

**HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday February 19, 2019**

**Attendance**

Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Chair  
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair  
Brian Warburton  
Jerry Znoj  
Stephen LaBranche  
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

**Absent**

David Maurer  
Frank DeLuca, SAU90 Representative

**1. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Jones**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introduction of Members**

**4. Old Business**

**Information Requests:** none

**Other:** none

**5. Request by Jay Diener**

Mr Diener described the role of Seacoast Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA) as investing in coastal flooding issues. Three summer workshops were held; a grant was obtained to hire a consultant and a questionnaire was sent to community individuals. A Coastal Hazard Adaptation group (CHAT) was formed to study and develop flooding adaptation strategies for the Beach and the Town as a whole with projections for the long-term; participants include Regina Barnes (BOS), the Town Planner, Jay Diener, and Robert Ladd (Village District). Funding will be sought from federal, state and town resources, and warrant article sources. Among the issues to be addressed are the implementation of the Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission recommendations. Mr Znoj supports this initiative, making note that following the passage of a previous warrant article Jennifer Hale, Deputy DPW Director, engaged 2 engineering firms to study certain flooding areas.

Mr Diener explained that CHAT wants to invite a Budget Committee Representative to participate as well. Mr LaBranche volunteered and will serve until the new Budget Committee

convenes. Mr Jones recommended looking at ways low lying communities like Amsterdam have addressed sea level rise, and evaluating the effects of harbor dredging e.g. narrowing of the Hampton Harbor channel.

**6. Hampton Beach Village District (HBAD) exempt and non-exempt 2019 Budgets**

**In attendance: Chuck Rage, Maureen Buckley**

**HBVD Exempt**

**Article 2: Shall the district vote to accept the budget, as set forth on the budget posted with the warrant to raise and appropriate the sum of \$66,180 for the Hampton Beach Village District, General Government (Exempt) budget purposes, in addition to any amounts that may be approved for special articles?**

Mr Rage said that businesses pay both exempt (general government) and non-exempt (recreational) budgets. The tax rate was split in the 1970's; more recently the DRA designated residential and commercial. Mr Znoj thought certain line-items should be shared (e.g. legal, insurance, parking lot employees) and allocated pro rata in both budgets and not just in the general government budget. Mr Ladd explained that these items were village expenses; activity costs were self generated; 92% of the budget is for culture and recreation. Mr LaBranche noted that the parking lot purchase was accounted for under Culture and Recreation. Mr Warburton noted the concerted effort during after hours as well as with volunteers.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Brian Warburton</b>	<b>to forward to the 2019 Hampton Beach Village District Public Hearing the sum of \$66,180 for General Government (Exempt) budget purposes.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Michael Plouffe</b>	<b>APPROVED: Robert Ladd, Regina Barnes Stephen La Branche, Michael Plouffe Brian Warburton, Timothy "Citizen" Jones, OPPOSED: Jerry Znoj,</b>

**HBVD Non-Exempt**

**Article 3: Shall the district vote to accept the budget, as set forth on the budget posted with the warrant to raise and appropriate the sum of \$864,213 for the Hampton Beach Village District, Culture & Recreation (Non-Exempt) budget purposes, in addition to any amounts that may be approved for special articles?**

Mr Ladd explained that this year's public relations/outreach budget has been increase to repair the damage caused by last year's Legionnaire's Disease episode which negatively impacted attendance. For example, there will be they will add the all-day activity of the Boston Circus Guild trapeze and band which has performed at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In response

to Mr Znoj, Mr LaBranche said this is a bottom-line budget so money could be moved, and year-end surplus goes back to the town. In response to Mr Warburton, Mr Rage said the HBVD was not in the bus business; Hampton should have COAST service; a subsidy should be provided from the town to benefit the businesses. Mr Znoj applauded the creativity and suggested a pilot program using school buses paid for by businesses and non-exempt entities. Mr Jones advised being aware of copyrights in advertising, and thought that using buses deserved a larger discussion. Mr Warburton noted that 7 state entities are involved at the Beach.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Jeerry Znoj</b>	<b>to forward to the 2019 Hampton Beach Village District Public Hearing the sum of \$864,213 for Culture and Recreation budget purposes.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Regina Barnes</b>	<b>APPROVED: Unanimous</b>

**Mr Jones opened the Public Hearing for the Hampton Beach Village District 2019 exempt Budget at 8:06 PM; there being no comments.**

**Mr Jones opened the Public Hearing for the Hampton Beach Village District exempt and non-exempt 2019 Budgets at 8:07 PM; there being no comments.**

**7. Closing Comments/Year-End Review:**

Mr Warburton commended Chair Jones for his commitment to public service, professionalism in organizing and running meetings, and generating due diligence and communications. Specific improvements include the revised structure of agendas and establishing a category for “Information Requests”, as well as development of the hamptonbudcom.com website with “snippets”. Introducing data and identifying the tax rate impact on the budget and warrant articles was also beneficial. Mr Warburton felt these changes would reduce the public’s adversarial view of the Budget Committee.

Mr LaBranche thanked Mr Znoj for stepping up to fill a vacancy, and noted that members of this Committee show up to meetings and do the job of sending the budget to the voters; he thought 6 elected members worked better than 9 . Mr Znoj added that Mr LaBranche and Mr Jones organized and kept control of the meetings; there is still the need to become more analytical, assertive, even confrontational when it comes to getting answers. By consensus, Members wished Mr Jones good luck as he will not be returning to BudComm.

Mr Jones remarked that after serving on the Committee for 6 years he had become “less ignorant and more knowledgeable”. As Chair his focus was on building useful tools including hamptonbud.com which he developed for the town gratis, and improving functionality (without

resources). Mr Jones recommended continuing the organizational improvement, and cited the lack of legal resources, noting that the Selectmen control access to Town Counsel and NHMA.

Ms Barnes believes that the budget process is rushed because it is considered with only 9 months data. She would prefer the Selectmen begin budget review perhaps in November, and encourage the public to submit warrants earlier. Mr Jones added that dealing with old numbers exacerbates the process; also 20% of the budget is actually spent before it is approved by the voters in March. Department reviews should be earlier (June) to allow time to address ideas for improvement. Mr Znoj said the Finance Director could help by providing 3 year average line-item spend rates plus year-to-date expenditures for questioning. Ms Barnes had confidence that the information could be provided. Mr Ladd noted that the March meeting could discuss the year going forward.

BudComm signed the 2019 Summary Form MS-737 which goes to the DRA:

### **8. New Business**

**BudComm Meeting Schedule - The next Budget Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019 when the Budget Committee will reorganize. The General Election is March 12, 2019 at Winnacunnet High School**

**Minutes** – Mr Znoj motioned that his “precise edits” to certain of the Minutes be approved; there being no Second, no action was taken.

Ms Barnes called attention to “The Devil We Know”, an environmental documentary being shown around the state.

### **9. Adjournment**

Mr Jones adjourned the February 19, 2019 Municipal Budget Committee meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Barbara Kravitz, Recording Secretary,  
Town of Hampton  
Municipal Budget Committee