

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 18, 2014**

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
James Waddell, Selectman Representative
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Glenn Farrell
Joe Grzybowski
Timothy Citizen Jones
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Jim O'Loughlin
Michael Pierce
Richard Reniere
David Wood

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee made self-introductions.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Chairman Latimer welcomed Keith Noyes, Director of Public Works, and Chris Jacobs, Deputy Director.

Highways & Streets

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,506,153 for Highways and Streets.

Mr. Noyes answered questions submitted by members of the Committee.

Mr. Noyes said all raises were contractual or non-union raises recommended by the Board of Selectmen. The highest increase is 3.05% and that is contractual. The hydraulic lift under Building Maintenance at \$15,000 is for a new lift. The present one is 30 years old. This is long overdue and is a safety issue. DPW, as well as other departments, will be looking at fuel costs later in the year.

Mr. Noyes discussed vehicle maintenance. He said the department tracks all equipment and material costs. The increase is because they now have two professional mechanics

which allows them to get much more work accomplished. DPW's vehicles are an average of 12 years old and they have not been able previously to keep up with necessary maintenance. Mr. Znoj asked what major repairs come to \$40,000. Mr. Noyes gave examples. Unit vehicle 24 was discussed for replacement in a warrant article. Mr. Wood asked when it is decided that it is more cost effective to replace a vehicle rather than repair it. Mr. Noyes said they have a rating system.

Mr. Jacobs discussed storm water requirements. He said the EPA has just released storm water permits for Massachusetts and New Hampshire will be next. This will be very onerous to maintain. There are 160 storm water outfills around town. They will have to be sampled. There will be a heavy bookkeeping process.

Vote: 10 yes, 5 no (Jones, Lapham, Latimer, Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

Paving & Reconstruction

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$440,930 for Paving & Reconstruction.

Mr. Noyes answered questions submitted by members of the Committee.

Mr. Noyes said the increase in hired equipment for summer is for contracting out the raking at Sun Valley. Regarding sidewalks and curbs, Mr. Noyes explained that this is one of the expenses he is withholding because of the overall state of the budget and uncertainty about snow removal. The increase for hired equipment in the winter is due to two new routes for private contractors. Mr. Noyes said there is an opportunity to save money for street lights, but that would involve a decision to move the lights. Work on storm drainage maintenance has been withheld due to the state of the budget.

Chairman Latimer said it disturbs her that every year certain things are budgeted, but then are never done because they are held back until the end of the year. When this happens year after year things fall apart.

Vote: 11 yes, 4 no (Lapham, Pierce, Wood, Znoj). Motion passed.

A break was called at 9:15 p.m. Mr. LaBranche left the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:25 p.m.

Street Lights

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$215,000 for Street Lights.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Municipal Sanitation

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,490,205 for Administration.

Mr. Noyes answered questions submitted by members of the Committee.

Mr. Noyes said all wage increases are due to union contract. Regarding engineering services, Mike Dube, Operations Manager, explained that this is for an account they use for consulting services as needed. Mr. Dube then discussed and explained tipping fees. Regarding the grit box, Mr. Dube said it is for the septic site and is a roll-off container. He said the cement mixer is needed for sewer and drain requirements.

Vote: 13 yes, 1 no (Lapham). Motion passed.

Solid Waste Collection

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$535,079 for Solid Waste Collection.

Mr. Noyes said overtime wages reflects people in that account doing work in other areas as well as collective bargaining agreements. As to recycling and hauling, Mr. Noyes said their contract with the existing recycling hauler is ready to expire and he anticipates the cost will increase for those services. Mr. Jones said he feels visibility issues need to be addressed more closely.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Solid Waste Disposal

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$20,000 for Landfill Operations.

Mr. Noyes said the line item for Monitoring & Inspections can be reduced to \$7,800.

Amendment made by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Jones, to reduce the amount for Landfill Operations to \$12,800.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,058,579 for Solid Waste Disposal.

Chairman Latimer asked how many part-time employees work at the Transfer Station. Mr. Noyes said one person works on weekends and there is one seasonal laborer.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$289,000 for Sewage Collection.

Mr. Noyes said the \$130,000 requested under sewer line maintenance is for an engineering firm to do a study at the beach on infiltration and inflow and extra money for emergency repairs. Chairman Latimer said she does not like it when studies are done and then no action is taken. Mr. Plouffe said the \$130,000 request goes back for a number of years and was used for smaller projects.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,372,863 for Total Sanitation.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Jones, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$5,534,946 for Total Public Works.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Pierce), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Ladd, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary