

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Amended
October 26, 2011

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Michael Pierce, Selectman Representative
Ginny Bridle-Russell, School Board Representative
Maureen Buckley, Precinct Representative
Richard Desrosiers
Brian Lapham
Dustin Marzinzik
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Peter Traynor
Brian Warburton

Absent

Pat Collins

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Latimer said this was the first work session of the year and General Government would be addressed. She said this is not a policy board. This board looks at the numbers. Chairman Latimer said she would not vote except to break a tie.

Budget Committee

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$2,200 for the Budget Committee

Amendment made by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to add \$1,000 to the amount for the Budget Committee for legal expenses.

Mr. Pierce said this line item was reduced because it is an artificial number. These expenses would be paid if they were incurred. Chairman Latimer said there had been an issue in the past and she feels this is needed.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Pierce). Amendment passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the amended motion to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,200 to the public hearing for the Budget Committee.

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

Trustees of the Trust Fund

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,000 for Trustees of the Trust Fund.

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

Miscellaneous Committees

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$500 for Miscellaneous Committees.

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

Heritage Commission

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, 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 Latimer welcomed Jane Marzinzik, Town Clerk.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$194,445 for the Town Clerk.

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

Voter Registration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$5,206 for Voter Registration.

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

Election Administration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$43,455 for Election Administration.

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

Election, Registration and Vital Statistics

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$243,106 for Election, Registration and Vital Statistics.

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

Assessing

Chairman Latimer welcomed Ed Tinker, Assessor.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$219,669 for Assessing.

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

Tax Collection

Chairman Latimer welcomed Donna Bennett, Tax Collector.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$93,975 for Tax Collection.

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

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$14,650 for Human Resources.

Chairman Latimer said she questioned the need for a part-time person (\$13,650). Fred Welch, Town Manager, explained the duties of this proposed employee and said he felt the position was needed.

Amendment made by Mr. Warburton, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to remove the line item for a part-time Human Resources position (\$13,650).

Chairman Latimer said her problem is that this is another instance of not having a plan.

Vote: 7 yes, 6 no (Buckley, Bridle, Desrosiers, McFarlin, Pierce, Reniere). Amendment passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a motion on the main motion as amended to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,000 for Human Resources.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Bridle, McFarlin). Motion passed.

Planning

Chairman Latimer welcomed James Steffen, Town Planner.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$36,136 for Planning.

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

Zoning

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$5,310 for Zoning.

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

Office of Planning

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$71,208 for Office of Planning.

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

Total Planning and Zoning

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$112,654 for Total Planning and Zoning.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously

Town Office Building

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$122,283 for Town Office Building.

Mr. Warburton said he felt the grist mill project should be done by volunteers.

Amendment made by Mr. Warburton, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to remove \$19,680 (grist mill project) from the amount to be moved forward to the Public Hearing for Town Office Building.

Chairman Latimer said the grist mill project might be better served in a warrant article.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Bridle, McFarlin, Pierce, Reniere). Amendment passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion as amended to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$102,603 for Town Office Building.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Bridle Pierce). Motion passed.

Cemeteries

Chairman Latimer welcomed Dan Kenny.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$118,135 for Cemeteries.

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

Parking Administration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$66,847 for Parking Administration.

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

Recreation & Parks

Chairman Latimer welcomed Dyana Martin, Recreation & Parks Director.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$210,643 for Recreation & Parks.

Amendment made by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to add \$5,000 (shed) to the amount moved forward to the Public Hearing for Recreation & Parks.

Vote: 11 yes, 3 no (Lapham, Pierce, Reniere). Amendment passed.

Amendment made by Mr. Warburton, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to add \$6,503 (lifeguards) to the amount moved forward to the Public Hearing for Recreation & Parks.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion as amended to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$222,146 for Recreation & Parks.

Vote: 11 yes, 3 no (Lapham, Pierce, Reniere). Motion passed.

Emergency Management

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,000 for Emergency Management.

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

Mosquito Control

Chairman Latimer welcomed Ann Kaiser, Mosquito Control Commission.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$60,000 for Mosquito Control.

Ann Kaiser said there would be a warrant article for an additional \$43,000 which is necessary for the mosquito control program.

Amendment made by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to add \$43,000 to the amount moved forward to the Public Hearing for Mosquito Control.

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

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion as amended to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$103,000 for Mosquito Control.

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

Welfare

Chairman Latimer welcomed Michelle Kingsley, Welfare Office.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Bridle, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$64,000 for Welfare.

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

Library

Chairman Latimer welcomed Amanda Cooper, Lane Memorial Library.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the adjusted total of \$833,169 for Library.

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

Patriotic Purposes

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,650 for Patriotic Purposes.

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

Beautification

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$500 for Beautification.

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

Conservation Commission

Chairman Latimer welcomed Jay Diener, Conservation Commission.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$30,509 for Conservation Commission.

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

Building Code & Inspection

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kevin Schultz, Building Inspector.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$187,533 for Building Code & Inspection.

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. Traynor, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$145,439 for Town Manager.

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

Financial Administration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$304,677 for Financial Administration.

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

Audit Services

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$33,350 for Audit Services.

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

Personnel Administration

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,165,636 for Personnel Administration.

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

Municipal Insurance

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,686,500.

Ms. Woolsey asked what is happening with regard to the LGC. Mr. Welch replied that the Secretary of State has an official investigation underway.

Amendment made by Mr. Warburton to remove \$14,800 (LGC Dues) from the Legal budget. There was no second.

Mr. Welch explained that it would not be possible to remove that line item. If the LGC dues are removed from the budget, the Town would lose all of its insurances carried through the NHMA Trust. Mr. Warburton withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Schwotzer said line item for Health Insurance should be decreased by \$166,600 for a total of \$2,723,400 and the line item for Workers Compensation should be increased by \$65,500 for a total of \$525,900

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the adjusted amount of \$3,585,400 for Municipal Insurance.

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

Legal

Chairman Latimer welcomed Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney, and Wanda Robertson, Legal Office.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$280,656 for Legal.

Amendment made by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to zero out this account.

Attorney Gearreald came forward. Attorney Gearreald said this department has been in existence since 2003 and consists of in-house and outside components. This department has as its client the entire Town operation. Litigation is only part of the work. The department consults with the Town Manager and other department heads. Attorney Gearreald then discussed tax abatement cases. Every contract in the Town is reviewed by the department. Attorney Gearreald said this department operates at a much lower hourly rate than outside counsel and the work can be done more efficiently. The department also provides immediate access.

Ms. Nickerson said she believes there is a huge savings in having the Town's own attorney and it is a benefit to the Town.

Ms. Buckley said she would like to hear a more thorough analysis.

Mr. Plouffe said the Town used to save a lot more money using outside counsel before in-house legal was set up.

Mr. Pierce said he liked the convenience of being able to ask for advice on ordinances, statistics, etc. He said all the Boards depend on being able to do this. It is in the public interest to have this legal office at the Town.

Mr. Desrosiers said he would like to have a financial analysis done.

Mr. McFarlin said he believed the Legal office does save the Town money.

Ms. Bridle said she did not believe this is an issue for the Budget Committee to address.

Mr. Warburton said the Legal Department is involved with everything. This is not necessary. Mr. Warburton discussed the negotiation of contracts. Mr. Warburton said this concept is not for Hampton, NH.

Mr. Reniere said the Legal Department is skilled on municipal law. He said he would be against zeroing it out.

Ms. Woolsey said she did know of another town that has paid for the legal education for an in-house employee. Ms. Nickerson said that there had been a police officer who received his degree while employed.

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Ms. Bridle, to move the question.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Marzinzik, Plouffe, Warburton, Woolsey). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the amendment.

Vote: 4 yes, 9 no (Buckley, Bridle, Desrosiers, Lapham, McFarlin, Nickerson, Pierce, Reniere, Traynor). Amendment failed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$280,656 for Legal.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Marzinzik, Plouffe, Warburton, Woolsey). Motion passed.

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Approval of the Minutes of October 18, 2011

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of October 18, 2011.

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

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the Police Department budget will be addressed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary