

**HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Date: Thursday, January 7, 2016

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Selectmen's Meeting Room

Attendance

Eileen Latimer, Chairman

Brian Lapham, Vice Chairman

Phil Bean, Selectman Representative

Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative SAU 90

Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

Nicholas Bridle

Scott Blair

Mike Pierce

Sandra Nickerson

Tim Jones

Sunny Kravitz

Stephen LaBranche

Michael Plouffe

James O'Loughlin

Absent (Excused)

Vacant Seat

- 1) Call to Order at 7 p.m.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Introduction of members
- 4) Discussion, Review, and Recommendation of Municipal Money Warrant Articles:
10, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 30, 31

Moved by Ms. Nickerson, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to reconsider Article 31 Town War Memorial

Ms. Nickerson said after a lot of consideration after the meeting, she feels there is plenty of time to look at the article, but am concerned about the wording and the placement of the memorial and thinks there is plenty of time to reword the article and not put a location in it.

Mr. Jones said if it went back to the Selectmen for rewording the article and this until Wednesday.

Chairman Latimer asked Town Manager Welch if he would bring this before the Board of Selectman on Monday night, January 11, 2016.

Town Manager Welch said yes he would.

Vote: 11 Yes, 2 No (Lapham, O'Loughlin) 1 Abstention (Bean). Motion passed.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to table the consideration for the War Memorial until January 13, 2016

Vote: 11 Yes, 2 No (Lapham, O'Loughlin) 1 Abstention (Bean). Motion passed.

Article 26 – Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund

Chairman Latimer introduced Dyana Martin

Ms. Martin read the article. Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$115,350 for the purpose of purchasing the following items of equipment for the Recreation and Parks Department: 1) a one- ton dump truck for the Recreation Department to replace its current 1999 one ton dump truck, which shall be traded in as part of the purchase if deemed to be prudent by the Recreation and Parks Department Director, Town Manager, and Board of Selectmen; 2) new playground equipment to replace obsolete playground equipment at 5 Corners Park; all as determined by the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and the Director of Recreation and Parks Department, and 3) to authorize the withdrawal of \$115,350 from the Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund established for the purpose under Article 44 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting (Majority vote required) (No tax impact)

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$115,350, to approve as written

Mr. Znoj wants added to this article a total of \$9,000 and bump this article to \$124,350. He wants \$5,000 for the repair of refurbishing the Skateboard Park, \$2,000 for building repairs and \$2,000 for playground resurfacing.

Moved by Mr. Znoj to bump the article to \$124,350 to include the above mentioned infrastructure articles.

Mr. Jones said point of order, as we do not have authority to change the wording of the warrant articles and the motion is not appropriate.

Mr. Pierce suggests the Selectmen correct the issue if they so choose.

Mr. Znoj suggests raising Warrant Article 26 by \$9,000.

Chairman Latimer asked if Town Manager Welch could bring this to the Selectmen Monday night, adding \$9,000 to the article. Town Manager Welch said he would need to know where the money comes from.

Mr. Jones said there is a motion on the table.

Mr. LaBranche withdrew his motion and Mr. Bridle agreed.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Kravitz, to table this motion until Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Vote: 13 Yes, 1 No (Jones), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Article 10 – Sewer Bond

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing for the amount of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of constructing the upgrade to the Waste Water Treatment Facility Septic Receiving Station, as written

Chairman Latimer welcomed Chris Jacobs, Public Works Director, Jennifer Hale, Deputy Director and Mike Dube WWTP Operations Manager

Ms. Hale said there are four components in the bond, which are as follows: Installation of a Lakeside Unit Package Raptor Septage Acceptance Plant and new Grit box; wash down area and connection system to the Septage Receiving Station; installation of new pumps, drives and pressure reducing system for plant recycle water and relocation of the suction intake pipe; and an Emergency Generator for Plant Aeration System.

Director Jacobs said these projects are truly necessary to operate the plant more cost effectively and to keep it operational.

Chairman Latimer asked how the cost was determined. Director Jacobs said a lot was from their consultant. Ms. Hale said everything is broken down into each of the individual projects.

Mr. Znoj said because he was not allowed in the plant to do his due diligence, that it was a slap in his face. He said that he recommends we not pass this article.

Ms. Nickerson said this was needed for the welfare of the community and not to penalize the community.

Mr. LaBranche said he realizes how important it is to have this system work, it cannot break, and it absolutely must get done. The impact to the taxpayers will be very small because it will be spread out.

Mr. Ladd said a dispute between some members of this committee and the Board of Selectmen should not determine the value of doing this project.

Mr. Jones asked wants to know the tax impact.

Mr. Bridle said there is no tax impact on any of the articles.

Mr. Plouffe said he could not vote for it, because of previous projects that did not work out.

Director Jacobs said you are the taxpayers and if you wanted a tour, call with a little notice and he would give a tour, that he has given many tours this past year. I agree some funky things were done in the past, but not under my rule.

Ms. Nickerson asked Mr. Plouffe if everything in this article we need to do. I would suggest to this committee that we take the high road.

Mr. Plouffe said probably, but he would not vote for this tonight.

Chairman Latimer asked if we could table this to next Wednesday for a vote, and in that time could you give us spreadsheets relative to the costs, and arrange for a visit that Mr. Znoj and Mr. Plouffe.

