

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 27, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Larry Stuker, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Richard Bateman, Selectman Representative
June White, Precinct Representative
Pat Collins
Dick Hansen
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Mark McFarlin
Michael Pierce
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere

Excused

Peter Traynor

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 Board.

Jack Lessard mentioned the passing of Ray Sturgis, a former Selectman

Legal Department

Chairman Stuker welcomed Mark Gearreald, Town Counsel, and Richard Nichols, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Woolsey said she had heard there were going to be some big changes coming in the Town and asked Mr. Nichols what they might be. Mr. Nichols replied that the Selectmen are not prepared to discuss that at this time, but he did not feel it was anything that would impact the budget.

Attorney Gearreald said the legal budget is a 2.19% decrease from last year. He discussed hours worked vs. hours paid. He said if you compare the costs of service for in-house, they are generally running with the current budget at \$98 per hour. Out of house services average \$210 per hour. The cost for running the in-house department is approximately \$178,000 including benefits, etc. It would be over \$500,000 for outside counsel.

Chairman Stuker said he was looking for an overall trend. Mr. Nichols said this is dependent on what litigation is taking place.

Attorney Gearreald discussed the status of the Legal Assistant. Her current rate is \$22.73 per hour and is on a part-time basis. She will receive a 10% increase when she passes the bar next February.

Attorney Gearreald said there is an additional \$1,000 in supplies and expenses. This is for the installation of a new printer.

Attorney Gearreald passed out a chart showing pending cases. There are approximately 22 matters pending, 11 of which are tax abatement cases.

Chairman Stuker asked if there had been any kind of breakthrough in the past couple of days. Attorney Gearreald said they had two mediation sessions at NH Superior Court regarding the sick bank case. The parties have reached a tentative agreement.

Ms. Woolsey said in the 2010 budget there was an item for \$47,100 under Police Department Special Details. This represents the sum that the Town was required to pay as a result of the suit related to the failure of the Town to negotiate a sidebar for details. Attorney Gearreald said there was a grievance against the Town by the Hampton Police Association. The arbitration was handled by outside counsel and ended in favor of the Police Association. The Town filed a motion in Superior Court and the court ruled the motion would stand. Ms. Woolsey said the Selectmen have the latitude to negotiate sidebars with union entities to relieve situations that may be minor and cause difficulty later. She said she was concerned that it appears that instead of making the effort to negotiate a sidebar, the instinct is to tell the employees to "go fish".

Mr. Nichols said it is unfair to blame either the Town or the unions because when the original language of the sick bank was created, neither of the parties did a good job anticipating things that could happen.

Mr. Pierce said he felt it was inappropriate for the Committee to discuss cases that have not been settled.

Ms. Latimer asked if there was any recovery in fees when the Town wins a case. Attorney Gearreald said yes and there is also revenue for the review of condo documents.

Ms. Latimer said every year there are Warrant Articles that may not be legal and asked if there was anything the Legal Department could do to review these articles. Attorney Gearreald said articles from the Selectmen are reviewed. Ms. Latimer asked about articles from the public. Attorney Gearreald said the Selectmen decided not to do that as it could cause problems.

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Collins, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$314,154 for Legal.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Latimer). Motion passed.

Trustees of the Trust Fund

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Collins, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,000 for Trustees of the Trust Fund.

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

Recycle Education

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Bateman, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$500 for Recycle Education.

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

Heritage Commission

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$1,200 for the Heritage Commission.

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

Town Clerk

Chairman Stuker welcomed Jane Cypher, Town Clerk. Ms. Cypher said this budget is down \$13,000 due to the fact that there is only one election next year.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$189,183 for the Town Clerk.

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

Voter Registration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$4,402 for Voter Registration.

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

Election Administration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$220, 552 for Election Administration.

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

Assessing

Chairman Stuker welcomed Ed Tinker, Assessor.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$224,219 for Assessing.

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

Tax Collection

Chairman Stuker welcomed Donna Bennett, Tax Collector.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$93,975 for Tax Collection.

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

Planning

Chairman Stuker welcomed Jamie Steffen, Town Planner.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$35,871 for Planning.

Mr. Reniere asked if the Planning Board generates revenue. Mr. Steffen said revenue is generated by application fees.

Ms. Latimer asked if they were doing school only for impact fees. Mr. Steffen said that was correct, but they are looking at other possibilities such as public safety, recreation, etc.

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

Zoning Board

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$6,810 for Zoning Board.

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

Office of Planning

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$71,528 for Office of Planning.

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

Cemetery Trustees

Moved by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$113,965 for Cemetery Trustees.

Mr. Lessard said he would prefer to have the trustees present before the Committee votes.

Ms. Latimer withdrew her motion and Chairman Stuker said he would ask the trustees to appear at the November 2nd meeting.

Building and Code

Chairman Stuker welcomed Kevin Schultz, Building Inspector.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$203,150 for Building and Code.

Mr. Schultz said the increase in his budget is to replace one of the vehicles.

Ms. Woolsey asked if there had been an increase in building permits. Mr. Schultz said there has been an increase.

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

Mosquito Control

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$60,000 for Mosquito Control.

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

Welfare Administration

Chairman Stuker welcomed Michelle Kingsley, Welfare Officer.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$90,000 for Welfare Administration.

Chairman Stuker asked how many people the Welfare Office was assisting. Ms. Kingsley said they are presently assisting approximately 6 families per week.

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

Library

Chairman Stuker welcomed Amanda Cooper, Lane Library.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$822,252 for Library.

Ms. Cooper said there will be a warrant article for books and programs.

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

Patriotic Purposes, Town Beautification and Conservation Commission

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amounts of \$1,650 for Patriotic Purposes, \$500 for Town Beautification, and \$28,293 for the Conservation Commission.

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

Selectmen

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$15,500 for Selectmen.

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

Town Manager

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$145,439 for Town Manager.

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

Budget Committee

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to add \$2,000 to the Budget Committee budget for legal expenses.

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

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$4,200 for Budget Committee.

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

Accounting & Financial Services

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$289,548 for Accounting & Financial Services.

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

Audit Services

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$33,500 for Audit Services.

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

Management Information Systems

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$180,005 for Management Information Systems.

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

Human Resources Printing & Supplies

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$1,000 for Human Resources Printing & Supplies.

Personnel Expenses

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$1,985,222 for Personnel Expenses.

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

Town Office Building

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$121,783 for Town Office Building.

District Court

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$400 for District Court.

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

Property Insurance

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$280,100 for Property Insurance.

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

Other Insurance

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,155,543 for Other Insurance.

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

Hydrants

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Bateman, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$421,785 for Hydrants.

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

Debt Service

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,048,274 for Debt Service.

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

Approval of Minutes of October 19, 2010

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of October 19, 2010.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Bateman, White). Motion passed.

Chairman Stuker said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. At that time, the Police Department, Animal Control and Recreation will be addressed.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary