

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2021

Call to Order-Chairman Brian Warburton 7:00pm

As Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee, I have determined that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of the [Committee] members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governors Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming: We are utilizing an audio teleconference service for this electronic meeting. All members of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform by calling toll free 1-857-444-0744 and use the code 156034. If anybody has a problem, please call 603-929-5805

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mr. Steve Henderson

Introduction of Members (Roll Call)

Joyce Skaperdas
Steven Henderson
Mike Plouffe
Regina Barnes
Larry Quinn
Chuck Rage, Chairman of Village District Committee

Attending via Teleconference

Kristi Pulliam
Bob Ladd
Stephen LaBranche
Maureen Buckley

Minutes Approval

January 12 Minutes **Motion by Mr. Plouffe, Second by Mr. Henderson. Roll Call Vote Yes 8-0**

January 14 Public Hearing minutes *Edit Page 9- Elaine Richard and Mill highway block roads.

Motion by Mr. Plouffe Seconded by Mr. Henderson. Roll Call Vote Yes 8 No 0

January 19 **Motion made by Mr. Plouffe, Roll Call Vote Seconded by Mr. Henderson Yes 8 No 0**

January 30 Deliberative Session minutes the budget committee met to change the vote to not recommend the budget 5-0

Hampton Beach Village District 2021 Budget Review

Commissioner Rage speaks.

Two budgets-the general budget and the culture & recreation budget (paid for anyone who rents, commercially owned, etc.) Single family homes can apply for exemption.

Proposing the same exact budget that was proposed for 2020. Since Rage has been Chairman they have not gone over budget, have given money back to the taxpayers.

Section 2-Chairman asks about dollar value increase. Rage gives explanation.

Discussion continues.

Ms. Skaperdas asks about the money going back to the taxpayers. Wants to clarify if it's the town of Hampton or the village district.

Chuck Rage clarifies it's the village district.

Mr. Quinn asks about FUN balance and reserve funds.

Chuck Rage explains where that money comes from and where it sits.

Discussion continues.

900,000 is the total for Culture & Recreation budget.

Discussion around the bus service. Chuck Rage explains that we need a way to get people to and from the beach. Thinks there needs to be off beach parking and shuttle service for employees and tourists.

Ms. Skaperdas asks about sponsors. Have you raised the expense for the sponsorships each year to offset the cost?

Chuck Rage-yes, we have but are not getting as many sponsors as we'd like due to COVID. All expenses have gone up including removing and bringing in sand.

Ms. Skaperdas asks about being able to drill down to the amount of revenue the businesses get from the sand sculptures. Hard to tell. For example, Wednesday night parking lots are packed because of fireworks.

Selectman Barnes asks about the professional sculptures increase.

Mr. LaBranche explains how he pays the different entertainment, etc.

Discussion around changes in the budget. Selectman Barnes wanted to point out majority gets paid to Sea Shell Entertainment.

Ms. Skaperdas asked about agencies that work with the HBVD due to the high budget item. Chuck Rage mentions it's Denise Brown and Lisa Martino. They do print and media.

\$68,650 motion to accept by Mr. Plouffe, Seconded by Mr. Henderson Yes 8 No 0

\$900,813 motion to accept by Mr. Henderson, seconded by Mr. Plouffe Yes 8 No 0

Village District voters can vote for several positions at Hampton Beach fire Station April 30th.

Board signs a couple documents for the village district.

End of Village Distract discussion.

Public hearing for village district budget opened and closed 7:37pm

Old Business 7:40pm

Chairman discusses the deliberative session on January 30th. Five of the budget committee members were there. The board has worked for over 485 hours and 20 meetings. At the meeting, a motion was made saying the budget committee was out of bounds. The budget was reduced by \$287,443. Reminds the public the process the budget committee went through in preparing the budget.

Mr. Henderson speaks to hours put in and hard work from everyone on the budget committee. A fair budget was put together. Says that saying they were defunding the police is wrong, the town continues to look out for the first responder departments. It was a minute amount.

Ms. Skaperdas speaks. Says to be careful to say that the board would 'defund the police' given it's a lightning rod in our culture right now and doesn't think anyone should apply that to anyone at this table. Whether we agree with it or not it is the town's right to speak at the deliberative session.

Mr. Quinn speaks says the budget was prepared based on the facts presented.

Mr. LaBranche speaks and says it's been a pleasure working with all of the members of the board. The people who are on the budget committee and other committees in town are people who love the town of Hampton. There's no money involved.

Mr. Ladd speaks. Explains where what he was referring to with 'defund the police.'

Selectman Barnes speaks. Says she agrees with the democratic process but as an elected town official whether it's good or bad news you must be 100% transparent and when you hear misinformation that you know is false and don't speak up it's a problem. The motion contained wrong information. They might want to hear it, they might not want to but if you can't be transparent it's a problem for the

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public. It should have never been allowed to be seconded. Even with the motion, the amount is still less than the operating budget. It would still make sense for voters to vote Yes on the budget. It's already confusing and this makes it even more difficult.

The chairman speaks.

February 22nd 6:00pm Candidates Night

Absentee Ballots must be into Town Clark by 5pm on March 8. If they don't get there, they have to physically bring the ballot to the polls at the high school.

Mr. Plouffe-Truthful, Equitable and Fair for everyone.

Ms. Barnes-thinks committee did a great job. Agrees with Vice Chair. It's tough when the public hears things that are not true.

Mr. Henderson thanks the Chairman

Mr. LaBranche says that CHAT group had monthly meeting today Mr. Deener said he would be glad to come to the budget committee.

Motion to adjourn 8:29pm