town. Chief Silver said he wants to give the voters plenty of time so they are comfortable when they go to vote.

Mr. Reniere asked about the present number of firefighters. Chief Silver said there are 4 in the town and 3 at the beach. Mr. Reniere asked about ambulances. Chief Silver said there are 2 at Winnacunnet Road and 1 at the beach.

Ms. Latimer said she had heard that the Precinct vote had been contested. Ms. White said the Precinct contacted Concord regarding this issue and it has been resolved.

Ms. Latimer discussed the staffing for the ambulance at the beach. She said the Board of Selectmen had promised staffing and money for this. Chief Silver said that ambulance has not been staffed since 2005. Ms. Latimer said she believes the public wants to see this ambulance staffed. Chairman Stuker asked if a staffing of 8 for the department would be adequate. Chief Silver said it would not.

Mr. Bateman commended Chief Silver for his outstanding work on the fire station project. Chief Silver said he had a great staff helping him.

Mr. McFarlin asked if there were plans for a public forum to discuss the fire station issue. Chief Silver said there definitely will be a public forum.

Mr. McFarlin asked if the Board of Selectmen were planning to address the staffing of the ambulance. Mr. Bateman said this is not presently being discussed. Mr. Bateman said he felt it was a very important issue and should be addressed.

Mr. Pierce asked which station would come first. Chief Silver said that had not been decided and it could happen simultaneously.

Mr. Traynor said he hoped people realize that the worst fires are in the Village District for a number of reasons. He commended the Precinct for passing their article.

Ms. Woolsey said she felt the department was dangerously understaffed. There is a staff of 7 and under the ISO rating there should be 15. The ISO rating can dramatically affect property insurance rates. The ambulance service is also a source of revenue for the Town.

**Moved** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to ask the Chairman of the Budget Committee to approach the Board of Selectmen on their timetable for providing additional funding for the full staffing of the second ambulance as soon as possible.

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

Mr. Pierce suggested displaying the fire station plans on easels at the Town Office. Chief Silver said this would be done.

Chairman Stuker thanked Chief Silver for attending the meeting.

Ms. Latimer left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes of May 18, 2010**

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of May 18, 2010.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Precinct Report**

Ms. White said the Precinct warrant article regarding the land for the fire station passed. There was also a second article as a backup in case the voters do not approve the building of a new station which would provide for the renovation of the old station.

### **School Board Report**

Ms. O'Leary gave an update on the withdrawal from SAU21.

### **Selectman Report**

Ms. Woolsey asked why it was taking so long to install a generator. It has been 18 months since the ice storm. Mr. Bateman said they have the generator and are waiting for the construction of a cement pad.

Ms. Woolsey asked if the Town was compliant with governmental accounting standards. Mr. Bateman said he would find out.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the school budget will be addressed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Pierce **moved**, seconded by Mr. Reniere, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Larry Stuker, Chairman