

# HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

## PUBLIC HEARING

**Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2016**

**Time: 7 p.m.**

**Place: Hampton Academy**

### 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

Michael Pierce

Sunny Kravitz

James O'Loughlin

Stephen LaBranche

Timothy "Citizen" Jones

Michael Plouffe

Sandra Nickerson

Absent (Excused)

Vacant Seat

1) Call to Order at 7 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Introduction of members

**Moved** by Mr. Bridle, seconded by Mr. Blair to allow Employees and School Representatives to speak tonight even if they do not live in the Town of Hampton

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

Chairman Latimer said we have to finish Warrant Article #11

Article 11 Operating Budget - \$26,599,431

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts

set forth on the budget posted with the warrant as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$26,599,431.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,528,092.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

**Moved** by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$26,599,431 for the Operating Budget

**Vote:** 10 Yes, 4 No (Bridle, Jones, Bean, LaBranche) 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 and introduced Mr. Lunney to read the School Warrant Articles.

Article 1 – Reconstructing and Equipping the of Hampton Academy - \$24,945,000

Article 1 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Article 2 – Operating Budget - \$20,184,320

Article 2 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement

To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Education Association covering the four year period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020 which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

Year	Estimated Increase
2016-17	\$239,020
2017-18	\$254,533
2018-19	\$252,502
2019-20	\$250,748

And further raise and appropriate the sum of \$239,020 for the 2016-17 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits required by the new agreement over those that would be paid at current staffing levels in accordance with the most recent collective bargaining agreement.

Article 3 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Article 4 - Maintenance, Repair and Modernization work for Hampton's 2 School Buildings and Grounds - \$300,000

To raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to continue long-term maintenance, repair and modernization work to include technical and engineering services at Hampton's Marston and Centre School buildings and grounds.

Article 4 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by the School Board and the Budget Committee.

Article 5 – Acceptance of two properties from the Town of Hampton to – The Arnold Property and The Martell Property

The two above mentioned properties have been leased from the Town for many years for staff parking and school bus loading and unloading. The school board recommends approval of this article.

Article 5 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by the School Board.

Article 6 – Sacred Heart - \$45,600

Article 6 is a citizen petition article and the petition has been reviewed by the School District Clerk and determined to be valid. It reads as follows: To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate funds in the amount of \$45,600 to provide child benefit services in accordance with RSA 189:49 for students who are residents of the Hampton School District and attend Sacred Heart School located in Hampton, NH. By petition the School Board and Budget Committee recommend this appropriation. Majority vote required.

Mr. Kravitz said he does not believe that tax payer money should be spent on private schools; the constitution separates church and state.

Cheryl Grella, 20 Dearborn Avenue said she works in the front office at Sacred Heart and has two children who attend. She would like to thank all the Hampton residents for their support of the CBS funds to Hampton students who do attend our school. We ask for your support again.

Chairman Latimer said she would like to remind the committee that they are here to listen tonight and not render their opinion.

Article 6 is recommended to the deliberative, as accepted by School Board and the Budget Committee.

Chairman Latimer closed the Public Hearing on SAU90 at 7:25 and thank everyone for coming.

Chairman Latimer asked the Town Manager for a current copy of the Warrant Articles with the vote, as they were taken in the meetings.

Town Manager Welch said they had not been given the votes on the Warrant Articles. I actually think it is immaterial as you are going to have to put them to the warrant anyhow, unless you want to revote them at this point.

Chairman Latimer opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Town Manager Welch will read the following:

Article 10 – Sewer Bond - \$2,000,000

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000.00 for the purpose of constructing the necessary upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Facility Septic Receiving Station by purchasing and installing a Raptor Septic Acceptance Plant or its equivalent in order to process septic effluent containing materials that otherwise can a) clog pumps and valves, b) decrease the effectiveness of plant aeration, dewatering and filtering equipment, and c) decrease maintenance costs. Attached thereto will be a vehicle and equipment wash down facility that will accommodate all Town equipment and operate in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Water and Air Acts. Such appropriation includes improvements to the Recycled Wastewater Yard Piping to include the upgrading and replacement of the piping systems for the delivery of plant water to increase the efficiency of the Treatment Plant. Such appropriation includes safety improvements to the Sewer Plant valve pit, a hazardous work environment that employees must enter to operate the flow valves that control flow from the primary and sludge thickener tanks. Included in the appropriation is the design, engineering, purchasing and installing an emergency generator to power the aeration blower system that is not now connected to emergency power. A loss of power means a loss of secondary treatment in the plant that the Town is required to maintain under law and it's State and Federal permits.

Such sum to be raised by the issuance of municipal bonds or notes for a period not to exceed thirty (30) years under and in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33); and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Town Treasurer to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, contract for, accept and expend any Federal, State or other available funds towards the projects in accordance with the terms and conditions under which they are received and to borrow in anticipation of the receipt of such and or the issuance of such bonds or notes as provided in the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), and amended; and

To authorize participation in the State Revolving Fund (SRF) (RSA 486:14) established for the purpose, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend such monies as they become available from the Federal and State Governments; and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to implement such cost effective solutions as are presented in the future that they deem to be in the best interests of the Town that may result in a lesser amount of expenditure than is authorized by this warrant article; and

To authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions necessary to carry out the project in the best interests of the Town of Hampton? (3/5ths vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-7-0

Article 11

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$26,599,431.00? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$26,528,092.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Hampton or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-4-0

Article 12

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to approve the cost items included in a one-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectman and the Hampton Fire Fighters Local 2664, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2016 \$54,912 (39 weeks) over 2015 level

2017 \$18,304 (13 weeks) over 2015 level

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,912 to fund the cost items related to the Hampton Firefighters Local 2664 salaries and benefits for 2016. Such sum represents the additional salaries and benefits (over the 2015 budget level) for the 2016 portion of the one year that is contained in an agreement between the Town of Hampton, by its Board of Selectmen, and the Firefighters Local 2664, pursuant to RSA 273-A. The estimated total cost of the agreement in salaries and benefits for the one-contract year is \$73,216? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-1-0

Article 13

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to approve the cost items included in a one-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectman and the Hampton Fire Officers Local 3017, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2016 \$17,751 (39 weeks) over 2015 level

2017 \$ 5,917 (13 weeks) over 2015 level

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,751 to fund the cost items related to the Hampton Fire Officers Local 3017 salaries and benefits for 2016. Such sum represents the additional salaries and benefits (over the 2015 budget level) for the 2016 portion of the one year that is contained in an agreement between the Town of Hampton, by its Board of Selectman and the Fire Officers Local 3017, pursuant to RSA 273-A. The estimated total cost of the agreement in salaries and benefits for the one-contract year is \$23,668? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-1-0

Mr. Norm Silberdick, Spokesman for the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton said he found this contract to be reasonable and will recommend to his group that the contract with the Fire Fighters be accepted.

Assistant Town Manager Sullivan will read the following

Article 14

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to approve the cost items included in a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association (Officers), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2016	\$ 72,616 (39 weeks) over 2015 level
2017	\$110,583 (52 weeks) over 2016 level
2018	\$114,445 (52 weeks) over 2017 level
2019	\$ 26,353 (13 weeks) over 2018 level

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$72,616 to fund the cost items related to the Police Association (Officers) salaries and benefits for 2016. Such sum represents the additional salaries and benefits (over the 2015 budget level) for the 2016 portion of the three years that are contained in a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Hampton by its Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association (Officers), pursuant to N.H. RSA 273-A. The compounded, cumulative cost impact over the 3 contract years is estimated to be \$660,273? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-2-0

Chairman Latimer asked Attorney Gearreald if she had to shut down the Public Hearing to go into a vote and then re-enter it; procedurally legally.

Attorney Gearreald said that she should take the issue up now in the order it is in, if that is what you wish was his recommendation.

Chairman Latimer said they found a defect in the wording, and the change happened today.

Assistant Town Manager Sullivan said the discussion they had last night, said over an abundance of caution, reassessment, the Selectmen approved the rewording of the last sentence.

