

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 19, 2013

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Richard Reniere, Vice-Chairman  
Philip Bean, Selectman Representative  
Ginny Bridle, School Board Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
Pat Collins  
Richard Desrosiers  
Joe Grzybowski  
Timothy Citizen Jones  
Sunny Kravitz  
Stephen LaBranche  
Brian Lapham  
Mark McFarlin  
Sandra Nickerson  
David Wood

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Committee made self-introductions

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Latimer welcomed Chris Silver, Chief of the Hampton Fire Department.

**Moved** by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,442,446 for Fire Department.

Administration - \$354,308

Chief Silver discussed the Administration portion of the budget. There is a .67% total change.

Chief Silver said there will be an open house and ribbon cutting for the beach station on December 12<sup>th</sup> and at the Winnacunnet station on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ladd said the chief did a wonderful job and the Village District could not have had a more cooperative spirit.

Mr. Reniere asked about staff development. Chief Silver replied that this is for dues for various organizations.

Fire Suppression - \$2,458,148

Chief Silver said there are wages for shift coverage so staffing can always be at 8 on duty. Ms. Nickerson questioned what the salary increase was. Chief Silver said there was no salary increase and they are in negotiations.

Chief Silver discussed the Career Incentive line and said that once a year a portion is transferred to the EMS account. He also said that 2003 was the last time protective clothing was replaced through the budget. Grants were received in 2008 and 2009.

Mr. Kravitz asked about overtime wages. Chief Silver said overtime is the lowest it has been in 10 years.

Mr. LaBranche asked if the 8 on service at all times would include the Chief and Deputy Chief. Chief Silver said it would not.

Chairman Latimer asked about the amount spent for coverage at the beach for State related events. Chief Silver said he did not have the exact amount. Chairman Latimer asked if work escalated in the summer. Chief Silver replied that it did. Mr. Bean said work is being done on the State issue. An evaluation is nearly complete. Chairman Latimer said she would like the Committee to have that information so that they know what the State costs the Town. Mr. Bean said he would have this information forwarded to the Committee by year end.

Mr. Wood asked about the scheduling of vacations. Chief Silver said there is no guideline for this. An entire shift could be out on vacation. However, this works out over the course of the year.

Fire Prevention - \$185,995

Chief Silver said this would fund the Fire Inspector's full-time position for 39 weeks and a part-time Fire Prevention position for 30 hours a week. It will also include the addition of another vehicle.

Mr. Grzybowski asked if the Chief had considered an increase in fees for permitting and inspections. Chief Silver said they have not because those fees are within the BOS ordinances.

Mr. Jones said he was strongly supportive of the addition of the Fire Prevention position.

Mr. Kravitz asked about trends. Chief Silver said they are seeing a change in types of construction, i.e., Smuttynose. This takes a lot of time.

Mr. Ladd asked how far the department would fall behind if the Fire Inspector position is not added and if it is filled, how much does that improve the process. Chief Silver said he couldn't quantify that with a number, but it is a streamlining of the process. Developers will be able to complete their projects in a timely manner.

Mr. LaBranche asked how long this position has been open. Chief Silver said it has been open since 2010.

Chairman Latimer said this position existed in 2010 and in an effort to give the taxpayers what they wanted the position was eliminated. As far as revenue, when you hold up a project, you hold up a property being added to the tax roles. Chairman Latimer said perhaps it could appease the taxpayers by starting the position at the end of May or June.

Mr. Lapham said he supported fully funding this position. Mr. Desrosiers and Mr. McFarlin agreed. Mr. Wood said his concern was that Hampton could get a reputation that it is not an easy town in which to do business.

Ms. Bridle said she was in favor of funding this position and the person should have a vehicle as well. Mr. Reniere said his priority in filling this position is public safety.

Ms. Nickerson asked if there was a vehicle in the rolling stock that could be used for this position. Chief Silver said this was explored, but there is not. Ms. Nickerson said this is a position that was in the budget, was taken out and now there is discussion to restore it. Ms. Nickerson said she disagrees with postponing it. Chairman Latimer said she felt that \$35,000 for the new vehicle could come in at a little bit less. It also seems irresponsible to buy new vehicles when we don't have the facility to remove salt. Perhaps a cheaper vehicle could be purchased to provide service for a couple of years. Chief Silver said they strive for longevity in their rolling stock. All equipment is very well cared for. Chief Silver said he would prefer not to stop-gap.

#### Training - \$31,653

Chief Silver said this section was changed by only \$2,000.

#### Communications - \$218,857

Chief Silver said there was not much change in this section.

Repair Services - \$114,750

Chief Silver said this section changed by \$6,000.

Fire Stations and Buildings - \$75,885

Chief Silver said there is an increase in electric because there are now two new fire stations. This also includes building maintenance. They try to do preventive maintenance as much as possible.

Mr. Reniere asked about the electric charge for traffic signals. Chief Silver said the electric power for the lights at Stickney Terrace, Landing Road and Depot Square come out of the Fire Department budget. All others belong to DPW.

Mr. Jones said he felt that plumbing and electrical charges could be reduced.

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Jones, to reduce Building & Maintenance by \$2,000.

**Vote:** 3 yes, 12 no (Bean, Bridle, Collins, Desrosiers, Kravitz, LaBranche, Ladd, Latimer, McFarlin, Nickerson, Reniere, Wood). Motion failed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the main motion of \$3, 442, 446 for Fire Department.

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to approve the Minutes of November 5, 2013 as amended.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 1 no (Jones), 1 abstention (Nickerson). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2013 as amended.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 1 no (Jones), 2 abstentions (Bridle, Collins). Motion passed.

Mr. Jones asked when the four tabled items would be addressed. Chairman Latimer said they would be addressed at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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Chairman Latimer noted that what the Committee has so far is a draft of the budget. Changes can still be made at a later date.

**Adjournment**

**Moved** by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. Desrosiers, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary