

**HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday September 17, 2019**

**Selectmen's Meeting Room 7PM**

**Attendance**

Brian Warburton, Chair  
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair  
Stephen LaBranche  
Steven Henderson  
Joyce Skaperdas  
Virginia Bridle-Russell, SAU90 Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

**Absent**

David Maurer (excused)  
Rusty Bridle, Selectman Representative (excused)

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Introduction of Members**

Members introduced themselves.

**4. Review and Acceptance: Minutes from June 18, 2019** Mr Warburton noted the June 18 meeting was not a public hearing.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Michael Plouffe</b>	<b>to accept the Minutes of the Municipal Budget Committee meeting of June 18, 2019 eliminating the Public Hearing designation.</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>Steven Henderson</b>	<b>APPROVED: Unanimous</b>

**5. SAU 90 School District Year-End Presentation**

Attending: Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent, Nathan Lunney, Financial Director

Mr Warburton reported that Mr Lunney is leaving SAU 90 for a position in Portsmouth. He acknowledged the thoughtful and easily understood way Mr Lunney presented information to the Budget Committee; applause followed.

Ms Murphy spoke of how the School Board, the best teachers and administrators as a team worked very well together including in the dialog and exchange of information with the Budget Committee. An Open House is scheduled for Saturday morning October 5.

Mr Lunney distributed a summary of the previous year's financials with an overall budget of \$24,061,661. Although special education exceeded its appropriation, savings in other areas including adjustment levels for new hire salaries, grants, and federal reimbursements means the school district will return a surplus of \$337,887 to the general fund. He explained that special education subsidies are delivered as reimbursements. The capital reserve special ed trust fund has a balance of approximately \$232,000. The Academy addition and renovation is substantially complete and opened for students on August 27. A primary objective was to finish work in the kitchen and cafeteria; work in the Auditorium is continuing e.g. the stage, rigging and the like. Financing is with a 25-year bond through the NH Municipal Bond Bank @3.5%. During construction, funds were placed with TD Bank earning interest of \$217,841; when the current level of earnings is added, the overall return to taxpayers will be approximately \$420,000.

Ms Murphy added that by initiating programs in-house, some out-of-district costs have been lowered. Given all the technology and mechanical systems in the building, a two-year warranty will be beneficial. The Community Room, including kitchen and bathroom facility, is now open to community groups: for security purposes there is no access to the building internally. Mr LaBranche noted the school district budget was approved in March of 2019 and covers the school year from July to June.

Ms Murphy described the enrollment "steady" at approximately 1,100 students in the district. With one less bus, ridership costs are lower. There are 10 new teachers, 6-7 retirements, and a few persons taking other jobs. Part of teacher orientation includes a bus tour of the town showing both well populated and rural areas. Test scores are above the state average by about 25 points. Mr Lunney noted that health insurance rates went up by 0.1% including a wellness initiative (Health Trust, Anthem).

Ms Murphy said among the goals to be adopted in 2020 – 2021 are the strategic plan, improving communications and community involvement, a healthy and safe environment, training of administrators and teachers, continuing the professional practice for curriculum development, closing the gap for students that need additional help to achieve the best that they can e.g. special education, and promoting equity for the diverse population: there are 45 students learning English as a second language. Some of the goals will be reflected in the next school budget.

The administrative offices will return to the Marston School in June. In response to Mr Ladd, Ms Murphy said currently there are 400 students in the Academy; capacity is 500. The building will also be outfitted as an emergency shelter; a generator is yet to be delivered. Mr Ladd and Mr Henderson expressed their good impression of the way the schools operate, and how reports to the Budget Committee have been timely provided.

Mr Lunney thanked the Town of Hampton for allowing him to do his work for the town, and is especially appreciative of getting to know parents and teachers and custodians on a one-to-one basis. He will now serve as the business manager for the City of Portsmouth. Mr LaBranche

recalled that Ms Murphy and Mr Lunney actually started and created SAU 90 which is a fine legacy. Ms Murphy announced that Mariah Curtis, who has been working in the business office, will serve as Director of Finance going forward.

#### **6. Old Business**

Mr Warburton will check on the Selectmen's appointment of an alternate representative to the BudComm, as this is an important function.

#### **Information Requests and Review Open Discussion**

Mr Warburton cited the lack of response to requests for town reports which are needed in a timely way, noting that DPW, the Police and Fire Departments did provide extensive information for this meeting; nothing has been received from the Recreation Department. Legal costs for outside counsel are way over budget. The Town Manager will notify departments to respond to BudComm requests. Mr Warburton will ask the Town Manager to invite the town's Finance Director to attend the October 15 BudComm meeting. He liked Mr Lang's request that nine-month 2019 financials be provided for the October meeting.

There being no further old business.

#### **7. Selectmen's Report**

Mr Warburton said this a busy season with 32 warrants already under review by Selectmen (not all money articles), not including contracts for firefighters, school and town employee contracts, and road improvements Future infrastructure needs for the west side development in the town are likely to be another consideration e.g. water, sewer, fire department coverage.

#### **8. School Board Report**

Ms Bridle-Russell referenced the excellent report on schools earlier in the meeting, and appreciated the positive comments by BudComm members. Mr Warburton complimented Ms Bridle-Russell for all that she does for the town.

#### **9. Hampton Village District Report**

Mr Ladd said while June started as a slow month due to inclement weather, from July on attendance was exceptionally good. About 1,000 watched the fire show in a deluge of rain; attendance usually reaches 3,000; that so many people stayed even in the rain was most impressive. The largest crowd of 5,000 came to the Circus on Labor Day, mostly young and middle-age persons including many young children. There were no more beach rooms and some vendors ran out of stock; water is an issue. This is a good showing to rebrand the district after the previous legionnaire's disease outbreak.

#### **10. Coastal Hazard Adaptation Team Update**

Mr LaBranche reported that during the summer the group has been establishing facts, planning and seeking funding, and developing instruction and guidance. One house has been raised up

without damage. They will be contacting the NH Hazard Mitigation Officer about possible funding resources.

## **11 New Business**

### **Master Plan Updating**

Mr Warburton reported the Planning Board's Master Plan Steering Committee is developing an initial survey to learn what Hampton businesses and voters think about Hampton today and what they want to see in the future. This is integral to formulating a warrant article for funding approval. Ms Kravitz added that the town has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$45,000 through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for work to complete the Vision and Coastal Management chapters.

### **Department of Public Works Report**

Mr Warburton called attention to the DPW Memorandum describing the town's future infrastructure challenges eg roads sidewalks, sewer, and potential costs. Quantifying the details has been made more clear with the DPW's new Asset Management Software

## **12. Budget Committee Meetings**

**Next Budget Committee meeting is October 15, 2019 7PM**

**Meeting schedule through the February 2020 Deliberation Session**

October 29 and 31 workshops (tentative)

November 5, 12, and 14 workshops

November 19 meeting

December 3 meeting

December 10 and 12 workshops

January 14 Warrant Articles

January 16 Public Hearing

January 21 Meeting

February 2 Deliberative Session

## **13. Adjournment**

Mr Warburton adjourned the September 17, 2019 Municipal Budget Committee meeting at 8:14PM and asked members to email him if unable to attend.

Respectfully Submitted by

Barbara Kravitz, Recording Secretary,

Town of Hampton

Municipal Budget Committee