HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 20, 2012

Budget Committee Members Present
Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Michael Pierce, Selectman Representative
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative
Maureen Buckley, Precinct Representative
Pat Collins
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Diandra Sanphy
Peter Traynor
Brian Warburton

Excused
Richard Desrosiers
Joe Grzybowski

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Latimer welcomed new member Diandra Sanphy and thanked Brian Lapham and Dustin Marzinzik for their service.

Self introductions were made.

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2012, as amended.

Ms. Buckley amended the Minutes page 2, paragraph 7, by deleting the sentence "Commissioner Rage replied that the State does not intend to charge the Precinct."

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Bridle, Collins, Nickerson, Sanphy). Motion passed.

Mrs. Nickerson presented some emails to be attached to the Minutes.

Chairman Latimer said this was the reorganization meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Collins, to vote by secret ballot.

Vote: 7 yes, 5 no, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to appoint Eileen Latimer as Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the coming year.

Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Reniere to hold this in abeyance until there is a full board present. Discussion.

Mr. Warburton said he did not like a secret ballot. Mr. Reniere said he was asking for a secret ballot so there is no intimidation.

Ms. Sanphy said she did not feel there had been enough discussion on the secret ballot issue and was rescinding her vote.

Mrs. Nickerson stated that a motion to reconsider needed to be made by a person who voted in favor of the original motion (2/3rd vote required).

After discussion, the Collins/Reniere motion was not voted on.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Ms. Sanphy, to reconsider the previous vote on the motion for a secret ballot.

Mr. Reniere said a secret ballot would avoid pre-conceived impressions that there are some alliances between members.

Mrs. Nickerson said she had no problem either way. Mr. Plouffe, Ms. Bridle and Mr. McFarlin agreed.

Chairman Latimer said she believed in absolute transparency and was against a secret ballot.

Mr. Traynor said this Board must be up front with the taxpayers and he would not like to see a secret ballot on warrant articles, etc.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the motion asking for reconsideration on a secret ballot. The vote will be to have a secret ballot.

Vote: 6 yes, 5 no, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

A secret ballot was taken on the nomination of Ms. Latimer for Chairman.

Secret Ballot: 9 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions, 2 blank. Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Warburton, to appoint Mary-Louise Woolsey as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the coming year.

Chairman Latimer asked for further nominations.
Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to appoint Sandra Nickerson as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the coming year.

Mrs. Nickerson stated that she declined the nomination.

Moved by Mrs. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to cast one vote for Mary-Louise Woolsey as Vice-Chairman.

Vote: 8 yes, 3 no, 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

One vote was cast for Mary-Louise Woolsey as Vice-Chairman. The Traynor/Warburton motion passed.

Chairman Latimer said sub-committees would be assigned at the next meeting.

Mr. Pierce said RSA 91-A:2-II states that you cannot have a secret ballot in a public session.

Chairman Latimer said she would like to cancel the May and June meetings this year. There would be one more meeting in April and then the Committee would come back in September. Chairman Latimer said she would also like to see a round table discussion on the CIP with the Budget Committee, Board of Selectmen and Planning Board.

Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to cancel the May and June meetings this year unless an emergency arises.

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

Mrs. Nickerson said the job of the Budget Committee is to make a budget, not a CIP and she does not agree with the meeting suggested by Chairman Latimer.

Mr. Pierce said the CIP belongs to the Planning Board, but a combination meeting might be a good idea. Ms. Woolsey asked Mr. Pierce to talk to the Planning Board about focusing more on bond issues. Mr. Warburton said the Budget Committee has no business with the CIP. The single rep, however, could communicate what the Committee wants.

Ms. Sanphy said she has talked a lot about the CIP and it is frustrating to hear about things going to the Budget Committee at the 11th hour.

Mr. Warburton said the Town of Stratham had a warrant article for the voters to approve the entire CIP plan. He will get more information on this and bring forward to the Committee.

Chairman Latimer said goals would be moved to the next meeting. She passed out a calendar of meetings which will be revised at a later date.

Selectman Report

Mr. Pierce said the Board of Selectmen will have their reorganization next week.

Ms. Woolsey asked Mr. Pierce to suggest to the Selectmen that a draft agenda of the Selectmen's meetings be published on the Town website on Tuesdays. As items come up they can be added.

Mr. Warburton asked that the Board of Selectmen make a motion to have the Town Report reprinted. There were many mistakes and incorrect information, especially about David Colt and Ansel Palmer, as that information was not done properly.

Ms. Woolsey said the City of Dover is asking the Secretary of State to get a refund from the LGC for the workers compensation program. She asked that the Selectmen consider advocating for the same on behalf of the taxpayers of Hampton.

Ms. Woolsey read an article from the *Newburyport News* about lower interest rates obtained with the refinancing of bonds. She asked that the Selectmen investigate this.

Ms. Sanphy commented that it is hard to navigate the Town website. Mr. Warburton said the site should be cleaned up to make it more user friendly.

Mr. Traynor said the Board of Selectmen should take a leadership role in working with the Cable Committee to obtain Town history from the many people who have served on Boards over the years. He also indicated the "older folks" in Town should be interviewed and that put on tape for posterity.

School Board Report

Ms. Bridle said the School Board will be having their reorganization meeting next Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. She thanked Rosemary Lamers for her six years of service and Kathleen Murphy and Nathan Lunney for leading the team for SAU 90 and passing this year's budget.

Precinct Report

Ms. Buckley said the Precinct's Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, March 30th. Voting will be from 1:00 p.m. until the start of the meeting at 7:00 p.m. There will be an election for one Commissioner. The Commissioners are also dealing with the Memorandum of Understanding with the Town and have met on the Memorandum of Understanding with the State which has been very positive.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Woolsey **moved**, seconded by Mr. Traynor, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary