

HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE AGENDA

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Selectmen's Meeting Room

Attendance

Eileen Latimer, Chairman

Brian Lapham, Vice Chairman

Nicholas Bridle

Scott Blair

Michael Pierce

Sunny Kravitz

Chuck Rage, Hampton Village Precinct Representative

Stephen LaBranche

Timothy "Citizen" Jones

Sandra Nickerson

Michael Plouffe

Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative SAU 90

Phil Bean, Selectman Representative

Absent (excused)

Jim O'Loughlin

David Wood, State Representative

- 1) Chairman Latimer Called to Order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Introduction of members
- 4) Correspondence

Chairman Latimer said she was informed that the main section of the audit was complete and they are still waiting on capital assets.

Ms. Pulliam said we should be receiving the draft shortly, once we have it the Board of Selectmen will get a copy and they need to sign off accepting it, then the book will be printed and posted online as a final draft.

Chairman Latimer said we received a response for the assessing questions, which have been forwarded to everyone.

- 5) Work Session 7

Presentation & Questions of following 2016 departmental requested budgets:

A. Fire & Safety – Chief Ayotte and Deputy Chief Kennedy

1. Administration

Chief Ayotte said the Administration portion of the budget covers salaries and wages for staff, for me, the deputy, and administrative assistant, all the uniforms, rentals and leases, gasoline for our vehicles and tuition reimbursement.

Mr. Znoj said the two secretaries were down to receive uniforms.

Chief Ayotte said yes, they deal with the public all day, so they have uniforms, which consist of a shirt with patches.

Chairman Latimer asked if the price for uniforms around \$33,000 is going to be every year and how many people does it cover.

Chief Ayotte said yes and it is for the entire department.

2. Fire Suppression

Chief Ayotte said this is the bulk of our work along with EMS, we drive the fire engines and this covers all the staff and personnel for that purpose, so everyone you see who wear Hampton Fire uniforms is performing task for fire suppression, regular wages, OT wages, and part time wages.

Mr. Lapham asked if OT wages were covering for people who are multitasking.

Chief Ayotte said the OT wages went under whatever task they came in for under the different entities.

Mr. Znoj said he heard there was going to be a warrant article for new gear, and wanted to know why there was a line item on the budget for new gear.

Chief Ayotte said the warrant article would be to replace six new sets, as the gear only lasts for ten years, and has four new firefighters coming in which would cover the new gear under the line item in the budget.

Mr. Znoj asked about overtime call back saying year to date you spent around \$10,000 so far and the last four years you spent around \$15,000 and you are asking for \$50,000.

Chief Ayotte said if we have a first alarm fire then I am recalling all fire personnel and I have to pay them.

Chairman Latimer said we have added a lot of property, so the requested amount is reasonable, but if we do not use it that would be great.

Chief Ayotte said throughout the course of the year Hampton is becoming a busier place and we are at 150 calls over last year.

3. Fire Prevention

Chief Ayotte said percentage wise it looks like a lot, but numbers wise if you look across at the line items they are not. In anticipation of hiring a Fire Inspector, will need to supplement his/her gasoline. Supplies and expenses have increased as we had to purchase a color printer. We have also had a successful year for fire education both in the grade school area and the home school area; we are working very hard in maintaining national protocol, we saw 384 children this year.

Mr. Jones said he has heard wonderful things are happening with the fire prevention secretary and she has made this operation more efficient and she has saved the town a lot of money.

Mr. Bridle asked for a ballpark figure on how many permits the town issues for assembly; a couple of hundred?

Chief Ayotte said yes, but it is not just for permits and assembly, there are inspections for fire sprinklers, fire alarms, if you install propane in your house there is an inspection, light safety, foster home inspections; not just permit and assembly inspections; also inspections throughout the different phases of construction.

Mr. Bridle asked if there is a ballpark revenue figure on how much fire prevention brings in.

Chief Ayotte said we initiated new fees; last year we took in a total of about \$4,500; and this year so far \$19,717.

4. Training

Chief Ayotte said this also encompasses medical services for which we are required for new hires to send them to medical; we want to make sure we are hiring a health individual. Training and recruitment has gone up, the recruitment costs have gone up a lot this year, with the new EMS officer tests were involved and we have to pay for the testing from third party agencies. The training encompasses a lot such as the new hybrid vehicles we need to learn how to get the people out. Solar panels on a roof it changes our operation significantly, studies on fire suppression, and fire officer training.

Chairman Latimer said Chief Ayotte's predecessor held a very tight budget with almost no increases for a number of year and eventually that does catch up to you and that you

fall behind, and when you put the growth of the community and new challenges, that this is not unjustified and I think it is catch up for what did not happen in previous budgets.