**Motion** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to approve Article 14 as written

**Vote:** 12 Yes, 2 No (Pierce, Znoj), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Article 15

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to approve the cost items included in a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association (Sergeants), which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels:

2016 \$12,934 (39 weeks) over 2015 level  
2017 \$14,199 (52 weeks) over 2016 level  
2018 \$37,555 (52 weeks) over 2017 level  
2019 \$11,420 (13 weeks) over 2018 level

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,934 to fund the cost items related to the Police Association (Sergeants) salaries and benefits for 2016. Such sum represents the additional salaries and benefits (over the 2015 budget level) for the 2016 portion of the three years that are contained in a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Hampton by its Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association (Sergeants), pursuant to N.H. RSA 273-A. The compounded, cumulative cost impact over the 3 contract years is estimated to be \$133,422? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-2-0

**Motion** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Nickerson to approve Article 15, as written

**Vote:** 12 Yes, 2 No (Pierce, Znoj), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

#### Article 16

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to approve the cost items included in a three-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hampton Board of Selectmen and the Teamsters Local 633, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits at the current staffing level:

2016 \$41,259 (39 weeks) over 2015 level  
2017 \$58,004 (52 weeks) over 2016 level  
2018 \$47,205 (52 weeks) over 2017 level  
2019 \$ 9,809 (13 weeks) over 2018 level

And further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,259 to fund the cost items related to the Teamsters Local 633 salaries and benefits for 2016. Such sum represents the additional salaries and benefits (over the 2015 budget level) for the first of the three years that are contained in a collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Hampton by its Board of Selectmen and the Teamsters Local 633 (Clerical, PW Foremen, PD Dispatchers), pursuant to N.H. RSA 273-A. The compounded, cumulative cost impact over the 3 contract years is estimated to be \$336,855? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-2-0

**Motion** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Nickerson to Approve Article 16, as written

**Vote:** 12 Yes, 2 No (Pierce Znoj), 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer asked if anyone wished to speak on the above articles.

Mr. Norm Silberdick, Spokesman for the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton said he recognized the unions need an increase, but this is way out of line with the cost of living. The agreements are totally insensitive to the tax payers. He asked the Budget Committee to reconsider these three articles and re-examine their vote.

#### Article 17

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$643,225 for improvements to streets consisting of paving overlays, adjustments to structures to permit paving, repairs and replacements to drainage, crack sealing, curbing installation and improvements to Town parking areas on the following streets, Landing Road south of State Route 101, Old Stage Road, Acorn Road and Driftwood Road, said appropriation to be offset by the State Highway Block Grant estimated to be \$299,804. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the projects are completed or by March 31, 2018, whichever occurs sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0-0

#### Article 18

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$353,000 for the purchase of the following replacement vehicles for the Department of Public Works; one (1) 1-ton truck with dump body, plow and wing; two (2) 35,000 pound Gross Vehicle Weight dump trucks with plows and wings; the replaced vehicles to be traded in if deemed to be prudent by the Public Works Director, Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until these purchases are completed or by March 31, 2017, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-1

#### Article 19

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,000 to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund created under Article 16 of the 1998 Annual Town Meeting in accordance with the provisions of RSA 35 for the purpose of maintenance and/or reconstruction of streets? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-4-0

#### Article 20

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to amend the non-lapsing Article 16 that was passed at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of replacing the outfall culvert located below the Grist Mill Dam on High Street to raise and appropriate an additional \$147,500, for that purpose, to

remove the contingency as to offsetting revenues in the 2014 Article 16, and to change the purpose of that 2014 Article 16 to read as follows:

For the purpose of replacing the outfall culvert located below the Grist Mill Dam on High Street to prevent flooding of High Street and to perform a drainage study of Meadow Pond and to assist in obtaining State and Federal funding for these projects and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend for such purpose any funds from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Government, and any private source, as may become available, (Note: that \$235,000 has already been raised from taxes to complete this project) and to raise and appropriate the sum of the \$147,500 (that was originally to be provided by the State which is no longer available) to fund said sum, with the sum of \$73,750 (half the sum of \$147,500) to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, a fund containing unexpended appropriations from prior years as of December 31, 2015, and the sum of \$73,750 (half the sum of \$147,500) will be raised from taxation, the non-lapsing deadline in the original article remains the same. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the replacement of the culvert and the performance of the drainage study are completed or by March 31, 2018, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 6-7-1

Ms. Mary Louise Woolsey said she is opposed to this article.

#### Article 21

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the geotechnical investigation and preliminary design for the reconstruction and/or replacement of the seawall located at Bi-Centennial Park and temporary repairs during the preliminary design phase. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until this project is completed or by March 31, 2021, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-1-0

#### Article 22

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,650 for the maintenance, repair, re-construction and replacement of sidewalks, as needed, including \$5,000 for the installation

of ADA compliant ramps at crosswalks. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until this project is completed or by March 31, 2017, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0-0

#### Article 23

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to conduct a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day during calendar year 2016; and to authorize the

Board of Selectmen (a) to permit the Towns of Hampton Falls and New Castle to participate in said collection day at their own expense; (b) to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend for such purposes any funds from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Government, and any private source as may become available? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 14-0-0

#### Article 24

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$225,000 to complete appraisals on the Town's utility properties as part of the 2016 Town-wide revaluation of property in Hampton as required by the State Constitution and the Department of Revenue Administration under RSA 75:1, RSA 75:4 & RSA 75:8. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Town-wide revaluation is completed or by March 31, 2017, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-2-0

Mr. Ed Tinker said he would like to clarify a comment he made, he said it would not directly affect the setting of the State's tax rate, what it would do is help offset the State Education Tax. He said this is a perfect opportunity to get this done.

Mr. Norm Silberdick speaking for the Rational Taxpayers of Hampton said it seems there was a portion of the \$225,000 would be used to cover Seabrook it seems that the allocation of the money for that purpose is meaningless, because whatever the appraisal is you are stuck with the payments on any agreement that you made. This particular warrant article should be reviewed again by the Budget Committee to get into the specifics of what the \$225,000 is about.

Mr. Jim Waddell said this reevaluation is just fair and equitable taxation, and it would seem that the Rational Taxpayers would want everyone at the same level; it is simply saying to the utilities that we are going to appraise you at fair market value, which they are not at this time. It is just fair and equitable taxes across the board.

#### Article 25

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$174,475 for the cost of Hampton's contribution to twenty (20) human service agencies in the Seacoast in the amounts corresponding to the agencies' requests in the right hand columns as follows:

Human Service Agency	2015 Funding	2016 Funding Request
A Safe Place	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,500
American Red Cross	2,000	2,000
Aids Response Seacoast	2,700	2,700
Area Home Care & Family Services	12,000	12,000
Big Brothers Big Sisters	8,000	8,000
Child Advocacy Center	1,250	1,250
Child and Family Services	6,000	6,000

Crossroads House	15,000	15,000
Families First Health & Support Center	10,000	10,000
Lamprey Health Sr. Trans. Program	4,200	4,200
New Generation Shelter	2,000	2,000
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program	1,800	1,800
Richie McFarland Children's Center	7,800	7,800
Rockingham Community Action	25,000	25,000
Rockingham Meals on Wheels	5,281	6,625
Seacoast Family Promise	2,500	2,500
Seacoast Mental Health Center	8,000	8,000
Seacoast Visiting Nurse	40,000	40,000
Seacoast Youth Services	2,500	2,500
Seacoast Assault Services (Merged with A Safe Place)	2,000	0
Transportation Assistance for Seniors (TASC)	9,600	9,600
Total	\$173,131	\$174,475

These twenty (20) human service agencies shall each be required to give a written report at the end of the calendar year 2016 to the Board of Selectmen highlighting what the funds were used for and what impact the funds had in assisting to achieve their goals and objectives? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0

Article 26

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)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 10-2-0

Article 27

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 to carry out all lawful functions allowed under federal, state and local criminal justice forfeiture programs and to authorize the withdrawal of that amount from the Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund created for that purpose under Article 35 of the 2003 Town Meeting? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0

Article 28

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,364 to bring the Fire Prevention Secretary position to a 40 hour per week full time status. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and shall not lapse until the hiring is complete or by March 31, 2017, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Note: Warrant article figure presented is for 39 weeks from April 1 to December 31, 2016, the annual cost thereafter is \$60,486.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-3-0

Chairman Latimer called for a revote.

**Motion** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Lapham to accept Article 28 as written

Mr. Jones said he would not vote for this, as he has not been able to pursue some questions as new information has come to light.

Mr. Znoj said this warrant article really bothered him a lot as currently she works 20 hours a week for about \$15,000 per year and she has done a wonderful job. Because of the fringe benefits it would bring her up to \$60,000 per year.

Mr. Pierce said he also voted against this.

Ms. Nickerson asked the Chief to give a brief monologue on what was discussed at the meeting.

