

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 14, 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 7:10 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer said the Budget Committee would address the petitioned warrant articles before opening the Public Hearing.

Article 38 – Mill Pond Dam - \$250,000

Norman Hurley, 472 High Street, said that last year a deficiency letter had been received from the State of New Hampshire stating the Town would be fined if the dam was not repaired or removed. If the dam is repaired there will be a significant increase in flood control. This is the last remaining grist mill and is over 300 years old. Mr. Hurley said repair of the dam is the best decision for the Town.

Mr. Waddell said he was in support of this article. Chairman Latimer expressed concern that there would be maintenance costs if the dam is repaired. Mr. LaBranche said that the grist mill is actually a reproduction and was built in 1890. Mr. LaBranche said he did not see how this could be done for the price quoted and would have to see actual engineering plans to endorse this article. Mr. Pierce noted that at the deliberative session last year not one person spoke in favor of saving the dam.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to NOT recommend Article 38.

Vote: 8 yes, 4 no (Kravitz, Ladd, O'Loughlin, Waddell), 2 abstentions (Latimer, Znoj).
Motion passed.

Article 39 – Town Clock - \$75,000

John Ring, 7 Pawnee Street, said approval has been received from Centre School to place the clock on their grounds. \$100,000 has been raised from the community.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Pierce to recommend Article 39.

Vote: 12 yes, 2 no (Farrell, Kravitz). Motion passed.

Article 40 – Vietnam Moving Memorial - \$5,000

Glenn French, Entertainment Coordinator for the Hampton Beach Village District, came forward and said he would like to speak. However, he was not a resident.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to allow Mr. French to speak.

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

Mr. French said this is a plan that has been in the works for about five years. At this time there is no contract. There will also be a contribution from the Village District. This wall will also recognize those who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Police and Fire. The wall would be displayed for four days at Hampton Beach the last week before Labor Day in 2016.

Mr. Kravitz said he was opposed because money could be raised privately. Chairman Latimer said she was in favor of this article.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. Grzybowski, to recommend Article 40.

Vote: 10 yes, 4 no (Farrell, Jones, Kravitz, LaBranche). Motion passed.

Article 42 – Child Advocacy Center - \$1,250

Maureen Sullivan, Executive Director, said the Center investigates child abuse and witnessing of violent crimes. This year they served 14 children from Hampton.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to recommend Article 42.

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

Article 43 – Christmas Parade - \$3,000

Rusty Bridle said this is only a fraction of what it costs to put on the parade. They are just asking the Town for a little support.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Znoj, to recommend Article 43.

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

Article 44 – Cemetery Plow Truck - \$40,000

Matt Shaw explained that this money will be withdrawn from the Cemetery Burial Trust Fund. There will be no tax impact.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend Article 44.

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

Article 45 – Town Clerk Salary - \$3,726

Jane Cypher, Town Clerk, discussed the revenue brought in by the Town Clerk's office.

Mr. Jones said Ms. Cypher is very much underpaid and he supports this Article.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to recommend Article 45.

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

Article 47 – Ice Pond Dam - \$90,000

Jay Diener, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, said heavy rains have destroyed this dam. This dam should be rebuilt so the pond can be used for storm water storage in the event of major rain storms.

Mr. Pierce asked why this is not considered the same by the State as the grist mill dam. Mr. Diener said it was because it does not affect any other property.

Chairman Latimer said she did not think this article is well-placed this year.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Kravitz, to recommend Article 47.

Vote: 0 yes, 14 no. Motion failed.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to open the Public Hearing at 9:00 p.m.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

SAU 90

Article 1 – Operating Budget - \$20,061,260

Nathan Lunney, Business Administrator, gave an overview of the operating budget.

There was no public comment.

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement - \$23,230

Mr. Lunney said this was an agreement with SESPAs covering paraprofessionals. It is a four-year agreement.

There was no public comment.

Article 3 – Long Term Maintenance - \$300,000

Mr. Lunney discussed various projects to be carried out at the schools. This is a continuance program.

There was no public comment.

Article 4 – Owner’s Project Management and Architectural Support re Hampton Academy - \$86,250

Mr. Lunney said this Article is for the proposed renovation of Hampton Academy. The School Board decided against new construction. The Owner’s Project Manager will identify scope and costs and deliver communication tools.

