

June 20, 2023

## **Call to Order**

Chairwoman Harake called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Attendance

## **Introduction of Members (Roll Call)**

Present:       Katherine Harake, Chair  
                  Matt Saunders, Vice-chair  
                  Larry Quinn  
                  Mike Plouffe  
                  Anne Marie Galanis  
                  Bill DiBiasio  
                  Bob Ladd, Village District Representative  
                  Rich Sawyer, Selectmen's Representative  
                  Ginny Bridle-Russell, School Board Representative

## **New Business**

### 1. Filling budget committee vacancy

Mr. William DiBiasio (Harbor Road) introduced himself and thanked the committee for inviting him here. He moved here five years ago, getting out and volunteering, he is the newly president elect of the Rotary Club. He previously lived in Lincoln, Rhode Island and served on their Budget Board for 45 years, it is an elected position. He oversaw the Lincoln Budget Board as Chairman for half of those years, with about a 10 million budget (schools, town). He has a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Bryant University, his bachelor is from Roger Williams University. He is semi-retired and would love to be part of the group.

Mr. Scott Blair. I am requesting consideration to fill the vacant Budget committee position. I was elected (unopposed) to the committee for a one-year term in 2015. In 2016, I applied to fill a vacant position but Mary-Louise Woolsey was selected. I have a degree in accounting and have a MBA and 45 years of experience in Hotel Management. He and his wife have been Hampton residents for 12 years. I am a volunteer with Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens (TASC), Board President and Treasurer and a member of the American Legion, Post 35. His marriage of 55 years is a clear testimony of his ability to seek ground in a conflict. I feel I can add value to this committee and represent all the citizens of Hampton, assisting voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds. Thank you.

Mr. Alan Barclay, Brown Road. I moved to Hampton in 1995. I have lived in Hampton for 28 years. I ran for this position in March. I have enjoyed this town. I have a business in Hampton which I started in 1999, and I have owned thirteen apartments in Hampton over the years. He has experience in budgeting. Thank you.

Questions from the Committee

Mr. Ladd asked the candidates why they are running, why they feel it is important to be part of the political process.

Draft minutes are subject to changes and edits.

Mr. DiBiasio, that it is the right thing to do sir. This is a great town, great people, great leadership, and being on the committee would be the right thing to do.

Mr. Blair echoes that and he is looking at it as a chance to get re-involved in the community, he has a lot to offer and can contribute to the purpose of this committee.

Mr. Barclay, I have wanted to be on the Budget Committee since I first moved to Hampton, but family life with three kids, it was not the time. I have been following the committee for three years; I know the importance of managing money and making budgets. That is why I am interested in being on the committee.

Mr. Quinn asked if the candidates were on the ballot this year.

Mr. DiBiasio and Mr. Barclay were.

Mr. Plouffe, they are all qualified.

Mr. Sawyer. Thank you each for coming in and you all are qualified.

Mrs. Galantis. Thank you.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell. Thank you each for coming and for getting involved and thank you each very much.

Chairwoman Harake. Asked for the motion on the vacant seat.

Mr. Sawyer. This is a tough decision. Mr. Blair previously served on the committee but did not run as the other two did. Mr. Barclay has a business in town and Mr. DiBiasio has the level of experience to serve, very hard decision.

Mr. Sawyer MOTION to appoint Mr. DiBiasio a member, SECONDED by Mr. Ladd. VOTE: 7-0-0

Chairwoman Harake thanked Mr. Blair and Mr. Barclay and hopes to see their names on the ballot next year.

Mr. DiBiasio came to the table.

### **Acceptance of April 18, 2023 and May 16,2023 minutes.**

Mrs. Galantis suggested the following changes.

Second page.

- Project #2024 - Change “math” to “match” - “Design will receive match funding ...”
- Add Project #2025 as it is missing.
  - Project #2025 – High St/Mill Rd Intersection/Sidewalk will be tied into the larger High St project.

Third page.

- The Ice Pond & Grist Mill studies. To make it clearer, add to the second line “Commission is currently putting together an RFP to hire consultant to do the work”.

Fourth page.

- Under Questions & Comments, Mr. Ladd’s second question.
  - Change Kristina to Ms. Pulliam

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- Add “to save on interest” to Ms. Pulliam’s statement “the town has historically chosen level principal payment to save on interest.”

Chairwoman Harake MOTIONED to ACCEPT the minutes of April 18, 2023, as amended, SECONDED by Mr. Ladd. VOTE: 8-0-0

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to ACCEPT the minutes of May 16, 2023, SECONDED by Mrs. Galantis. VOTE: 7-0-1 (Bridle-Russell)

## 2. Selectmen’s Update - Mr. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer. On the topic of the No Tax Impact, he summarized the memo from the Town Manager. It gives the history and background of the phrasing we use, many towns are in the same ballpark as us, that does not mean that we cannot make it clearer to the voters.

Chairwoman Harake asked when will the BoS decide on the wording.

Mr. Sawyer. Once the Budget Committee decides on the budget, then we will begin discussing the phrasing.

Mr. Plouffe. It is really just a clarification, does not take away from the state, does not change the article, just makes it clearer that the tax impact occurred in prior years.

Mr. Sawyer. Something as simple as “Undesignated Reserve is from previously collected taxes”.

Mr. Quinn takes issue with whatever terminology is used, as does not inform the voters, not right for us to say no tax impact, we need to convey that the tax impact already occurred.

Vice-chair Saunders. There is no perfect way to say it in one sentence. There needs to be a way of explaining and understanding what the fund balance is, and where did it come from.

Mr. Sawyer. The existing language needs to be maintained, need to identify what the tax impact is on every article to be legal under the Sanborn decision, but we can be more informative on where the money comes from.

## 3. School Board Update – Mrs. Bridle-Russell

Mrs. Bridle-Russell. The children’s school year ended Friday and the Teachers school year ended today and the budget will close on June 30, hired a new principal for the Academy. We are finishing hiring for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Costa and I are looking forward to the presentation in September. We have changed the chairman of the Board.

## 4. Village District Update – Mr. Ladd

Mr. Ladd. It is Santa Claus Time at the beach. All activities have begun. The Sandcastles will remain up until June 25<sup>th</sup>. Studies have shown since COVID; children have not had any museum type experiences and if asked what a museum is they will say an enclosed building with a picture on the wall. Sandcastles are art forms and are museum quality. Fireworks have begun. Everyone is invited to participate; activities are free to enjoy and observe. The listing of every event is on the HBVD website at hamptonbeach.org.

## 5. Revolving funds discussion

Chairwoman Harake read the memo from the Town which briefly describes the revolving funds that the town has.

Questions from the Committee on the following revolving funds.

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Mr. Ladd would like more explanation of EMS fund, to highlight it more, and broaden the funds out to non-revolving funds, cemetery funds, conservation commission fund; expression of what those funds do and how they are funded.

Chairwoman Harake will ask the Fire Chief to broaden the explanation of the EMS fund during budget season. Will make a note to have these funds explained broader.

Discussion among members regarding the cemetery: having a columbarium, fencing the cemetery, and taking the trees down.

Chairwoman Harake asked about the private detail fund.

Mr. Sawyer explain the private detail fund, all costs for a private detail or ambulance detail are directly billed to the vendor, the vendor does not pay them, the town pays the officer; the fund does not pay for outside agencies when we need them to come in to work with us, need to amend the ordinance at town meeting to include those costs.

### **Other Business/Comment**

Chairman Harake discussed the following: April Financials, no comments, the May Financials will be out next week. Tour of DPW, discussed touring the Police and Fire Departments, the schools, Parks and Rec Dept, will put out a couple of dates. Recommends not meeting in July and August, consensus of the committee is not to meet, the next meeting will be in September.

Mr. Quinn attended a zoom meeting of CHAT, the meeting talked about disclosure forms on selling and buying homes, and case studies of what other towns disclose on the forms. In summary disclosure forms are toothless, as you will not downplay and disclose whether your house flooded when selling it. The committee is working to mitigate against climate change, etc.

Mr. DiBiasio suggested meeting in the summer, for continuity of the committee, consensus was not to meet.

Mr. Quinn spoke about BoS representation on boards and committees, the BoS are out there representing the town, they are going the extra mile.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell added to the comment that she is now the chairman of the School Board and the representative here, and their board members are going seven days a week and twenty-four hours a day to help Hampton children and the Hampton community. Congratulations were given to her.

### **Adjournment**

Chairman Harake asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m., SECONDED by Mrs. Bridle-Russell. VOTE: 7-0-0



## TOWN OF HAMPTON

Inter-office

### MEMORANDUM

Date: June 5, 2023

To: Board of Selectman

From: Jamie Sullivan, Town Manager

RE: Warrant Article Finance Note

At the request of the Board, I have researched the issue of including a notation of tax impact on warrant articles for your consideration.

#### HISTORY / BACKGROUND

NH RSA 32:5, V-b. provides as follows, "Any town may vote to require that the annual budget and all special warrant articles having a tax impact, as determined by the governing body, shall contain a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the article. The determination of the estimated tax impact shall be subject to the approval of the governing body."

The town adopted the provisions of RSA 32:5, V-b by approving Article 5 at the Annual Town meeting in March of 2013. The article had very limited discussion at that year's deliberative session and passed overwhelmingly. The practice of including the tax impact notes began on the 2014 Warrant and has continued since. Over the years there has been some variance in the language of these notes.

In 2014 the first article to have no tax impact the fiscal note read "No Tax Impact". This continued from 2014 to 2018 with the "No Tax Impact" language. From 2019 to 2022, the Fiscal Impact notes language changed to be "Zero Tax Impact". In 2023, for some reason several versions appeared in the Warrant; eight articles had the "Zero Impact" notation, two articles had, "No Tax Impact", and one article had "No Tax Impacts".

#### FISCAL NOTE

The statute does not give any guidance on the format to be used in writing the fiscal notes. NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) is the state agency that approves warrant article language prior to being approved on the warrant. As a part of that process, DRA produces a guidance document of sample warrant articles and language for use by cities and towns.

In the DRA guidelines there are only two references to the issue of tax impact we found. First, in the DRA "glossary of terms" the following is included: "Tax Impact / RSA 32:5, V-b / Notation stating the estimated tax impact of an appropriation contained in a proposed warrant article: to be determined by governing body." The second reference is in the body of a sample warrant article language, in the final sentence in the body of the article, "*No amount to be raised from taxation*". There is no other specific guidance contained in the DRA documentation. In a phone conversation with our DRA Representative, they indicated DRA does not weigh in on fiscal impact notes.



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