

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 8, 2015**

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

Excused

David Wood

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer said this meeting will address the remaining warrant articles and final review.

Article #23 – Recreation Fund - \$148,326

Chairman Latimer welcomed Dyana Martin, Recreation Director.

Ms. Martin said this warrant article includes reconstruction of the Tuck Field access road, the purchase of a scarifier, the purchase of a replacement bus for recreational and town activities, re-roofing and replacement of siding on the Tuck Building, replacement of doors on the Tuck Building, and replacement of failing pieces of equipment at Kids Kingdom.

Ms. Martin said there will be no tax impact with this article because it comes out of the Recreation revenue fund.

Mr. Pierce said he was against the purchase of a new vehicle due to liability. Mr. Lapham agreed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Reniere, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$148,326 for Recreation Fund.

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

Article #16 – DPW Equipment Purchases - \$382,000

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

Mr. Noyes discussed the equipment noted in this warrant article. He said these vehicles are deteriorating and need to be replaced. They are all involved in snow plowing. Mr. Noyes said they have worked hard to come up with a long-term replacement schedule. Mr. Jacobs went over the list of vehicles and explained why each should be replaced.

Mr. Plouffe said he was opposed to the entire article. He said he felt the present equipment is still adequate. Mr. Waddell said he was in favor of this warrant article. Mr. O'Loughlin said he relies on the knowledge of the department head. Mr. Plouffe said the time will come when these vehicles will have to be replaced, but we are not there yet. Mr. Jones said he was not in favor of the article.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to NOT recommend Article #16 – DPW Equipment Purchases.

Vote: 10 yes, 3 no (Kravitz, O'Loughlin, Waddell), 1 abstention (Ladd). Motion passed.

Article #17 – Improvements to Exeter Road - \$320,000

Mr. Noyes explained that this warrant article would provide for improvements to Exeter Road and would include the shimming and overlaying of the road. Mr. Noyes said this road is top priority for repairs. It is an emergency evacuation road and needs to be in better condition. Mr. Noyes explained that this is just a stop gap measure.

Mr. O'Loughlin asked if perhaps it would be better to wait until the Town is committed to doing something more permanent. Mr. Ladd said he thought this improvement would at least help. Chairman Latimer said she had not been in support of this, but had now changed her mind. This road is an accident waiting to happen and needs to be addressed now. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said he believed the Selectmen will put in an article next year for the next phase to be done. Mr. Znoj said this is just a bandaid and won't last long. Mr. Pierce agreed with Mr. Znoj.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Znoj, to NOT recommend Article #17-Improvements to Exeter Road.

Vote: 4 yes, 10 no (Farrell, Grzybowski, Kravitz, LaBranche, Ladd, Latimer, O'Loughlin, Plouffe, Reniere, Waddell). Motion failed.

A break was taken at 9:05 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:20 p.m.

Article #18 – High Street/Lafayette Road Drainage - \$449,156

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$449,156 for High Street/Lafayette Road Drainage.

Mr. Noyes said this will mitigate flooding in that area of town. This warrant article is for the full amount to complete the project, but hopefully FEMA funding will be received.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Article #19 – Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund - \$300,000

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$300,000 for Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Noyes said there is a road plan set up by priorities. Mr. Jones said to support this he would have to know the specific projects. Mr. Ladd said he was in favor of this article.

Vote: 12 yes, 2 no (Jones, LaBranche). Motion passed.

Article #20 – Highway Block Grant - \$267,649

Mr. Noyes said this was for improvements to streets and sidewalks including Belmont Circle, Fairfield Drive and Ruth Lane.

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

Article #21 – Human Service Agencies - \$171,881

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$171,881 for Human Service Agencies.

Chairman Latimer said she did not agree with the process in determining this article. Mr. Jones and Mr. Pierce agreed.

Vote: 10 yes, 2 no (LaBranche, Pierce), 2 abstentions (Jones, Latimer). Motion passed.

Article #27 – Remove Pine Trees, Pine Grove Cemetery - \$50,000

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$50,000 for Removal of Pine Trees, Pine Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Welch explained the need to do this work. He said the money would come from the Cemetery Trust Fund. There would be no tax impact.

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

Article #30 – Cemetery Burial Trust Fund - \$10,500

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$10,500 for Cemetery Burial Trust Fund.

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

Article #34 – Capital Reserve Funds Charges for Banking or Brokerage Assistance - \$1,500

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1,500 for Capital Reserve Funds Charges for Banking or Brokerage Assistance.

Vote: 11 yes, 3 no (Jones, Kravitz, Lapham). Motion passed.

Article #40 – Mill Pond Dam – Petitioned - \$650,000

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$650,000 for Mill Pond Dam.

Mr. Welch suggested this should be addressed at the Public Hearing prior to the Budget Committee voting on it. Mr. Jones withdrew his motion.

It was decided that all petitioned warrant articles should have their case stated prior to going into the Public Hearing on January 14. Mr. Welch said notices will be sent.

Final Review

Chairman Latimer said the operating budget is \$27,515,033 which is a 7.39% increase. She said the public will never go for that.

Chairman Latimer said every line of the budget has been thoroughly reviewed. The default budget is \$26,507,097 which is a 3.4% increase. This budget covers every obligation as well as key changes in personnel that were needed.

Chairman Latimer said she was asking for a 25% reduction in gas and diesel which will amount to \$65,557. She also asked for a \$20,000 reduction in Sidewalks. She then asked for a \$10,000 reduction from Professional Fees and \$17,500 from the Legal budget. There is presently \$35,000 in the legal budget for dealing with the unions. This year no money had to be spent from that line. Chairman Latimer also asked for a reduction of \$15,000 from Drains. The total of all these reductions is \$128,057, bringing the operating budget down to \$26,379,040.

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the readjusted amount of \$26,379,040 for the Operating Budget.

Mr. Waddell said you really cannot predict what will happen with gas/diesel costs. It is very volatile. Mr. Znoj said there is enough money in this readjusted budget to cover everything.

Vote: 9 yes, 5 no (Kravitz, Ladd, O'Loughlin, Reniere, Waddell). Motion passed.

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Znoj, to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2014.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Grzybowski). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2014.

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

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2014.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Ladd, O'Loughlin). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2014 as amended.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Grzybowski, Ladd). Motion passed.

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Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of December 16, 2014.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Reniere). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of January 6, 2015.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Grzybowski). Motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary