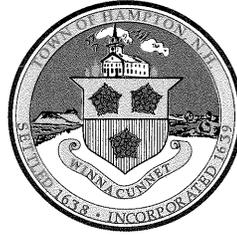


# Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 Minutes

PRESENT: Richard Griffin, Chairman  
Richard Nichols, Vice Chairman  
William Lally  
Richard Bateman  
Gerald Znoj  
Frederick Welch, Town Manager  
Michael Schwotzer, Finance Director

A Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 in the Hampton Town Offices at 7:00 PM.

## **Budget Sessions – General Discussion**

The Board discussed the unavailability of Channel 22 for its budget meetings due to the budget being two to three weeks late this year. The budget meeting of October 21 will be rescheduled for the regular meeting on Channel 22 on October 19<sup>th</sup> and the budget meeting of October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be televised.

The Board expressed its concern that all future budget work sessions were to be televised.

Mr. Nichols recapped the process for 2010. It is a desire to keep the tax rate flat at \$6.50 for the municipal portion. Spiking charges are deferred under the statute. It was noted that 2 new full time positions are proposed in the budget and the Board's position should be that new positions are part-time. The Town should investigate the cost of equipment maintenance agreements to see if there can be kept on a self-insurance basis. Costs for software maintenance should also be reviewed.

Mr. Znoj indicated that more efforts should be used to further reduce the requested budget. He suggested that warrant articles be kept to a minimum for the coming Town Meeting. It was noted that an expanded emergency plan was not in the budget and that the Mounted Patrol was still in the budget and suggested that it be reviewed. It was again suggested that overtime be further reduced.

Mr. Griffin indicated his feeling that no new full time employees should be hired. The use of part-timers should be considered when possible. He also suggested that overtime should be further reduced. He mentioned that he had heard a comment that Aquarian employees were paid less than our DPW employees.

Planning Board

The Town Planner provided an overview of the proposed Planning budget for the Board. Informational questions were asked regarding the dues for the Regional Planning Commission and what would happen without them, the cost of transportation planning, does the Town need to continue its membership. Advertising costs were reviewed.

#### Assessing Department

The Town Assessor provided an overview of the proposed Assessing Department budget. Overview of the Vision Appraisal system was provided and discussed. The system is not working as designed and is being worked on to get up and running. It was suggested that employee positions be reviewed. It was indicated that a reorganization order would be given to the Board at its regular meeting.

#### Library Budget

The Library Director provided an overview of the Library budget for the Board. Reviewed employee changes, history of the budget, general decreases in cost. It was suggested that budget should be flat from 2009 through 2010.

#### Town Clerk

The Town Clerk reviewed her budget for the Board. She indicated that the only increases were in regard to the increased number of elections in 2010.

#### Tax Collector

The Tax Collector reviewed her budget for the Board. Discussed were the software costs for the Tax Office.

#### Legal Department

The Town Counsel reviewed his budget for the Board. It was noted that the total budget was down by 9%.

The Board adjourned at 9:17 PM.

  
Chairman