Chairman Latimer asked about the possibility of using impact fees to support this. Mr. Lunney said he is researching this and will report at the deliberative session.

There was no public comment.

Article 5 – Child Benefit Services (Sacred Heart School) - \$46,750

There was no public comment.

Town of Hampton

Article 24 - Part-time Special Police Officers Training - \$99,520

Mary-Louise Woolsey, 148 Little River Road, said this belongs in the operating budget. Chief Sawyer gave a very specific description of what he needs.

Vic DeMarco, 11 Milburn Avenue, said there could be a reactionary vote against this Article because of recent events. Mr. DeMarco said if this Article fails, you can close the beach. This should be in the operating budget.

Article 32 – Capital Reserve Funds Charges for Banking or Brokerage Assistance - \$1,500

Norman Silberdick, Chairman of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, said the concern he has is with the recommendations to cut the budget. He is left with the question of where this amount would come from. This should be included in the regular and default budgets.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, said he wanted to emphasize that when this new RSA came in it was the result of a tremendous amount of work by the Hampton delegation. Mr. Rice said he strongly recommends this Article.

Article 38 – Mill Pond Dam – petitioned - \$250,000

Candy Stellmach, 488 High Street, spoke in favor of this Article. She said residents can obtain information at FriendsOfGristMillPond.net.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, said he had been appointed to the Coastal Risk & Hazards Commission. The purpose of this commission is to find out if there is any need for legislation to protect the seacoast from storm surge, sea level rise and flooding. To maintain a healthy system it is necessary to control the flow of water. The dams are important components of this. Mr. Rice said he strongly supports the rebuilding of this dam.

Article 39 – Town Clock - \$75,000

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, said there was a commitment that this would be done with private funds. It took four years of raising private funds to build the gazebo. Mr. Rice said he was very much in favor of this clock, but he is not in favor of the Town spending money for it. This is something that should be done with a fund raising effort.

Article 40 – Vietnam Moving Memorial - \$5,000

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, said this is a day late and a dollar short. Many Vietnam veterans would oppose this as much too late. Even though the organization doing this is non-profit, their executives make a lot of money. Mr. Rice said he was opposed to this Article.

Article 12 – Town of Hampton Operating Budget – 26.379,040

David Lang, 66 Park Avenue, thanked the Budget Committee for their work. However, you have to consider trash, Police, Fire and ambulance needs. Mr. Lang asked the committee to reconsider this budget.

Norman Silberdick commended the committee for taking a strong stand in cutting the budget. Affordability is a question. Mr. Silberdick said there are creative ways to provide equipment for the departments.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to close the Public Hearing at 10:27 p.m.

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

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to reopen the Budget Committee meeting at 10:27 p.m.

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

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to reconsider Article 39 – Town Clock.

Mr. Jones said this was initially intended to be privately funded. Mr. Jones said for this reason he no longer favors this Article.

Mr. LaBranche agreed with Mr. Jones.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Jones, to recommend Article 39.

Vote: 4 yes, 10 no (Farrell, Gryzbowski, Jones, Kravitz, LaBranche, Latimer, Pierce, Plouffe, Reniere, Waddell). Motion failed.

There was no action on Article 24 – Part-time Special Police Officers Training.

There was no action on Article 32 – Capital Reserve Funds Charges for Banking of Brokerage Assistance.

There was no action on Article 38 – Mill Pond Dam.

Moved by Mr. Reniere, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to reconsider Article 40 – Vietnam Moving Memorial.

Vote: 9 yes, 5 no (Ladd, Lapham, O’Loughlin, Waddell, Znoj). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend Article 40-Vietnam Moving Memorial.

Mr. Pierce said he had changed his position and was now opposed to this Article. Mr. Jones said he was also opposed. Mr. Reniere said he originally supported this Article, but was now opposed after listening to the public comment. Mr. Lapham said a lot of work has gone into this Article and he was in support. Mr. Znoj said \$5,000 for four days bothers him and he would abstain.

Mr. O’Loughlin said he was in support of this Article. This is a partnership between the Town and beach. It is an opportunity for education. Mr. Ladd said he strongly supports this Article. It is an opportunity for the Town and beach to work together.

Vote: 5 yes, 7 no (Farrell, Grzybowski, Jones, LaBranche, Pierce, Plouffe, Reniere). Motion failed.

There was no action on Article 12 – Town of Hampton Operating Budget.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice

Secretary