

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 10, 2014**

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
James Waddell, Selectman Representative
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative
Glenn Farrell
Joe Grzybowski
Timothy Citizen Jones (7:45 p.m.)
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Michael Pierce
Richard Reniere
David Wood

Excused

Robert Ladd
Jim O'Loughlin

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.

RECREATION AND PARKS

Chairman Latimer welcomed Dyana Martin, Recreation Director.

Administration

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$234,018 for Administration.

Ms. Martin answered questions submitted by the Committee.

Regarding the 9.09% salary increase, Mr. Waddell said Ms. Martin takes care of all parks, the beach, lifeguards, recreation programs, athletic fields, cultural events, trips, and the parking lots. Ms. Martin has been employed for 19 years and her salary has been way below the average for this position. It is time to get Ms. Martin up to where she should be. New Hampshire is becoming the "oldest" state and we need to attract young people. The Board of Selectmen felt this was a well deserved raise.

Chairman Latimer said there is a registry showing salaries in towns for all positions. Even if this raise is approved, Ms. Martin's salary will still not be where it should be.

Ms. Martin said a full-time person is needed in the Parks Department. This would be a part-time person moved to full-time. The Board of Selectmen did not feel that can be done this year. However, there is now money for another part-time seasonal person instead.

Regarding the 11% increase in part-time wages, this reflects an employee who was moved from full-time to part-time.

Ms. Martin discussed Staff Development. She said she believes in the value of education and she budgets for certain conferences. She attended a school last year on a scholarship, but wants to complete this education this year.

Regarding lifeguards, Ms. Martin said she budgets for a specific amount of time. She would like to stretch out the season. Presently this season goes from July 4th to Labor Day. She said she would like to begin the season in June and end after the Seafood Festival. Lifeguards have not had an increase in five years. Ms. Martin said she has budgeted for increases for the lifeguards and has added a sixth lifeguard.

Mr. Pierce acknowledged that Ms. Martin probably deserves a raise. However, when you look at the private sector, a 9% raise is totally out of line. Mr. Lapham said he felt Ms. Martin deserves this raise. Mr. Wood agreed.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance of Parks

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$33,202 for Maintenance of Parks.

Ms. Martin said grounds and fields are up 15%. Mr. Lapham asked about the lighting. Ms. Martin said the lights are more efficient so the cost should go down.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance of Recreational Facilities

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,000 for Maintenance of Recreational Facilities.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Total Recreation & Parks

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$269,220 for Recreation and Parks.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

PARKING LOTS

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$74,904 for Parking Lots.

Ms. Martin said there are no changes here. All employees are part-time.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY

Chairman Latimer welcomed Amanda Cooper, Lane Memorial Library.

Administration

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$635,788 for Administration.

Ms. Cooper said she was happy to say that health care costs came in lower than expected. Therefore, she would like to change the number for Administration to \$616,554.

At this time (7:45 p.m.) Mr. Jones joined the meeting.

Amendment made by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to change the amount for Administration to be forwarded to the Public Hearing to \$616,554.

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

Ms. Cooper said the increase in Regular Wages is due to a part-time position going to full-time. Mr. Kravitz asked how many employees are at the Library. Ms. Cooper replied that there are seven full-time and eight part-time employees. There is a 3.25% increase for all positions.

Chairman Latimer said there is an employee who has left and now that money has been given as an increase to someone else. This is different than budgeting for a piece of equipment. The problem is that this will affect the taxpayers in years going forward.

Chairman Latimer called for a vote on the amended motion forwarding \$616,554 to the Public Hearing for Administration.

Vote: 10 yes, 3 no (Grzybowski, Lapham, Pierce). Motion passed.

Main Library

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$212,344 for Main Library.

Mr. Znoj said he felt spending was well under control in the appropriations area. Chairman Latimer asked if it would be possible for this budget to handle surplus in the same way as other budgets. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said the Library Trustees would need to approve that. Chairman Latimer suggested that this request be made.

Mr. Pierce asked how spending money out of the Library trust is determined. Ms. Cooper said it would be for something important for which there is no other money. It supports the Library in a capital sort of way. Mr. Jones asked who holds surplus money. Ms. Cooper replied that the Library Trustees hold this money.

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

Total Library

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$828,899 for Library.

Vote: 10 yes, 3 no (Grzybowski, Lapham, Pierce). Motion passed.

TOWN BEAUTIFICATION

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$500 for Town Beautification.

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

PATRIOTIC PURPOSES

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,000 for Patriotic Purposes.

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

Management Information Systems

Chairman Latimer welcomed Paul Paquette, MIS.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$199,851 for Management Information Systems.

Mr. Paquette said there is a 4.66% increase in wages. No raises have been given since 2011. In 2012 an employee went from part-time to full-time. Mr. Paquette said IT is constantly growing and changing. Replacement costs are rising. Mr. Paquette went through his budget. Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director, said Mr. Paquette was actually asking for a flat budget.

Chairman Latimer asked about Training. Mr. Paquette said there were two classes he would like to take and he feels they are important. Mr. Jones asked about work for Channel 22. Mr. Paquette said he bills Channel 22 for any time spent.

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

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of June 17, 2014.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Farrell, Wood). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2014.

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

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Jones). Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary