

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 20, 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  
Pat Collins  
Brian Lapham  
Dustin Marzinzik  
Mark McFarlin  
Sandra Nickerson  
Michael Plouffe  
Richard Reniere  
Peter Traynor  
Brian Warburton

Excused

Richard Desrosiers

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The members of the Board made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90, and Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90. She also welcomed School Board members Ginny Russell-Bridle, Peppa Ring, Maureen O'Leary and Art Gopalan.

Ms. Murphy said they would like to share what has happened since the institution of SAU 90 and what they anticipate for the future. Ms. Murphy said the community has reached out to the new SAU in every way possible. Police, Fire, Public Works and Library have all asked how they can help.

Ms. Murphy gave a presentation on the new SAU 90. She presented the seal which was designed by a fifth grade student at Marston. Ms. Murphy discussed the withdrawal and transition from SAU 21 to SAU 90.

Mr. Lunney gave a recap of Fiscal Year 2010-11. The SAU 21 audit is complete and results are pending. Mr. Lunney said there was a healthy surplus at the end of the year. Also, impact fee revenue of \$318,000 came in. Mr. Lunney said a prorated share of the surplus will come to SAU 90. This will be the final settlement of the withdrawal. Mr. Lunney said it has been a very successful opening and the new space is wonderful.

Chairman Latimer said there will be a post audit review next month. She said she felt there was good communication between the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Ms. Murphy said she and Mr. Lunney took a bus tour to assess transportation needs. New staff were also taken on a tour of Hampton.

Ms. Nickerson asked if any of the old staff were rehired. Ms. Murphy said they were not. Special Needs enrollment has decreased so this was not necessary.

Transition costs were discussed. They had been anticipated at \$38,000 and came in at \$35,721.

Ms. Murphy discussed the goals and objectives of SAU 90. She said they strongly believe in a goal of 100% proficiency for every student. Another goal is to promote collaboration by working with parents and other organizations. There will be forums for parents this year. The five-year capital improvement plan must also be addressed. It must be decided whether Hampton Academy will have a new facility or only a renovation. Consideration should be given to the fact that two bonds will be paid off by 2018 and that will make this more affordable to the taxpayers. Ms. Murphy said another goal is to develop a budget that can be supported and to successfully negotiate with teachers and paraprofessionals. Food Service problems are also being analyzed. Safety is another important goal. Emergency procedures must be in place at each school.

Ms. Murphy discussed the Curriculum Review Cycle. This has been adopted by the School Board. Work will begin on research and design and begin with mathematics.

Mr. McFarlin asked about the status of negotiations. Ms. Murphy said they have been waiting on petitions filed on behalf of the Hampton teachers to be represented by the current union.

Mr. Traynor asked if negotiations are successful, would this have to be approved by all five towns or Hampton only. Ms. Murphy said approval would come from Hampton citizens only.

Ms. Woolsey said she would like to commend the School Board and SAU 90. She said this is an incredible team.

Mr. Warburton said he would also commend the School Board. He said he hoped they could get back to 3-year contracts. It is much more expensive to do 1-year contracts.

Ms. Nickerson asked who was writing grants. Ms. Murphy replied that she is with the help of the principals. Sara Stetson, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, is also involved.

Ms. Nickerson expressed concern about students who attend Hampton schools but are not residents. Ms. Murphy said they are working on that and results have been appropriate.

Ms. Nickerson said she felt it was unfair that the withdrawal committee did not go after any SAU 21 assets. Ms. Murphy said Hampton did not have ownership rights to the building or other assets. Ms. Nickerson stated that her concern was not about the ownership of the building. In 1968 the construction of the new SAU 21 building was paid for by each of the school districts in SAU 21. It was unfortunate that the citizens withdrawal committee did not adhere to the RSA to prepare a plan for the disposition of the assets of the SAU they were pulling out of, which was proposed in the other two previous withdrawal plans.

Mr. Marzinzik, Mr. Collins and Mr. Reniere thanked Ms. Murphy for all the information presented.

Chairman Latimer thanked Ms. Murphy, Mr. Lunney and the members of the School Board for their participation at this meeting.

Chairman Latimer said she felt this is a difficult time in the Town. Various issues will be resolved. The important fact is that the Budget Committee has to work with the Board of Selectmen to develop the budget. It is important to pass a real budget and not another default budget. Expenditures also need to be thoroughly reviewed so mistakes are not made. Chairman Latimer asked for comments.

Mr. Reniere said he felt it was not necessary to rehash the past. The emphasis should be on what comes to the Committee this year. Ms. Nickerson said she agreed with Mr. Reniere. This Committee's job is to make the budget. Ms. Woolsey said you learn from the past. The Committee must expect exact specific detail for plans and proposals from departments who are asking for approval.

Mr. Traynor expressed concern that if Health and Human Services were moved to the operating budget, they would possibly receive no money if there was a default budget. Chairman Latimer said at the end of June the intent was to take some of the money articles and marry them into the operating budget. However, with a default budget some of those things might not have money to cover them. It was discussed how there could be for one year only a warrant article for those items if there is a default budget. This has not been done but is in process. Ms. Woolsey said it is better to carry these items in the operating budget because it affords more flexibility. It is important to remember that if a warrant article fails, there is no money.

**Approval of the Minutes of June 21, 2011**

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Bridle-Russell, to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2011.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Buckley, Nickerson, Reniere). Motion passed.

Mr. Warburton said his goal this year is to put forward a budget. It is important to get away from default budgets. All department heads should be treated with respect during this process. Mr. Warburton said the Board of Selectmen should know by now if there are money articles to come before the Budget Committee. It is important to know sooner rather than later.

**Moved** by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to ask department heads to submit to the Budget Committee an outline of current staffing and another outline showing needed staffing. This should be from the department head's perspective for the future.

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

Mr. Traynor said the Town has lost a lot of young policemen and firemen because of the lack of a contract. He said he would hope that the Board of Selectmen will have contracts that they can support.

Ms. Buckley said she would like to make a statement about the Precinct's attendance at Budget Committee meetings. Ms. Buckley said she told Ms. Woolsey she could not attend the June meeting because she was caring for a sick friend but would be at the next meeting in the fall. Ms. Buckley said she has every intention of attending all meetings.

The next meeting of the Budget Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Ms. Woolsey **moved**, seconded by Mr. Warburton, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

