

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES
January 18, 2011

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman

Richard Bateman, Selectman Representative

Maureen O'Leary, School Board Representative

Brian Lapham

Eileen Latimer

Jack Lessard

Mark McFarlin

Michael Pierce

Michael Plouffe

Richard Reniere

Excused

Larry Stuker, Chairman

Pat Collins

Dick Hansen

Peter Traynor

Vice-Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She said this meeting was a Public Hearing for the Town and School District Operating Budgets, Special Money Articles, and Revenues.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Board.

Hampton School District

Vice-Chairman Woolsey introduced Rosemary Lamers, Chairman of the Hampton School Board. Ms. Lamers introduced Dr. Robert Sullivan, Superintendent SAU 21, Barbara Hopkins, Assistant Superintendent SAU 21, Nancy Tuttle, Finance Manager, Principals Dave O'Connor, Lois Costa and Tim Lannan.

Article 1 - Operating Budget - \$18,425,770

Ms. Lamers said this budget is a 1.3% increase over last year. To arrive at this budget figure it was necessary to include a reduction of one art teacher and one PE teacher at Hampton Academy. It also was necessary to plan for the movement of staff from Marston to Centre School. There was also a reduction of one special education case manager at Hampton Academy.

Hampton Budget Committee

Ms. Lamers said there is a deficit this year in Food Service. This deficit will come out of the general fund. The problem of the deficit is being addressed.

Ms. Lamers introduced Nate Lenney, newly hired Business Administrator for SAU 90.

Rosemary, Sheehy, Hampton, came forward. Ms. Sheehy said she is a teacher at Marston. She expressed concern that class size will increase. She said a new policy has been put in which limits class size at 25 students. Ms. Sheehy spoke about the benefits of lower class sizes. She also expressed concern about the reduction of the art and PE teachers at Hampton Academy and asked that these positions as well as the positions at Marston be restored.

Michelle Croteau, Hampton, came forward. Ms. Croteau also expressed concern about class size and the reduction of positions.

Kelly Britton, Hampton, came forward. Ms. Britton said the areas of art and PE have definite health benefits as well as increasing sportsmanship, team work, and creative ability. Ms. Britton said she did not feel the cuts in these areas should have been made.

Ms. Lamers said the School Board aligns themselves with the New Hampshire School Board Recommendations on class size at 20 for K through 2, and 25 for 3 through 8. The State Board of Education actually allows for 5 more in these areas. Ms. Lamers said the extra staff in Art and PE were added in years when money was plentiful and are not absolutely necessary at this time.

Ms. O'Leary said that based on the current enrollment rolling forward next year based on the number of teachers, the class size will probably be much smaller than 20 and 25.

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – SEA - \$152,466

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Art Gopalan, 21 Windmill Lane, came forward. He asked about step increases in the contract and about the Evergreen Clause. Ms. Tuttle said there is pending legislation regarding repeal of the Evergreen Clause. Ms. Tuttle said step increases are included in this contract. Mr. Gopalan asked how many were under the umbrella of this contract. Ms. Tuttle said approximately 130 individuals.

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement – SESPA - \$13,614

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There were no comments from the public.

Article 4 – School Maintenance - \$300,000

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There were no comments from the public.

Article 5 – Special Education Expendable Trust Fund -\$75,000

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There were no comments from the public.

Article 6 – Child Benefits Services for Students who attend Sacred Heart School - \$44,200

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this Article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

There were no comments from the public.

Estimated Revenues

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said a new motion would have to be voted on due to the fact that the figure for estimated revenues has been adjusted.

The Public Hearing on the Hampton School District Budget, Special Money Articles and Revenues closed at 8:15 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey then asked for a motion on the adjusted revenue figure for the Hampton School District.

Moved by Ms. O’Leary, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the adjusted estimated revenue amount of \$734,737 for the Hampton School District.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey gave a reminder that the Town Deliberative Session will take place on Saturday, February 5, 2011, at 8:30 a.m., at Winnacunnet High School and that the School District Deliberative Session will take place on Monday, February 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. at Winnacunnet High School.

Town of Hampton

Vice-Chairman Woolsey called the Public Hearing to order at 8:18 p.m.

Operating Budget - \$24,271,521

Selectman Dick Bateman said the goal of the Board of Selectmen was to get a budget as flat as possible. He said the voters should support this budget. It is open and transparent.

Estimated Revenues - \$5,926,570

There was no public comment.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey then presented the following articles for consideration. These articles are recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Hampton TV Origination Fund - \$100,000 (no tax rate impact)

Cemetery Burial Trust Fund - \$17,550 (no tax rate impact)

Drainage - \$40,000

Petition – Holiday Parade Appropriation - \$3,000

Petition – Library Materials - \$24,895

Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000 (no tax rate impact)

Park & Recreation Infrastructure Improvements - \$65,000 (no tax rate impact)

Health & Human Service Agencies - \$173,951

Mosquito Control - \$42,750

375th Anniversary Committee - \$20,000

Petition – Improvements to Hampton Skateboard Park - \$5,000

Selectman Richard Nichols said the Board of Selectmen has not yet considered the petitioned article regarding the skateboard park.

Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement - \$11,082

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee.

Hampton Budget Committee

Public Hearing

January 18, 2011

Page 5

There was no public comment.

Mounted Patrol Unit - \$45,780

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

Mr. Lessard said he is very much in favor of the mounted patrol. He said they are vital to crowd control.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey asked if this was a calendar year figure. Police Chief Jamie Sullivan said it is what they need to operate the mounted patrol for a 12-month period. This will include two horses.

Mr. Gopalan said he was concerned about this amount escalating in future years if the patrol is increased to more horses. Chief Sullivan said this article is only for two horses and a 12-month period. There is not a plan at this time to increase the number of horses.

Batchelder Property Conservation Easements - \$250,000

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

There was no public comment.

Department of Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund - \$300,000 (tax impact has already occurred)

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

There was no public comment.

Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$300,000 (tax impact has already occurred)

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

There was no public comment.

Hampton Budget Committee
Public Hearing
January 18, 2011
Page 6

MSW and Recycling Bond - \$1,292,300

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

There was no public comment.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Bond - \$1,385,000

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

There was no public comment.

Fire Stations - \$7,593,340

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee,

Fire Chief Chris Silver presented the plans for the uptown and beach fire stations. He said this would allow the Fire Department to carry out its mission. The Beach Precinct and the Board of Selectmen have reached an agreement. Chief Silver directed the public to www.hamptonfirerescue.com for more information. Chief Silver asked for public support of this article. He said this is a good opportunity at a good time.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, came forward. He urged everyone to support this article. He said it is a one time opportunity. He told the Board of Selectmen and the members of the Budget Committee that it is their duty to get out and support this article since they have recommended it.

Petition – Fire Station

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said this article has been recommended by the Board of Selectmen and not recommended by the Budget Committee.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said she is concerned about this article because there have been no plans presented.

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Hampton Budget Committee
Public Hearing
January 18, 2011
Page 7

There being no further business, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman