

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 21, 2014

Budget Committee Members Present

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

Excused

Richard Desrosiers
Timothy Citizen Jones

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She said this meeting was a Public Hearing for the School District and Town budgets and special money articles.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

The Committee made self-introductions.

Hampton School District

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent SAU 90, Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator SAU 90 and Peppa Ring, School Board Chairman.

Article 1 – Operating Budget - \$19,390,370

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 1.

This Article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lunney gave an overview of the Operating Budget. There is an increase this year of \$100,380. This equates to just over 3-1/2 cents per thousand on the tax rate.

There was no public comment.

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to move to discussion Article 2.

This Article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lunney said the estimated increase due to this Article would be \$228,875 in the year 2014-15 and \$238,018 in the year 2015-16,

There was no public comment.

Article 3 - Long-Term Maintenance - \$300,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 3.

This Article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Mr. Lunney discussed various projects to be carried out at the schools.

There was no public comment.

Article 4 – Child Benefit Services (Sacred Heart School) - \$42,500

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 4.

This Article has been recommended by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

There was no public comment.

Chairman Latimer said a lot of work went into the school budget keeping it manageable and with less impact to the taxpayers.

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to close the Public Hearing for the Hampton School District at 7:18 p.m.

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

Chairman Latimer said it was not clear who moved and seconded Article 15 – Gristmill Dam at the January 14th meeting and asked for clarification. Mr. LaBranche moved the Article and Mr. Wood gave the second.

Town of Hampton

Chairman Latimer opened the Public Hearing for the Town of Hampton at 7:20 p.m.

Article 8 – Operating Budget - \$26,047,282

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 8.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-2-0

Michael Pierce, Selectman, said he voted against this Article. He said he had a problem with the default budget and felt there should be a public meeting to help the public understand this issue.

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Selectman, said it is time to address the needs of the community. She urged the taxpayers to pass this budget.

Article 9 – Collective Bargaining Agreements

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. Wood, to move to discussion Article 9.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-0

There was no public comment.

Article 15 – Grist Mill Dam - \$400,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 15.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-1
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-2

Keith Noyes, DPW Director, gave an overview of the decommissioning of the dam.

Candy Selmack, 488 High Street, said more information is needed as to why the cost is so high.

Mr. Noyes said consultants were hired and options were looked at. From a financial standpoint this is the best option.

Ms. Woolsey said this work must be done. Mr. Noyes has applied for grants that are available for decommissioning the dam if it is done in conjunction with the High Street culvert project.

Mr. Pierce said there would be an ongoing cost if the dam were rebuilt and this would be substantial. The time to fix the problem is now.

Article 16 – High Street Culvert - \$235,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham to move to discussion Article 16.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-0-2

Mr. Noyes said he is seeking a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Service. If this grant is received, they will pay 75% of replacing the culvert and decommissioning the dam.

Article 17 – Replacement Equipment - \$385,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 17.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-2-0

There was no public comment.

Article 18 – Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 18.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

There was no public comment.

Article 20 – Human Services Agencies - \$155,651

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 20.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

There was no public comment.

Article 21 – Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 21.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

There was no public comment.

Article 22 – Recreation Infrastructure Fund - \$90,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 22.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-2-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-1-1

Chairman Latimer noted that none of this money will be raised by taxation.

Mark Gearreald,, Town Counsel, said the DRA has requested a change in language in this article regarding the transfer of money. As it now stands, there is a duplication.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Bridle, to accept the corrected language for Article 22.

Vote: 11 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Reniere). Motion passed.

Article 23 – Gristmill Restoration - \$28,678

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 23.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

Chairman Latimer said there is no tax impact connected with this Article.

There was no public comment.

Article 24 – Cemetery Burial Trust Fund - \$10,500

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 24.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

There was no public comment.

Article 25 – Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Fund - \$10,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 25.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-0

There was no public comment.

Article 36 – Holman Lane Sewer Installation - \$80,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 36.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0
Not recommended by the Budget Committee 10-1-1

There was no public comment.

Article 37 – Experience Hampton Christmas Parade - \$3,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 37.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-0

There was no public comment.

Article 38 – Child & Family Services -\$1,000 (to be added to \$5,000 previously received in prior years)

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 38.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

Attorney Gearreald explained that it will be left to the Deliberative Session to change the wording to \$6,000.

There was no public comment.

Article 39 – Fisher House Foundation - \$25,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion Article 39.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-0-1
Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-4-2

There was no public comment.

Article 40 – Seacoast Family Promise - \$7,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion Article 40.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0-2
Not recommended by the Budget Committee 3-2-7

There was no public comment.

Article 41 – Ring Swamp Cemetery - \$4,950

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion on Article 41.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-5-0

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, urged the Committee to reconsider their vote on this Article. This is one of two very old cemeteries in Hampton. They don't come completely under the purview of the Cemetery Trustees. The Historical Society must do restoration. The only thing that hasn't been done is the fixing of broken stones. Roger Cyphers has done most of the work and for a price that is a bargain.

Article 44 – Place Cove Restroom - \$49,500

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion on Article 44.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-0-0

There was no public comment.

Article 46 – Deacon Tuck Gristmill - \$50,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion on Article 46.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-0-1

Candy Selmack urged the Committee to reconsider their vote on this Article.

Article 47 – Replacement of Vehicle for Cemetery - \$45,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to move to discussion on Article 47.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-1-0

Matt Shaw asked the Committee to reconsider their vote on this Article. The truck will most likely cost only \$35,000. This money will come out of the Cemetery Burial Trust Fund.

Article 48 – Replacement of 20 Greenhead Fly Traps - \$3,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion on Article 48.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0
Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-3-4

There was no public comment.

Article 49 – Senior Center - \$200,000

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move to discussion on Article 49.

Not recommended by the Board of Selectman
Not recommended by the Budget Committee

Maury Friedman, 30 Hampton Meadows, said he has been working for years to obtain a center for the town's seniors. He gave an overview of this Article.

Fred Rice went over past efforts for a senior center. This is a good idea, but this plan is not acceptable.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Bridle, to close the Public Hearing on the Town Money Articles at 8:52 p.m.

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

Chairman Latimer opened the business meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Chairman Latimer asked for motions to reconsider any warrant articles the Committee wished to address.

Moved by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Mr. Collins, to RECOMMEND Article 41 – Ring Swamp Cemetery.

Mr. LaBranche said that since this must be done by a professional, he would be in favor.

Vote: 11 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Kravitz). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Chairman Latimer, to RECOMMEND Article 47 – Replacement of Vehicle for Cemetery.

Mr. Collins said after speaking to Matt Shaw he was convinced this vehicle is needed. Mr. McFarlin said if there is a need this should be recommended.

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

Moved by Mr. McFarlin, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, to RECOMMEND Article 48 – Replacement of 20 Greenhead Fly Traps.

Ms. Nickerson said she felt this was double budgeting. Chairman Latimer said she looks at it as an insurance policy. If this was in the budget and the budget failed, this would also fail and it is definitely needed. Ms. Woolsey agreed with Ms. Nickerson.

Vote: 6 yes, 5 no (Lapham, McFarlin, Nickerson, Collins, Woolsey), 2 abstentions (Grzybowski, Kravitz). Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Chairman Latimer, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2014 as amended.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Nickerson). Motion passed.

Moved by Ms. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2014.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Nickerson). Motion passed.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary