

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 4, 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Latimer welcomed Acting Chief Jamie Ayotte and Captain Bill Kennedy, Deputy Chief.

Administration

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$361,130 for Administration.

Chief Ayotte answered questions submitted by the Committee.

Chief Ayotte said there are no discretionary raises in this budget. They are all tied to Collective Bargaining Agreements. He said Supplies and Printing have gone up. They are looking at leasing another copier. The lease will run \$2,200 per year. Mr. Znoj asked if this covers maintenance. Chief Ayotte said that it does.

Mr. Lapham asked for an explanation on the increase for the secretary. Chief Ayotte said she will be reaching 10 years and this raise is a contractual agreement. This is a step increase of \$100 per year.

Vote: 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Suppression

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,515,885 for Fire Suppression.

Chief Ayotte said that again all raises are contractual. Regarding Overtime Wages, the projected numbers have risen because of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. It is necessary to have a cushion because even one small fire can result in a large increase in overtime wages. Mr. Znoj said he felt this line item is too high. Mr. Grzybowski said he agreed with Mr. Znoj.

Chief Ayotte discussed protective clothing. It takes approximately \$3,000 to outfit a firefighter. The present gear is 5-6 years old. Chief Ayotte said his goal is to spread out the purchasing of gear over a period of time. Gear is essential to protecting firefighter's lives. Mr. O'Loughlin said gear should not even be discussed. It is too important. Chief Ayotte said New Equipment has gone up. Mr. Waddell said ice equipment is expensive, but if it saves one life it is worth it.

Mr. Pierce asked what kinds of fires happened in the past year. Chief Ayotte said there have been nine residential fires and 16 in other structures. There was a total of 1,890 responses. Chairman Latimer said structures are increasing rapidly in this town so there is a potential for fires that did not exist previously. She asked if overtime is due to the fact that the department is undermanned. Chief Ayotte said it is. The number of fires is going down, but the level of danger is going up. Town Manager Fred Welch said a lot of overtime goes for training. Mr. Wood said perhaps another body could be added to address the overtime issue.

Vote: 13 yes, 2 no (Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

Fire Prevention

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$153,592 for Fire Prevention.

Chief Ayotte said the department has only one fire prevention officer. There is a lot of new construction for which plans must be reviewed. Permits of Assembly are necessary for businesses with more than 50 people. There are school inspections, etc. that must be done. The Fire Inspector's position has gone unfunded. They would like to fill this position by paying a salary of \$70,000 for 39 weeks. Chairman Latimer said nothing can happen without an inspection. Lag time is significant.

Mr. Znoj said he felt there are ways to accommodate this position without adding a full-time person. He said he would support having part-time people. Chief Ayotte said it is better to give one person responsibility. There is also continuity to consider. Mr. Grzybowski said permit fees need to be increased. Chairman Latimer said fees in all departments need to be looked at. Mr. Welch said a number of fees are set by statute. Mr. Grzybowski said this position is needed. Mr. Waddell also said this position is needed. Mr. Pierce said he agreed with Mr. Znoj. Two part-timers would be less expensive than one full-time person. Mr. Plouffe said the position should be added. Mr. Ladd said the position is critical and he does not feel part-time help is the answer. Mr. Welch noted that there will be a substantial cost to the Town because a full-time position will be contractual. Mr. Wood said he would support this position as a full-time employee. This would allow businesses to open and allow people to go to work.

Vote: 13 yes, 2 no (Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

A break was called at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:55 p.m.

Training

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$32,625 for Training.

Chief Ayotte said they have gone without live fire training for a long time. This amount will allow a one day training per group.

Vote: 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Repair Services

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$122,500 for Repair Services.

Chief Ayotte said this is for vehicle maintenance. The department has an aging fleet.

Vote: 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Station & Buildings

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$105,369 for Fire Station & Buildings.

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Chief Ayotte discussed fuel, water and maintenance costs. Aquarian rates are going up. Chairman Latimer said this is a big jump because of the new buildings.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked for a motion for the total of \$3,515,317 for Fire Department.

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the total amount of \$3,515,317 for Fire Department.

Vote: 13 yes, 2 no (Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

Hydrants

Moved by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$486,904 for Hydrants.

Vote: 12 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Pierce), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer thanked Chief Ayotte for his fine presentation.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Vote: 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary