

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 17, 2014**

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman

James Waddell, Selectman Representative

Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

Joe Grzybowski

Timothy Citizen Jones

Sunny Kravitz

Stephen LaBranche

Brian Lapham

Jim O'Loughlin

Michael Pierce

Michael Plouffe

Richard Reniere

Absent

Pat Collins

David Wood

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee members made self-introductions.

A Moment of Silence was observed for Glyn Eastman who recently passed away.

Chairman Latimer welcomed Judy Silva, Executive Director, and Stephen Fournier, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Municipal Association. Chairman Latimer said these representatives of NHMA had been invited to speak to the Committee regarding the services that they provide to the Town of Hampton.

Mr. Fournier said the Association is a wealth of knowledge and a voice for the towns and cities across the state. The Association was founded in 1941 to have a common voice in Concord. During the late 1980's, the Association merged with the Property Liability Trust Board and the Health Trust Board under the umbrella of the LGC. In 2013, the NHMA was spun off from the other two boards and is a separate entity and had no connection with the LGC lawsuit.

Ms. Silva discussed some of the benefits of belonging to the Association. Members can request an attorney to come to their town to do an on-demand training with no fee. Ms. Silva said Hampton uses the NHMA a lot. There were 23 inquiries from Hampton in 2013.

Ms. Silva said there are also a lot of workshops which Hampton people attend. The Association runs a series of webinars and Hampton has attended. Electronic copies of the Legislative Bulletin are sent to members and 20 copies of the Town and City Magazine. Ms. Silva said it was mentioned at the Hampton deliberative session that Manchester was not a member and got along just fine. She said she was happy to report that Manchester has voted to rejoin the Association. At this time there are only two municipalities in NH that are not members.

Ms. Silva said policy planning is in process now. They are reviewing things the towns have brought forth and recommendations will be made. There is a Policy Conference which will be held on September 26th and every member can send a delegate. Whatever is done at the Policy Conference governs the Association's legislative efforts in Concord.

Mr. Pierce expressed concern about the perceived connection with the LGC insurance issue. Ms. Silva said the Association does not control insurance. They are a private non-profit corporation and did not have anything to do with the LGC issue.

Mr. Ladd asked if Village Districts could be members. Ms. Silva said they can, but are separate from the Town.

Mr. Lapham said he has been in support of the NHMA for a long time. The information the Association sends out is great. Mr. Lapham said he has attended conferences and always felt the information received was valuable.

Mr. Jones said he has had fruitful interaction with the NHMA and has taken advantage of their webinars. Mr. Jones said he would like to see the webinars on YouTube. Workshops could also be on YouTube.

Mr. Jones asked if the Association was separate from 91A as a private entity. Ms. Silva replied that they are a quasi-governmental entity and have to follow 91A because of funding received from government.

Mr. Jones stated that the Association is basically a lobbyist organization as well as being educational. Ms. Silva said that was correct. Mr. Jones asked if the Association interacts with other lobbying groups. Ms. Silva said that depends on the issue.

Mr. Jones asked who chooses the delegate from the Town. Ms. Silva said it would most likely be the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Jones said in that case the person who goes to the conference is chosen by the governing body, not the legislative body. Mr. Fournier said that was correct. Mr. Jones said the educational materials, etc. are worth the dues. However, the Association does not represent the legislative body per se.

Mr. Waddell said he feels a lack of trust was built up about the LGC and the Association has to educate people about this. Mr. Waddell said the Association does a great job for the Town. Ms. Silva said they have been doing really well in the legislature and she believes people are beginning to understand that they are not LGC.

Chairman Latimer thanked Ms. Silva and Mr. Fournier for their fine presentation.

A break was called at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:40 p.m.

Selectman Report

Mr. Waddell said the Board of Selectmen has not done anything with the default budget.

Chairman Latimer made a suggestion that Mr. Waddell be the delegate for the NHMA Policy Conference.

HBVD

Mr. Ladd said the concert by the Winnacunnet musicians was a great success and will be an annual event. Mr. Ladd said David Wood spoke to the District in his capacity as a representative to the Governor's Sea Rise Commission. Mr. Wood did a fine job explaining the goals of the Commission. The Sand Sculpture event is now in process. Volunteers are still needed.

Old Business

Chairman Latimer said the Budget Committee Guidelines document will be adopted in September.

There will be no meetings in July and August. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 16, 2014.

Chairman Latimer presented the Budget Committee schedule for the year.

New Business

Chairman Latimer said a letter of resignation has been received from Pat Collins. Mr. Collins said his work schedule conflicts with Committee meetings. Chairman Latimer said his resignation was accepted and thanked Mr. Collins for his years of service.

Chairman Latimer said she would open up the process to replace Mr. Collins. Anyone interested should contact her by August 31st.

Mr. Pierce questioned why only three Committee members will be able to attend the Bud Com workshop. He said the Education line in the Committee budget has \$300 which is enough to send four people. Chairman Latimer explained that there still has to be money for other educational materials. It has already been decided that Mr. Wood, Mr. LaBranche and Mr. O'Loughlin will attend the workshop. Mr. Jones said that was not decided through a motion and vote. The Committee should find out who wants to attend.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to take a poll of the Budget Committee members to determine who wants to attend the workshop.

Chairman Latimer said the people have already been selected because they are the newest members of the Committee.

At this time, Chairman Latimer tabled discussion and called for adjournment of the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary