

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 17, 2015**

Budget Committee Members Present

Eileen Latimer, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Selectman Representative
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Nicholas Bridle
Glenn Farrell
Timothy Citizen Jones
Sunny Kravitz
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Michael Pierce
David Wood

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Committee members made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer welcomed Nicholas Bridle to the Committee. She welcomed Sunny Kravitz and Glenn Farrell back. However, Mr. Farrell will not vote at this meeting because he has not been sworn in. Alan Blair, a newly elected member, also needs to be sworn in.

Reorganization

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to appoint Eileen Latimer as Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Chairman Latimer accepted the nomination.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Ladd, to appoint Brian Lapham as Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Mr. Lapham accepted the nomination.

A vote was then taken on the nomination of Chairman Latimer.

Vote: 7 yes, 4 no (Bridle, Ladd, Lapham, Woolsey), 1 abstention (Plouffe). Motion passed.

A vote was then taken on the nomination of Brian Lapham.

Vote: 4 yes, 7 no (Jones, Kravitz, LaBranche, Latimer, Pierce, Wood, Znoj), 1 abstention (Plouffe). Motion failed.

Chairman Latimer continued as Chairman for the coming year.

Chairman Latimer asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Jones, to appoint Mike Plouffe as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Mr. Plouffe declined the nomination.

Moved by Mr. Ladd, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to appoint Brian Lapham as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Budget Committee for the coming year.

Mr. Lapham accepted the nomination.

Vote: 9 yes, 1 no (Jones), 2 abstentions (Lapham, Latimer). Motion passed.

Mr. Lapham then stepped up as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Latimer thanked the Committee for their hard work during the past year. She said this year the voters gave a sense of how they want to spend money.

Selectman Report

Ms. Woolsey said she had noticed that Bud Com members have not been picking up reports from the Budget Committee box. Chairman Latimer said that those reports are received electronically by committee members.

Ms. Woolsey passed out Ed Tinkers report on the revaluation. She said this is a very labor intensive procedure. She also passed out unsealed minutes of a non-public session of the Board of Selectmen regarding Foss abatement cases.

Ms. Woolsey said that some minutes and most agendas have not been posted on the town website. She will discuss this with the Town Manager.

Chairman Latimer asked if the budget column on the monthly financial reports could be renamed as "default budget". Ms. Woolsey said she would check on this.

Ms. Woolsey suggested scheduling a Saturday tour of the DPW. Many members expressed interest.

Mr. LaBranche said the March 2nd Budget Committee meeting which was also a Public Hearing for the HBVD was not recorded by Channel 22. Ms. Woolsey said she would look into this issue.

School Board Report

Mr. Znoj said there was no report at this time. The School Board will have their reorganization meeting next week.

HBVD Report

Mr. Ladd said the HBVD Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, March 27th, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Latimer said the wording on one of the warrant articles was changed after the Budget Committee approved it. She said she felt legal interpretation is needed. Mr. Ladd said counsel and the DRA are fine with the warrant article. Chairman Latimer asked Mr. Ladd to discuss this with the HBVD counsel and would request that a letter be sent to this Committee clarifying this issue. Mr. Ladd agreed to bring it to counsel.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2015 as amended.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Bridle, Woolsey). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to table the Minutes of March 2, 2015 until the Committee has time to reflect.

Chairman Latimer said the last paragraph is not correct.

Vote: 9 yes, 1 no (Lapham), 2 abstentions (Bridle, Woolsey). Motion passed.

New Business

Mr. Jones said the Budget Committee is entitled to a free NHMA seminar which is to be determined by the Board of Selectmen. Nothing has happened. Ms. Woolsey said she would look into this.

Ms. Woolsey made a recommendation that the Assessor be invited to the April meeting.

Chairman Latimer said she spoke with the Town Clerk regarding the warrant article to reduce the members of the Budget Committee. There is a problem because of the different types of terms. This could be in violation of RSA32:15. Chairman Latimer said she would like to hand this issue over to the Board of Selectmen. Also there should be a response from the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. Ms. Woolsey said she would check with the Town Manager and Town Counsel and get an opinion.

Chairman Latimer said last year most of the departments liked having questions before they appeared before the committee. She suggested that this year sub-committees be formed for each department. She asked for an opinion from the committee. Mr. Ladd, Mr. Bridle, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Znoj, Mr. Jones, Mr. LaBranche, and Mr. Lapham agreed that sub-committees would be a good idea. Mr. Pierce said the questions were a good idea, but that he was neutral on sub-committees. Mr. Kravitz did not agree with the questions. Mr. Wood said he was a fan of sub-committees. They can do a lot of investigative work and can come back with recommendations.

Chairman Latimer said she would suggest that the Budget Committee, Board of Selectman and Town Manager get on the same page this year. Perhaps there could be a couple of meetings.

Old Business

Chairman Latimer discussed RSA 91-A. She said members of this committee do not meet outside of this room. All meetings are held in public. RSA 91-A can be violated if you send an email to everyone. If an email is sent to a quorum and only one person responds, it is a meeting.

Chairman Latimer said there is still one open seat open on the committee. It is a one-year seat. If someone had write-ins on the ballot and is still interested, they should contact her.

Mr. Jones said Mr. Znoj gave the committee extraordinary service this past year.

Mr. Znoj said backup data in the budget was not clear. There is money in certain lines that is never spent. He asked where that money is. Mr. Jones said better accounting visibility is needed.

Chairman Latimer asked the members of the committee to make a list before the next meeting of things they think would make the committee's efforts better in the coming year.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Jones, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary