

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 21, 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
Dick Hansen
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Mark McFarlin
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Peter Traynor

Excused

Pat Collins
Michael Pierce

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

Chairman Stuker asked for a moment of silence for John Nickerson and Diana LaMontagne who recently passed away.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Stuker introduced the members of the Board.

School Budget Review

Chairman Stuker welcomed Rosemary Lamers, School Board Chairman, Nancy Tuttle, Finance Manager, and Rusty Bridle, School Board Member.

Ms. Lamers said a focus group will take place to set characteristics and qualifications for the new superintendent for SAU 90. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m. at Marston School.

Ms. Tuttle said that she would focus tonight on the 2009-2010 budget. This would be a year end review.

Ms. Tuttle discussed health insurance rates. She said this is probably the largest budget item other than salaries. Ms. Tuttle said they receive a GMR (guaranteed maximum rate) in the fall. Last October this estimate was 11.3%. In April when the rate was set, the actual

was 4.7%. This came to \$108,000 in savings. The increase for the NH retirement system went from 6.9% to 7.49%.

Ms. Tuttle discussed the trust fund created by the warrant article that was passed last March. This was to put \$50,000 into an expendable trust for special education needs. Ms. Tuttle said she recommends the establishment of trust funds for special education and building maintenance. If something catastrophic happens, it might not be possible to cover this in the operating budget. She recommends trust funds of \$300,000 for special education and \$150,000 for building maintenance.

Ms. Woolsey asked if these funds can earn interest. Ms. Tuttle said they could. Mr. Traynor asked if this \$50,000 was for SAU 21 or the new SAU 90. Ms. Tuttle replied that it was for SAU 90.

Mr. McFarlin asked about the figure of \$300,000 for special education. Ms. Tuttle said there was a case in the past where one child required out of district placement at a cost of \$300,000.

Ms. Tuttle said that in order to access the funds from the trust there must be a public posted meeting.

Mr. Lapham asked if this could include teachers. Ms. Tuttle said it could if it was specific to a particular child. They are required by law to support these children.

Ms. Latimer asked if in a year where addition to the fund is not on the warrant could left over funds from the operating budget be put in the trust. Ms. Tuttle said no. It must go before the voters.

Ms. Tuttle reviewed revenues. She said at the end of the year revenues are reviewed. They generally come from state and federal revenue and food service revenue. She said they would like food service programs to be self-supportive, but that is difficult. \$70,173 was brought in over the estimated revenues. This can mostly be attributed to tuition from other districts and contributions and donations.

Chairman Stuker asked what percentage of children fall into the category of free and reduced meals. Ms. Lamers said she did not know an exact number but it is increasing. Mr. Traynor asked if any funds for food service come from state or federal. Ms. Lamers said there were funds and it is based on a formula. Ms. Tuttle said the amount from the federal government has not increased much over the years but the cost has.

Ms. Tuttle discussed the year end unreserved fund balance. She said that funds can be transferred within accounts, but the amounts must match. Any transfers are Board approved.

Ms. Woolsey asked about encumbrances. Ms. Tuttle said encumbrances are only carried for one year, but the goal is 90 days.

Ms. Tuttle discussed the money turned back to the Town. For 2009-2010 \$337,254 went back.

Ms. Tuttle said this information will be posted on the SAU website so it can be followed month to month.

Ms. Tuttle discussed Food Service. Mr. Traynor asked if cooperative purchasing for food and fuel will be done when SAU 90 begins. Ms. Tuttle said that it would.

Ms. Tuttle discussed the timeline for the 2011-2012 budget development.

Ms. Tuttle reviewed the Hampton withdrawal from SAU 21. Effective July 1, 2011 Hampton will become SAU 90. The new superintendent will start at that time and they will budget for that this fall.

Ms. Latimer said that the School Sub-Committee members have decided that they will attend the School Board work sessions rather than have separate meetings. Ms. Latimer said that after the budget is set she will meet with Ms. Tuttle before the budget comes before this Board.

Chairman Stuker complimented the representatives from the school on their very fine presentation.

Chairman Stuker said the Budget Committee meeting originally scheduled for December 14th has been changed to December 21st.

Precinct Report

June White said the Harvest Moon Festival will be held on October 9th and 10th. There will be fireworks on Saturday night.

Selectman's Report

There was no report.

Approval of Minutes of June 15, 2010

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of June 15, 2010 as amended.

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

Amendment to the Minutes was as follows:

Page 1: Dick Hansen's name should be added to list of Committee members present.

Chairman Stuker said the Committee should appoint a representative to the CIP.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to appoint Mr. Traynor as representative to the CIP..

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

Mr. Traynor mentioned the people leaving the Police and Fire departments. Mr. Bateman said that they have not received any financial advances of a contractual nature in the last five or six years. The Town has become a place to leave rather than come to

Chairman Stuker said the next meeting will be on October 19th. Chief Chris Silver will be there to discuss the fire stations project. There will also be a meeting on October 28th. This meeting will address General Government.

Ms. Woolsey said the Committee should receive the budget information on General Government at least one week before the October 28th meeting.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Larry Stuker, Chairman