Mr. Znoj said he is not spending the money he was given this year.

Chief Ayotte said in August we were given direction to rein in the spending and in September we were told to stop spending, so we did; we have not done anything extra because we were told not to and it is not just me; the DPW and Police are also feeling it.

Mr. Bridle asked how many times the individual firefighter gets to go.

Chief Ayotte said there are four separate groups, each lead by a Captain and Lieutenant the rest being firefighters and would each team would go.

5. Repair Services

Chief Ayotte said if our fire engines are unable to be repaired by us we have to send them out to highly qualified professionals; they have to be driven there and back by one or more of us which runs into OT wages. The repair for diesel engines costs are up from \$75 to \$100 per hour.

Mr. LaBranche said the generator for Engine 3 has been down for 2 weeks.

Chief Ayotte said yes, maybe a little more.

Mr. LaBranche said and you are getting it fixed.

Chief Ayotte said yes we are.

Mr. Kravitz asked if they considered using cell phones instead of the radios.

Chief Ayotte said no because you cannot guarantee service everywhere in town.

6. Fire Stations and Buildings

Chief Ayotte said we are now funding two new 10,000 square foot buildings and we have an addition that houses administration and fire alarm as well as personnel, and we have a new fire station at the beach. The electricity to take up 20,000 square feet is greater than the smaller facility we had. The increases that we had were for utilities, the KW hour rate went up.

Mr. Bridle asked if the parts of the buildings that were not in use all the time were they on some sort of meter where they conserve power.

Chief Ayotte said there were motion detectors and if an alarm came in dispatch would push a button that would put the lights on, so whoever is getting up to do a call they could

see and the apparatus bay lights would also come on then. The floor tiles were just cleaned and a top coat finished put on, so that that will be a yearly expense to help maintain it. There are numerous other things that occur, like the old building on Winnacunnet Road, heating the apparatus bay. This also encompasses all the cleaning supplies and toiletries.

7. Pier Maintenance

Chief Ayotte said we have to take care of the pier, close it for the winter, and take the water and electric out. The pier was built with Federal Funds, Fish and Game and Marine Patrol also tie up there.

B. Hydrants

Chief Ayotte does not have anything to do with the budget for the hydrants.

Old Business

Town Manager Welch was asked about when the default budget would be done.

Town Manager Welch said it was not done and they were still reviewing some and they were worried about the insurance. I am responsible to give the Selectmen the total budget and I do not have it.

Chairman Latimer said she thinks they have waited long enough and were getting to midway into December and they need the default budget.

Town Manager Welch said we will do what we can to get it to you, but I do not know when.

Mr. Pierce said he was waiting for them to get out of ear shot and he is beginning to think they were getting so much BS in the room that he cannot stand it, between the audit and default budget.

Chairman Latimer said she does not know why we do not have the default budget and is there anything Selectman Bean could do.

Selectman Bean said he would suggest that she speak with the Chairman of the Selectmen.

Chairman Latimer said she has done that already, but perhaps that was a couple of weeks ago and perhaps you can instill a little more urgency at your meeting next Monday, that we are still looking for it and we realize that the insurance numbers will change. They will change in the budget as well, we realize that, but the time has come to give us the default budget.

Selectman Bean said duly noted.

Chairman Latimer said thank you very much and I will watch with eager anticipation.

Chairman Latimer said their questions requested to the Treasurer pertaining to the Conservation Commission. The questions are what are the names of the funds, what is the current balance of each fund, what are the transaction details that take place in each fund during the year 2015, what year was the warrant article passed in each fund or funds was created or modified by the town meeting.

Timothy "Citizen" Jones MOTIONED that this request that the Chairman just read be sent by the Chairman, as an officer of the Budget Committee, on behalf of the Budget Committee to the Town Treasurer SECONDED by Stephen LaBranche.

Vote: 13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention

Mr. Blair asked are we an email behind, because Fred said he sent you Warrant Articles that have been approved.

Chairman Latimer said you have what I have. I do not have them yet. I keep asking emails to go from one place and they are always someplace else, but I have been scrubbing both places and I do not have those emails from Monday night.

Mr. Jones said if he could request from Selectman Bean that it would be a great service to everyone in town if as you pass your warrant articles in your selectmen's meeting that you put them in a central place on the website.

Selectman Bean said duly noted.

Mr. Jones said would you endeavor to make that happen.

Selectman Bean said indeed I will sir.

7) Review of Minutes – not done.

8) Adjournment

Stephen LaBranche MOTIONED to adjourn SECONDED by Scott Blair at 9:36 p.m.

Vote: 13 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions

Respectfully,

Eileen Latimer, Chair
T. Y., Secretary

