

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 2, 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  
Pat Collins  
Brian Lapham  
Eileen Latimer  
Jack Lessard  
Mark McFarlin  
Michael Pierce  
Michael Plouffe  
Richard Reniere  
Peter Traynor

Excused

Dick Hansen

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.

Chairman Stuker welcomed several Winnacunnet High School students who were attending this meeting as a school project.

Michael Pierce urged everyone to keep an eye on their less fortunate neighbors. There are many agencies to help such as the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.

Police Department

Chairman Stuker welcomed Chief Jamie Sullivan and Deputy Chief Rich Sawyer.

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,563,724 for the Police Department.

Chairman Stuker said the Hampton Police Department used to be the place you go to and now it is the one you come from. He asked about the overall cost of turnover.

Chief Sullivan said in general it costs around \$1,500 to \$2,000 to put an officer through the first phase of training. There are also costs associated with exams, uniforms, etc. Then  
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there are costs for in-house training of approximately 100 hours. This will cost about \$12,000 for 10 to 15 part-time officers this year. There are then additional costs for on the road training. After all is said and done it comes down to about \$5,000 per person.

Chairman Stuker asked how much turnover there had been over the past three years. Chief Sullivan said it has been substantial. It averages four to five going out each year. Our goal is for 70 part-timers. There were 28 last year.

Chairman Stuker asked about the main reason for the officers resigning. Chief Sullivan said it was money. There has been attrition among full time officers this year due to the pay rate.

Mr. Collins said that other police departments are always anxious to hire Hampton police officers because of their excellent quality.

Mr. McFarlin asked how the department compares to other high functioning departments in regards to base pay. Chief Sullivan said they are falling behind on base pay and have slipped over the years. Deputy Chief Sawyer gave an example of an ad on an advertised website for a beginning patrolman at a starting salary of \$42,000 in Dover.

Ms. Latimer said the department has done an excellent job. Hampton cannot compete with the larger cities on pay, but other things have to be addressed, i.e., contracts that have not been negotiated for a number of years.

Mr. Traynor said the Town should respect its employees by giving them current contracts. Mr. Traynor said he hoped the negotiations going on now will change this.

Ms. White asked how many full time officers there were. Chief Sullivan said the maximum is 34.

Ms. Woolsey said if there is a desire to run the Town as a business, there is a need to understand that that business is public safety.

Ms. Woolsey also said that the Chief needs money for shift coverage. It is a danger to the community to have the level of officers so low. Ms. Woolsey said last year the Budget Committee put money into the Police and Fire budgets which was then taken out by the Board of Selectmen. Chief Sullivan said last year they went from 220 shifts to 97. Ms. Latimer said it is important that the public knows those numbers.

Chairman Stuker said the statistics portray fewer arrests. The reason for that is that there are fewer officers out to make the arrests. Ms. Woolsey said it is also dangerous for the officers who are out all alone in the midst of big crowds.

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Ms. Woolsey expressed worry that any money the Committee puts in the Police and Fire budgets will be left after the Selectmen gain control of it. Mr. Traynor said he agreed. Mr. Bateman said he would fight that happening.

Chief Sullivan said that all could rest assured that no matter what financial difficulties there are, the department will do their training. Chief Sullivan said that this budget being presented is sufficient to achieve their training goals.

Ms. Latimer questioned adjustments that were made in the budget. Mike Schwotzer, Finance Director, explained those adjustments.

Chairman Stuker asked the Committee if they had anything they wished to change in this budget. Ms. Woolsey suggested that this be held off until the final review. Mr. Reniere said he felt it was not the place of the Committee to micro manage and if the Chief agrees this budget is adequate, the Committee should approve it.

Ms. Woolsey said that the Committee is entitled to see the Chief's raw budget request to understand what he actually needs for his department. This is also true for all other department requests.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Collins, to move the question.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Traynor), 2 abstentions (Bateman, Woolsey). Motion passed.

Chairman Stuker asked for a vote on the main motion.

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

Rolling Stock was discussed. Ms. Woolsey asked how many vehicles would be replaced next year. Chief Sullivan said there would be four replacements.

### Animal Control

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$52,190 for Animal Control.

Mr. Traynor asked Chief Sullivan if he had a commitment from the Board of Selectmen for a warrant article for the mounted patrol. Chief Sullivan replied that he does have that commitment.

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

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Emergency Management

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$1,500 for Emergency Management.

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

Chairman Stuker thanked Chief Sullivan and Deputy Chief Sawyer for attending this meeting.

#### Cemeteries

Chairman Stuker welcomed Tom Harrington of the Cemetery Trustees.

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$113,965 for Cemeteries.

Mr. Harrington went over the cemetery budget and explained how there were other things that were also needed not in this budget.

Mr. McFarlin asked what Mr. Harrington would request if he could. Mr. Harrington said a new lawnmower was needed. This would cost approximately \$5,000. They would also like to build a small office as the present structure is an unpleasant place to meet with bereaved persons. Fred Welch, Town Manager, suggested that a master plan should be created for the cemeteries.

**Amendment** made by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to increase the cemeteries budget by \$5,000 for the purchase of a lawnmower.

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

Chairman Stuker asked for a vote on the main motion as amended to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$118,965 for cemeteries.

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

#### Recreation & Parks

Chairman Stuker welcomed Dyana Martin, Recreation and Parks Department.

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$195,481 for Recreation and Parks.

Ms. Martin explained the functions and programs of this department.

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**Amendment** made by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to add \$1,090 to the Recreation & Parks budget for Christmas decorations.

**Vote:** 4 yes, 10 no (Lapham, Lessard, McFarlin, O'Leary, Pierce, Plouffe, Reniere, Stuker, White, Woolsey). Amendment failed.

Chairman Stuker asked for a vote on the main motion.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 1 no (Lapham). Motion passed.

Rolling Stock was discussed. Ms. Martin explained the uses for the bus.

#### Lifeguards

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$26,523 for Lifeguards.

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

#### Parking Lots

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$66,012 for Parking Lots.

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

#### **Approval of Minutes of October 27, 2010**

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of October 27, 2010 as amended.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (O'Leary). Motion passed.

Amendment to the Minutes was as follows:

Page 7, paragraph 1 should read:

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to add \$2,000 to the Budget Committee budget for legal expenses including the understanding that the Chairman Will seek approval of the Committee before hiring outside counsel, and any advice From such counsel will be in written form.

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The next meeting will be on Friday, November 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the Public Works budget 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 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Larry Stuker, Chairman