

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 18, 2012

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Ben Moore, Selectman Representative
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative
Robert Ladd, Precinct Representative
Pat Collins (left at 8:45 p.m. unexcused)
Richard Desrosiers
Joe Grzybowski
Brian Lapham
Mark McFarlin
Sandra Nickerson (excused at 8:45 p.m.)
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Diandra Sanphy
Peter Traynor

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Latimer welcomed everyone back after the summer break.

Chairman Latimer said she had attended a seminar on budget law and sometimes the Committee's role isn't defined for the public. She said the role is to assist voters in the prudent appropriation of funds. She then read an excerpt outlining Budget Committee duties.

Chairman Latimer welcomed retired Hampton Fire Captain and President of NH Firefighters David Lang, who was present for a discussion on recent LGC court rulings.

At this time, Ms. Sanphy called a Point of Order. She said that she believes it is inappropriate to have Mr. Lang come before this Committee to discuss the LGC. As she stated at the Emergency Meeting on August 20, 2012, she believes it is not the Committee's authority to be pursuing this matter, as it is the responsibility of the Selectmen and the School Board, not the Municipal Budget Committee.

Ms. Sanphy said she appreciates the hard work and concern Mr. Lang has put into this entire issue, as it directly affects employees and the taxpayers of Hampton.

Ms. Sanphy said it is time for the Committee to do only what they legally have been elected to do under the Municipal Budget Law Chapter 32 and that is to assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds.

Chairman Latimer said this is only for the purpose of providing information.

Mr. Lang said he was at the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman. He said he was a 31-year employee of Hampton as a Fire Captain. He said he was at the meeting as president of the Professional Firefighters of NH.

Mr. Lang explained that the Town decided to go into the risk pool with LGC for health care coverage. It was discovered that there were reserves that were being kept by the risk pool. The question is, were they too much. It is believed that some needs to be returned. Mr. Lang said he felt the Budget Committee has the obligation to ask those questions. Mr. Lang said retirees pay for their health care. There is a subsidy and they pick up the balance. Retirees do not get back what is in the risk pool. This is the problem.

Chairman Latimer said the depth of the situation with the LGC is so big that there are no specific answers. The goal of the Committee is to monitor and ask questions. All taxpayers and all employees, current and retired, have an interest in this.

Ms. Sanphy said this is not going to court until December, 2013. She asked Mr. Lang what the Budget Committee should be doing because it is not in the Committee's jurisdiction. Mr. Lang replied that the Committee should ask questions and keep abreast of the situation. Ms. Sanphy said she believes this is premature.

Mr. McFarlin asked what years are included in the suit. Mr. Lang replied it is 2003-2010. The question was asked as to how we can continue to do business with an entity under scrutiny. Chairman Latimer replied that the Town is under a three-year contract. Mr. Ladd asked if the practices that caused this dispute are still in place. Mr. Lang said he did not know and it can only be assumed that practices have not changed.

Mr. Reniere said the answering of these tough questions should be left up to the Board of Selectmen, Town Attorney, etc. This is beyond the scope of this Committee. Mr. Collins said he agreed.

Ms. Nickerson said her biggest concern is whether this practice is still going on.

Chairman Latimer said there is nothing the Committee can do at this point except keep informed.

Chairman Latimer thanked Mr. Lang for his presentation.

Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent of SAU 90, and Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90, came forward to give a presentation and review of school year 2011-2012.

Superintendent Murphy said the Mission Statement of the Hampton School District is of utmost importance. The Statement states that the mission of the District is to provide an encouraging educational environment where the unique talents and abilities of individual students are recognized and where the learning experience is meaningful and every student achieves mastery through a firm foundation in core fundamentals, higher level of thinking, problem-solving and critical/creative communication skills.

Superintendent Murphy also discussed the District Goals for 2011-12. They were as follows:

1. To achieve 100% student proficiency as measured by the NECAP and NWEA tests.
2. To promote collaborative and cooperative communication with all district stakeholders including parents, students, staff, and community.
3. To create a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.
4. To align financial resources with desired academic outcomes.
5. To ensure that the district's schools are safe and secure learning environments.

Superintendent Murphy then discussed the status of the achievement of those goals and accomplishments.

Mr. Lunney discussed accomplishments in Curriculum and Business areas. Many contracts were renegotiated resulting in substantial saving. Mr. Lunney said the general fund balance ended up being \$483,128 which will be used to offset the tax rate. Ms. Sanphy asked about the Student Activity funds. Mr. Lunney said they are not part of the general fund and are audited on an annual basis.

Mr. McFarlin asked what caused the improvement in Food Service. Mr. Lunney said it resulted from an increase in student prices, an increase in adult pricing and other changes. Mr. Lunney then discussed revenue.

Ms. Woolsey said she was very impressed with the new SAU as they finish their first year.

Superintendent Murphy said the District is working on getting a cable station for SAU 90.

Chairman Latimer complimented Superintendent Murphy and Mr. Lunney. She said much credit must also go to the School Board. Chairman Latimer introduced Peppa Ring, Chairman of the School Board, Maureen O'Leary, Rusty Bridle, Art Gopalan and Ginny Bridle.

At 8:45 p.m. Ms. Nickerson was excused from the meeting and Mr. Collins left the meeting.

Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of April 17, 2012.

Roll Call Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Ladd, Lapham). Motion passed.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of August 30, 2012 as amended.

Roll Call Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 5 abstentions (McFarlin, Moore, Reniere, Sanphy, Traynor). Motion passed.

Ms. Sanphy raised a Point of Order saying the emergency meeting was not a legal meeting.

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Ms. Bridle, to continue discussion as raised by Ms. Sanphy.

Roll Call Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Lapham, Sanphy, Trainor). Motion passed.

Ms. Sanphy said this meeting did not fall under emergency meeting criteria because it was without public notice.

Chairman Latimer said the subject matter was legal and it was legally posted.

Chairman Latimer asked Mr. Moore to get back to the Committee at the next meeting as to the status of the LGC situation.

Regarding the costs associated with recycling collection, Mr. Moore said the Board of Selectmen is waiting for information from the Finance Director.

Mr. Lapham said he will bring the Precinct financials to the monthly meetings.

Chairman Latimer distributed the work session schedule and CIP reports.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

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Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary