

HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 19, 2016

7:00PM

Hampton Town Hall, 100 Winnacunnet Road, Basement Meeting Room

Attendance

Nicholas Bridle, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative
Virginia Bridle, School Board Representative SAU 90
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative
Michael Pierce
Sunny Kravitz
Brian Lapham
Timothy "Citizen" Jones
Danielle Augustine
Steve Henderson

Absent (excused)

Stephen LaBranche
Open seat

- I. Call to order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll call / Introduction of Present Members

Mary-Louise Woolsey and Scott Blair – candidates running for open seat
- IV. Review of 2016 Minutes

- Review of Minutes from February 16, 2016

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Henderson to accept the Minutes of February 16, 2016

Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstentions (Bridle V., Barnes, Jones). Motion passed.

- Review of minutes from March 15, 2016

Page 1: Change date to March 15, 2016

Page 3: Change Latham to Lapham – change votes

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Plouffe to table the Minutes of March 15, 2016 to next meeting

Vote: 10 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

V. Old Business

a) Rules of Conduct / Guidelines for Meetings / Voting Record

Chairman Bridle said he would call the names on all votes. Chairman Bridle said his goal was everyone to be civil, encourage good conversation and give the voters as much information in regards to the budget as possible. He does not want things to get out of hand, will ask to keep an excess of redundancy to a minimum and will try to keep the meetings as concise and civil as possible, but will give everyone a chance to speak. Wants an interactive discussion between members and if required will initiate more rules later on, should be able to have a nice interactive session and move forward.

Mr. Jones asked for clarification to continue with speaking when recognized by the chair, achieving recognition by having your hand raised. Chairman Bridle said that is correct. Mr. Jones said you are going to allow other people to ask the person who is speaking to request they ask a question and the speaker can then say yes or no, but when he does yield to the question he is yielding to that person and not an invitation to everyone in the room to start pummeling him with questions. Chairman Bridle said correct and he thinks that is a good way. Mr. Jones suggested the person verbally ask if they would yield to a question. Chairman Bridle said that is fair.

Mr. Kravitz asked if there was any communication concerning a meeting with the DRA and the NHMA. Chairman Bridle said he has not heard back, but the communication was still open on trying to get them here and he has an update on the NHMA presentation.

Mr. Jones said when you are recognized, as he was by the Chair that you have the floor until you yield it, and asked if that was true. Chairman Bridle said yes, keeping in mind the balance of reasonableness and redundancy, but that he wants to give everyone a chance to speak and get their point across.

Mr. Lapham said not needing to make a comment on something that everyone speaks of; keeping the flow going without responding to everything that everyone says, it will go a lot quicker. Chairman Bridle said so long as the points get made as we are here to inform and educate; this is the forum to discuss those points.

Mr. Pierce said in the past if someone came in from the outside, but not a member and the committee voted to allow them to speak, it was perfectly fine. Chairman Bridle said he was fine with that if a member of the public wanted to come in to speak to the Budget

Committee they are encouraged to contact him in a formalized request, so that he could put it on the agenda, as they do not usually have a public comment period in their meetings.

b) Vacant Seat – Mary-Louise Woolsey and Scott Blair

Chairman Bridle introduced the two candidates for the vacant seat. Mrs. Woolsey recapped her public service going back to 1978. Mr. Blair has an account degree and would like to be a positive force and would support the committee and its leadership no matter the outcome. Chairman Bridle said the town clerk or deputy town clerk were not available to swear in any candidates tonight.

Mr. Ladd opened the floor for discussion of the vacant seat **SECONDED** by Mr. Kravitz.

Mr. Kravitz said there is no reason why there could not be an alternate.

Mr. Lapham said the RSAs do not mention it. Chairman Bridle said the RSA does not make room for alternates, but will check into it. Mr. Jones said there is no explicit granting for the creation of alternates. Mr. Ladd asked the chair to see if either of the candidates would be interested in an alternate position. Chairman Bridle asked if this was allowed would either candidate be interested in an alternate position. Mrs. Woolsey said it is not legal. Both said they would not.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Plouffe to vote on the vacant seat.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce to consider Scott Blair and Mary-Louise Woolsey for the vacant seat.

Chairman Bridle asked for a show of hands voting for Mary-Louise Woolsey

Vote: 7 Yes (Bridle V., Henderson, Jones, Plouffe, Kravitz, Pierce, Lapham). Motion passed.

Chairman Bridle asked for a show of hands voting for Scott Blair

Vote: 3 Yes (Ladd, Bridle, Barnes). Motion failed.

1 Abstention (Augustine)

Mary-Louise Woolsey was voted in for the vacant seat.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce to accept Ms. Woolsey as an active member of board status until she gets sworn in.

Vote: 9 Yes, 1 No (Bridle, V.), 1 (Kravitz) Abstentions. Motion passed.

c) Calendar

Chairman Bridle said there would be 11 supplemental meetings to the regular third Tuesday meeting; and they are on the town calendar website. So far the supplemental meetings are as follows: October 27, 2016, November 1, 2016, November 3, 2016, November 10, 2016, November 29, 2016, December 1, 2016, December 6, 2016, December 8, 2016, January 3, 2017, January 5, 2017 and January 12, 2017.

Chairman Bridle said Mr. Jones on December 23, 2015 had requested the 2015 actuals from the Finance Department and would still like to receive the finalized spreadsheet in excel.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce the request for a digital copy of the finalized 2015 actuals in an excel spreadsheet.

Vote: 10 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Lapham). Motion passed.

Mr. Lapham said that he received that in February.

VI. New Business

a) NHMA Presentation

Chairman Bridle said the presentation is scheduled for the May 17, 2016 meeting and would be approximately 2¼ hours and would like this to be the focus of the meeting. If you have any questions forward them to him ahead of time. Mr. Jones said last year questions were not allowed. Mr. Jones suggested that the legislative portion of the presentation be omitted.

- Subcommittees

Chairman Bridle said it is premature to get into subcommittee talks, but would like everyone to think about. As there are some big projects coming up this year should have some people focus on those and researching them. Thinks the warrant articles took a lot more attention than the operating budget and thinks it is going to be a pattern that the town continues to see. Thinks having a project or departmental expert would be a good route to go instead of a subcommittee. Wants efforts focused on this year's operating budget, this year's articles and doing as much as we can to get the information out to the voters. Mr. Jones said the IT subcommittee should complete what they started last year; Mr. Plouffe should be the liaison for the DPW and also that Mr. Henderson should be the liaison for the Police Department.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce a motion to discuss Mr. Jones' suggestions.

Chairman Bridle said if that was something both Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Henderson are comfortable with, highlighting the expertise and relying on them in those matters. After a discussion on their title the term representative was settled on. Mr. Pierce said he agrees that subcommittee's with the exception of the IT subcommittee are not needed, but just have a representative.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce a motion to have an IT subcommittee, Mr. Plouffe as a representative to the DPW and Mr. Henderson a representative to the Police Department.

Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Henderson said they had no problem with it. Chairman Bridle said he had no problem creating the positions right now. Chairman Bridle, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Pierce would be on the IT subcommittee.

Vote: 10 Yes, 1 No (Kravitz), 0 Abstention. Motion passed.

Mr. Lapham said there was a subcommittee with the CIP and he had been on that for 3 years.

Moved by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Pierce a motion to have Mr. Lapham the representative to the CIP and Mr. Kravitz the alternate.

Vote: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstention. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Kravitz a motion to have Chairman Bridle as the representative to the Recreation Department.

Vote: 10 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstention (Bridle). Motion passed.

b) Other New Business

Ms. Bridle asked about meeting with the School Board in September. Chairman Bridle said he assumed the Hampton Academy Project would have more development this year. Mr. Jones said he was skewered publically due to voting for the Hampton Academy School project, yet rational taxpayers voted against it. Somehow that became an ethical challenge and he wants to make clear that he does not vote on the position of rational taxpayers, he only supports their website as he is a software "dude" that is what he does, he facilitates communication and one tool he uses is a website that he does for people and organizations; he does not take positions contrary to what he does in public, regardless of what you read in the Hampton Union.

Ms. Woolsey said she has a special spot in her heart for the Budget Committee. She told the committee that they needed to be familiar with RSA 32. She is hoping to see a better informed committee, because the budget we make for 2017 is going to take everybody's thought, care and attention starting right now. She encourages everyone to understand what is happening around you, ask questions and go and visit public works.

Mr. Jones said he will rely on Mr. Plouffe to give leadership in the area of DPW, and Mr. Henderson to give leadership on areas of the Police Department. He does not want to hear others give speeches about what he needs to do with DPW that is what we have our leader for.

Chairman Bridle said the intent was very good and this is not a passive committee, and should be provided with as much information as possible.

Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm

Vote: 11 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Bridle, Chair
Terry Yeaton, Secretary