Chief Ayotte said the position is at the business office and she sits up front at the window where we currently work all day; the position as far as business is concerned is open 8-5, so it is under staffed half time. Her position is to take in all the work coming in whether it is builders for construction, or it may be permits for propane, or scheduling inspections. She is currently on a task to update our site plans, she sends out letters to local businesses to obtain information so it is current. There is an intensive amount of work that goes into her position and currently as 20 hours per week she has done a tremendous job. The position requires someone there all the time, so for 20 hours per week we have an unstaffed position, and no one to greet any of our vendors that come to the door. We have made a really bad situation better, but have not completed the work we need to yet.

Ms. Nickerson asked the Chief if this particular person was not employed 20 hours per week, you would still be looking to have a position at 40 hours.

Chief Ayotte said yes.

Mr. Bridle asked Chief to explain the revenue brought into the department this year.

Chief Ayotte said they did some research and generated fees and adopted new fees on February 12, 2015 they brought in just under \$21,000 from the previous figure of \$495.00.

Mr. Bridle said he is for this article.

Mr. LaBranche said that Chief Ayotte runs a very lean department, and he is for this article.

Mr. Znoj said he would hire another part time person.

Mr. Latham said this position helps the Fire Department immensely.

**Vote:** 11 Yes, 3 No (Pierce, Znoj, Jones) 0 Abstentions. Motion passed.

#### Article 29

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,487 for the replacing, upgrading and modifying of the existing computer system operated by the IT division under the Finance Department and authorize the withdrawal of \$29,487 from the Management Information Systems Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose by Article 27 of the 1997 Town Meeting; And

To vote, after the foregoing withdrawal of the sum of \$29,487 is made, to discontinue the said Management Information Systems Capital Reserve Fund with the balance of said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal to be transferred to the general fund? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Not Recommended by the Budget Committee 5-7-0

#### Article 30

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be placed in the Hampton Conservation 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 Farm 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. The Conservation Fund contains previously approved appropriations or gifts, for the same or similar purposes that have been made to the “Conservation Commission Accumulation Fund,” the “Conservation Land Fund,” and the “Conservation Land Acquisition Fund”? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0  
Recommended by the Budget Committee 7-4-1

#### Article 31

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000, said sum of \$5,000 to come from the Unassigned Fund Balance, a fund containing unexpended appropriations from prior years, as of December 31, 2015, and with no amount to be raised from taxation, to provide partial funding for the planning of a Town War Memorial dedicated to the Town’s sons and

daughters who have served in the Militia for the protection of the community in Colonial Wars from 1638 to 1774, and who have fought in wars for our Nation from 1775 to date, and to provide appropriate space on such memorial for those who shall serve in future wars. The Board of Selectmen to work with the Hamptons Post 35 of the American Legion and such individuals as the Board of Selectmen shall appoint to plan the memorial, and its place of erection on a parcel of Town owned land, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend for such purpose any funds from the State of New Hampshire, the Federal Government, or any private source, as may become available, to add to the sum. This shall be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by March 31, 2019, whichever is sooner? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 11-2-1

### Article 32

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to distribute to the general fund all funds that were left in the Heritage Fund, currently amounting to approximately \$5,329.58 plus any additional interest earned thereon, from past monies appropriated and gifts of money, which are no longer needed due to the abolition of the Heritage Commission as a result of the passage of Article 35 at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0

### Article 34

Shall the Town of Hampton vote to change the percentage distribution of Franchise Fees received from the Cable TV provider as voted under Article 16 of the 2013 Annual Town Meeting so that 40% (instead of 25%) of the funds received from the Franchise Fees are placed in the Hampton Cable TV Local Revolving Fund and are allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the Town's unassigned fund balance in accordance with the provisions of RSA 31:95-h as previously voted. The balance of the Franchise Fees received by the Town under the Cable TV Franchise Agreement are to be deposited as revenue in the general fund to reduce taxes? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 12-1-1

Chairman opened Article 34 for a motion and discussion

**Motion** by Mr. LaBranche, seconded by Mr. Znoj to accept Article 34, as written

Mr. Jones said the Board of Selectmen is taking action in the correct direction; but it is still wrong not to put 100% in the fund.

Mr. Znoj said just take from the people what we really need to run the channel; nothing should go into general revenue; next year there should be another article to get this straightened out.

