

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Amended
November 1, 2011

Budget Committee Members Present

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

Excused

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice Chairman

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Latimer wished a speedy recovery to Mary-Louise Woolsey.

NOTE: The Chairman will vote only in case of a tie vote.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Bridle-Russell, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$439,036 for Police Department Administration.

Ms. Nickerson suggested moving the bottom line which is the total operating budget for Police and then asking the Committee members for questions and comments. It was the consensus of the Committee to move the bottom line. Mr. Plouffe withdrew his motion.

Chief Sullivan explained that there was a change in Replacement Equipment (changed to \$9,500) and in Vehicle Replacement (changed to \$27,000). This is due to purchasing a portion of these items in the current budget year.

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Collins, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,549,599 for Police Department.

Mr. Warburton said Chief Sullivan had done an excellent job preparing this budget. Mr. Warburton asked if there were any raises in the line items. Chief Sullivan said there was one for the one Teamster person who received a contract.

Ms. Buckley said she wanted to thank the Police Department for all their help at the beach during the summer. Mr. Traynor said this was an excellent budget and that he was glad to see the union and Selectmen have come to an agreement on a contract. He asked if there was any area in the budget where more funds are needed. Chief Sullivan said you can never have enough training. This has been a challenge. Training is the best way to keep their people fresh. Mr. Traynor asked if there was any reduction in training from 2011. Chief Sullivan said there was not. Mr. Traynor asked about the retirement system. Chief Sullivan replied that this was separate legislation.

Mr. Traynor noted there was \$33,511 for mounted patrol in the operating budget. He asked if a warrant article would also be put in. Chief Sullivan said there would be a warrant article. Mr. Pierce said the voters have voted for the mounted patrol three times and he felt it should be in the operating budget.

Chief Sullivan said he felt the mounted patrol should be in the operating budget. Mr. Warburton said he felt it was taking a chance having this in the operating budget because the Selectmen are able to move money around. Ms. Nickerson said she felt the mounted patrol belongs in the budget and that there should not be a warrant article. Ms. Nickerson said it is very important that the budget be supported. Mr. Lapham said he would like to see the mounted patrol in the budget only and get the budget to pass. Ms. Bridle-Russell said she saw a need for a warrant article because of the ability of the Selectmen to move money. Chairman Latimer said a warrant article is an insurance policy.

Mr. Lapham asked about vehicle replacement. Chief Sullivan said three cars are replaced every year.

Chairman Latimer asked about coverage from the State. Chief Sullivan said there are 6 to 8 state police officers on fireworks evenings and weekends.

Mr. Traynor asked about staffing numbers. Chief Sullivan said they are presently at 34 full-time officers and 70 part-time. It would be ideal to have 41 to 42 full time people.

Chief Sullivan discussed the Seacoast Emergency Response. He said it is exceptional.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion.

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

Animal Control

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$54,292 for Animal Control.

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

Chairman Latimer thanked Chief Sullivan and Deputy Chief Sawyer.

Hydrants

Moved by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$404,200 for Hydrants.

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

Municipal Debt

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,189,247 for Municipal Debt.

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

Approval of the Minutes of October 26, 2011

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to approve the Minutes of October 26, 2011 as amended.

There were some questions regarding these Minutes, therefore, Ms. Nickerson withdrew her motion and the Minutes will be tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time the Public Works budget will be addressed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