Mr. Jones said we are dealing with a very low risk from all the experts here, so I think we should vote on it tonight and move forward.

Director Jacobs said low risk, but high costs if something were going to happen. The reason why we brought the Church Street pump station forth so quickly was we envisioned under the high summer flow, that pump station would die. If it did we asked ourselves who wants to go down to the Ashworth and tell them everybody has to leave because the pipes are full, and by the way the State Beach is closed because no one can use the bathrooms. The same thing exists with this aeration portion of this bond; everyone would have to leave the hotels and businesses at the beach. We are in charge with upholding the public trust; we were told that this is a risk the community should consider; we should get this corrected that is why it is here before you.

Vote: 7 Yes, 7 No (Znoj, Plouffe, LaBranche, Latimer, Lapham, Pierce, Jones) 0 Abstention. Motion failed.

A break was taken at 9:00 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:10 p.m.

Article 17 – Block Grant

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$643,225 for improvements to streets, as written

Director Jacobs said this is very similar to last year's block grant, we are asking for more this year. The state portion would be \$299,804 so we would need to raise the difference \$343,421.

Vote: 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 18 – DPW Vehicle Purchases

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$353,000 for the purchase of replacement vehicles, as written

Director Jacobs said less one vehicle, this is the same as last year and we did listen to Mr. Plouffe.

Mr. Plouffe said the trucks have served the town well.

Vote: 13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Article 19 – Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Bridle, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$300,000 to be added to the Road Improvements Capital Reserve Fund, as written

Director Jacobs said this is a recurring article and the amount in the fund is \$934,637.39.

Vote: 10 Yes, 4 No (Lapham, Pierce, Znoj, Jones) 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Article 20 – High Street Culvert at Meadow Pond and Drainage Study

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Kravitz, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$147,500 to replace the outfall culvert and study, as written

Town Manager Welch said \$73,750 would come from the Unassigned General Fund Balance and \$73,750 will be raised from taxation.

Mr. Znoj said we need to address the dam first before we do the culvert.

Mr. Pierce said if you redo the dam you can control the water, so the culvert is unnecessary.

Vote: 6 Yes, 7 No (Latimer, Lapham, Nickerson, Kravitz, LaBranche, Znoj, Pierce), 1 Abstention (Jones). Motion failed.

Article 21 – Seawall Bi-Centennial Park Replacement

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$85,000 for the design, reconstruction and/or replacement of the Seawall at Bi-Centennial Park

Director Jacobs said this is for the investigation and preliminary design to replace the seawall in front of what was once the old Coast Guard Station.

Vote: 13 Yes, 1 No (Lapham), 0 Abstention. Motion passed.

Article 22 – Sidewalks

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$45,650 for sidewalks

Director Jacobs said the amount is what should have been spent over the last three years. We have a number of sidewalks and crosswalks that are not handicap accessible.

Vote: 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 23 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$20,000 for Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Vote: 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention. Motion passed unanimously.

Article 30 – Conservation Land Acquisition Fund

Chairman Latimer introduced Jay Diener and read the article.

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the Hampton Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Fund; this fund is used to “acquire, maintain, improve, protect or limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize,” open spaces and conservation easements in Hampton in accordance with RSA 36-A: Sections 1 through 4, inclusive. Recent acquisitions such as the Batchelder Field Conservation Easement have significantly reduced the size of the Fund.

The goal is to return the Fund to adequate levels to enable the Commission to conserve additional lands on behalf of the Town of Hampton? (Majority vote required)

Mr. Diener said that they wanted to call this by a different name.

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Blair, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$20,000 for the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund, as written

Chairman Latimer said going back to the title on this Conservation Land Acquisition Fund and asked what is this article called.

Mr. Diener said the intent is for it to be the Conservation Land Fund, and the reason for that is rather than land acquisition, as the purpose stated on the RSA is for more than acquisition.

Chairman Latimer stated that when they last met, we were asking how many different funds and their names.

Mr. Diener said there is one fund that we have an allocation for salt marsh and Island Path, they are separate because they were specific donations. As these two projects could not go forward, we have permission from the donator to reallocate the funds. They are being reallocated to the ice pond dam project and will remain under the names salt marsh and Island Path until the funds are expended.

Mr. Bridle said we need to table this until we get a warrant article that is representative to changing the name.

Mr. LaBranche withdrew his motion.

Chairman Latimer said the name Land Acquisition Fund does not appear to exist and we need to be able to see the wording tied with the money and where it is actually going. We can actually vote on this next Wednesday.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to table Article 30 until next Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Vote: 14 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

5) Revised Proposed Budget Questions

Chairman Latimer welcomed Kristi Pulliam.

Mr. Znoj said with respect to what you put out, I think \$15,200 is not in the budget.

Ms. Pulliam said you are correct because the Board of Selectmen did not adjust their budget. At the meeting Monday night they chose to leave it to the Budget Committee. I had sent Chairman Latimer a memo, as they asked me to notify you. The \$15,200 is not under the BOS budget, but is in the default budget.

6) Adjournment

Moved by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Ladd, to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 PM

Respectfully,

Eileen Latimer, Chair
T. Y., Secretary