**Vote:** 12 Yes, 1 No (Nickerson), 1 Abstentions (Jones). Motion passed.

Chairman Latimer opened to the public

Mr. Jim Waddell said Channel 22 does a great job, and hopes everyone will support this. He does support next year to coming back with a different warrant article to change how this whole funding is taking place.

Chairman Latimer asked Attorney Gearreald if they could change at deliberative to change the percentage.

Attorney Gearreald said you get a different interpretation depending on what it does; if you change the percentage to something that eliminates what is going on, that could be deemed a significant reversal and therefore, would not be valid; the moderator would probably rule that out of order. It would depend on what the amendment would be.

Mr. Jones asked changing it to 99.9% could be sufficient, but changing to 100% would be too extreme.

Attorney Gearreald said it was a matter of judgment.

#### Article 43

On the petition of John Nyhan and at least 25 Hampton registered voters; shall the Town of Hampton raise and appropriate \$3,000 to pay Experience Hampton Inc., the organizer of the 2010 to 2015 Hampton Christmas Parades, to help defray the expenses of the 2016 Christmas Parade and related activities? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 13-0-0

#### Article 44

On the Petition of Amy Hansen and at least twenty-five other registered voters of the Town of Hampton, shall the Town of Hampton raise and appropriate the amount of \$35,000 to help defray the cost of carrying out repairs and maintenance to the Town Clock. Such funds raised by this article to be used along with privately raised funds that are currently in the Town's possession to complete the work of constructing a tower to house the clock and for the clock's repair and installation in that structure. This shall be a non-lapsing account per 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the earlier of: i) all funds raised by this Article being expended for the construction, repair or maintenance of the tower and clock, or ii) December 31, 2021? (Majority vote required)

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 5-0-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee 9-4-1

Mr. Rusty Bridle said it saddens him that the Budget Committee did not support this article. Last year the clock committee had a warrant article to raise \$75,000 that did not pass. The committee has worked very hard over the past year; they have secured the space for it at the Centre School;

they have raised approximately \$100,000 in the past two years. This is a gift that was given to this town over 100 years ago; they have it restored and need approximately \$36,000 more to finish the clock from the clockmaker. I would urge you to reconsider your vote and please support the article.

Chairman Latimer said the Public Hearing is closed at 9:11 p.m.

Chairman Latimer called for a 5 minute break at 9:11 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 9:17 p.m.

Chairman Latimer called for reconsideration of votes previously taken.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, for reconsideration of Article 24 for Utility Evaluation

**Vote:** 4 Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstention. Motion failed.

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, for reconsideration Articles 14, 15 and 16

**Vote:** 4 Yes, 10 No, 0 Abstention. Motion failed.

**Motion** by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Ms. Nickerson, for reconsideration of Article 44 for the Town Clock

**Vote:** 12 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstention. Motion passed.

Ms. Nickerson said she is familiar with the Town Clock, and stood for many years on the Odd Fellows Building in town. It has been restored and going to be placed on the Centre School property. The group has done a very good job in restoration, and for \$35,000 I do not think it is a lot to show our support as a Budget Committee, and show our support to the community.

Mr. Pierce said last year they supported it, this is all supposed to be done by donations and some people do not like where it is going, and I am definitely against this.

Mr. Blair said the traditions and history we have for this unique town, and \$35,000 to augment for private citizens that have gone out and put a lot of effort in, I just think we should step up and redisplay the clock.

Mr. Jones said the effort to restore the clock is a private effort, and not everyone will be able to hear the clock, I oppose this, as we should not be imposing taxes on those who cannot enjoy the services.

Ms. Latimer asked how much has been put in for private money. I am going to change my vote, as I think enough time and effort has gone into it; this is \$40,000 less than was asked last year.

Ms. Nickerson said she would not hear the bell, but that is okay she does not mind being taxed on it. This is a town that is proud of its heritage; there has been a lot of work done to restore and I ask this committee to support Article 44.

Mr. Lapham is in favor of this.

Mr. Ladd said you hear the term public/private partnership; now the public needs to participate as the private has done very well in its participation.

Mr. Kravitz said he has not changed his position as it is a private matter.

**Vote:** 9 Yes, 4 No (Jones, Pierce, Kravitz, Plouffe), 1 Abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

### Adjournment

**Moved** by Mr. Jones, seconded by Ms. Nickerson to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

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