

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 18, 2014

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Richard Reniere, Vice Chairman
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Joe Grzybowski
Timothy Citizen Jones
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Michael Pierce
David Wood

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She said this meeting is the reorganization meeting for the Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee members made self-introductions. Chairman Latimer welcomed Michael Pierce to the Committee.

A Moment of Silence was observed for former Selectman Cliff Pratt who recently passed away.

Reorganization

Mr. LaBranche asked that an overview be given of the duties of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Chairman Latimer said the duties of Chairman include scheduling, maintaining order, making sure documentation is forwarded to members, creating the Agenda, presiding over meetings and keeping a sense of order and balance. The Chairman also needs knowledge of the RSA's, particularly RSA 91:A (Right to Know Law). The Vice-Chairman takes over in the absence of the Chairman.

Chairman Latimer called for nominations for Chairman.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Wood, to appoint Eileen Latimer as Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer then called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Ladd, to appoint Richard Reniere as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Moved by Chairman Latimer, seconded by Mr. Grzybowski, to appoint David Wood as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Moved by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, that both nominees for Vice-Chairman rotate duties every other meeting.

Amendment made by Mr. Reniere that both nominees for Vice-Chairman rotate duties every quarter. There was no second. Amendment failed.

Mr. Ladd withdrew his motion.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the appointment of Mr. Reniere as Vice Chairman.

Vote: 6 yes, 3 no (LaBranche, Latimer, Wood), 1 abstention (Ladd). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a vote on the appointment of Mr. Wood as Vice Chairman.

Vote: 3 yes, 6 no (Grzybowski, Jones, Kravitz, Lapham, Pierce, Reniere), 1 abstention (Ladd). Motion failed.

Mr. Reniere was appointed Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Latimer said there are still vacancies on this Committee. Anyone interested should contact her or the Town Manager.

Chairman Latimer discussed sub-committees. Two areas she would like to address are CIP and DPW. A decision will be made when a full board is present.

Procedural Guidelines

Mr. Ladd said he would like to meet with the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the purpose of obtaining more information. Mr. LaBranche said the Town Treasurer should be invited to a meeting to speak. Chairman Latimer said she would try to schedule these meetings for April or May.

After discussion it was decided that members should keep their comments brief and concise and that the Chairman should decide when to move the question.

A break was taken at 8:42 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

Chairman Latimer noted that Ms. Rice, the Secretary, was not in attendance due to a conflict with a School Board meeting. Although this type of situation is rare and Ms. Rice will do the minutes from the tape, she feels that it would better to always have a secretary in attendance. Discussion followed and it was decided that there should be a backup secretary to fill in if Ms. Rice is absent.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Grzybowski, that the Budget Committee have a backup secretary.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Jones). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer discussed communications and the posting of Budget Committee documents. She said the Library is open to working with the Committee and the Town to provide a communications network. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chairman Latimer said the 2014 budget goals will be addressed when there is a full board.

Hampton Beach Village District Report

Mr. Ladd said the election and annual meeting for the HBVD will be held on Friday, March 28th, at the Beach Fire Station. Voting will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at which time the annual meeting will begin.

Mr. Ladd thanked all those who worked to defeat Article 43, the trash and recycling article.

Police, Fire and DPW will be attending the HBVD meeting on May 14th to discuss an evacuation plan. It will be held at the Beach Fire Station. Everyone is invited to attend.

There is a full schedule of events for this summer including 16 fireworks shoots, 80-90 concerts, Children's Week, the Talent Competition and Sand Sculpture Competition.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2014.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2014.

Vote: 8 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Jones, Pierce). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2014.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

New Business

Mr. Jones said he spoke at the Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the creation of positions in the Town. Mr. Jones said he did much research and found a glaring example of the voters being ignored. Three years in a row a warrant article to create a Town Planner was voted down. Then a Town Planner was hired without legal authority. Now that position has been vacated. Another person should not be put in that position because it was created illegally in violation of the voters' will. This position should not be filled until there is voter approval. This Committee needs to look at this from a budgetary perspective.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, that the Committee request that the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board remove the funds from the Town Planner's salary for this year and not propose any future funds for such a position until the voters explicitly approve it.

Discussion followed. The majority of the Committee felt that more research needs to go into this issue before any such request is made. Chairman Latimer said it was her opinion that a planner is needed, but it has to be done correctly.

Mr. Jones said he was willing to table his motion. Chairman Latimer agreed it should be tabled and re-opened at the April meeting after research has been completed.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Kravitz, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary