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BUDGET COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021

Call to Meeting 7:00 Brian Warburton

Chairman announced the following. At the September meeting it was said that former James Barrington had a stroke, he has since passed away. 25 years ago, yesterday he took oath to manage this town. One of the best people I know

Jack Lessard passed away at the age of 92. Jack was the selectman for many years as well as served on the budget committee and zoning board. Thoughts go out to Jack Lessard's family. After the pledge of allegiance, we will do a moment of silence

Chairman asked Michael Plouffe to lead the pledge of allegiance. 7:02 p.m.

Moment of Silence 7:02 p.m.

Introduction of Members (Roll Call) 7:03 p.m.

Chairman Brian Warburton
Richie Sawyer
Ginny Bridle-Russell
Joyce Skaperdas
Steve Henderson
Larry Quinn
Katherine Harake
Bob Ladd
Mike Saunders (new member)

Introduction of the candidates to fill the Municipal Budget Committee's vacancy 7:05 p.m.

Remarks by Candidates (3 minutes) 7:06pm

Chairman Warburton: As you know at the last meeting, we received a resignation of Stephen LaBranche. We have 5 candidates who have expressed interest. Seat will fill through March 2022 and then will run for a one-year seat. Shirley Doheny will swear in the person effective immediately

Chairman Warburton: Russ Bernstein-former member of the committee and mosquito Commission.

Russ Bernstein. Resident for 24 years in Hampton. 2003-2008 Budget Committee member. Very familiar with the town government and occupants. Took a hiatus but want to get involved again now that my kids are fully grown.

Chairman Warburton: Ken Sheffert-native of Hampton and former State Rep. Real estate background.

Ken Sheffert. Discussed his nonprofit he has worked on fighting foreclosures, and his experience.

Chairman Warburton: Matt Saunders, his wife is the librarian at Hampton Academy.

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Matt Saunders. Hayden Circle resident have lived here for 9 years. Did run for the budget committee last time but did not make it. I haven't had an opportunity to be involved but I would love to.

Ms. Skaperdas: What's your background? Mr. Saunders: Lawyer out of Amesbury, MA.

Mrs. Harake: When you ran for the position do you know what position you came in? Mr. Saunders: Third I believe

Chairman Warburton. Mike Plouffe- has spent over a quarter of a century on the budget committee. He's been a selectman twice in this town. The most knowledgeable person in this town.

Mike Plouffe. Lived in town all his life, contractor in town, explained his background in public service, humbled about the comments made of him in March.

Chairman Warburton. Mike, please see if Joe Grzybowski-is here, he is not. At this time, we will accept nominations to put someone forward.

Vote by Committee 7:12pm

Mr. Henderson MOTIONED to nominate Mr. Plouffe, SECONDED by Chairman Warburton.

Mrs. Harake MIONTIONED to nominate Mr. Saunders, SECONDED by Ms. Skaperdas.

VOTE for Mr. Plouffe 4; VOTE for Mr. Saunders 4. VOTE: 4-4 Tie.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell: can both serve. Chairman Warburton: no, only one seat, do not have alternates.

Discussion.

Ms. Skaperdas. For Discussion, for me I would go based on the town vote and will vote for whomever received the most votes.

Mr. Sawyer. It's nice to see this many quality candidates. I have to agree with Joyce. We had an election.

Chairman Warburton: Ken Sheffert was the runner up and did not get appointed to the Planning Board.

Mr. Quinn: I vote on accomplishment and experience within the town. Mr. Plouffe was a very strong member of this committee and on committees many years before that.

Mr. Ladd: The one who got the most votes should be the next candidate, the will of the townspeople.

Mr. Henderson: I also voted on experience. I am keeping my vote.

Chairman Warburton: gave other examples of vacancies on Boards not going to the third-place candidate. Whoever is not appointed can run in March.

Ms. Skaperdas: I appreciate Mikes long term service on committees. I feel like a fresh set of eyes on this kind of process is valid. I add that to the other comments.

Chairman Warburton: We are in the throes of Budget season and experience is important, the other boards are not doing the democracy route.

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Mrs. Harake: My understanding of the Roberts rule, as Chairman, you vote if it's a tie, you vote to break the tie, you vote made it a tie.

Mr. Sawyer: I would like to take another vote to see if anyone has changed a vote.

VOTE for Mr. Plouffe: 4; VOTE for Mr. Saunders: 4. VOTE: 4-4 Tie.

Mr. Ladd: The second and third place vote getters neither one have a lot of experience in town, which tell me the voters are looking for new blood to invigorate the committees and boards, recognizing the voters will, and if we don't do that, what are we telling the voters appointing someone who did not run over someone who did run, that it doesn't matter, you mentioned Rick Griffin, he had the highest vote, and the non-running candidate who got selected. What if you were the third candidate, and were not voted on, would you get upset. Chairman, no I would not

Mr. Henderson: We've got some candidates; I am staying with my vote.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell: I remember when Rick Griffin did not get selected, and the feeling of decisiveness and unfairness of those on and off the Board felt, we have four great candidates and I hope they all get involved but for that purpose that the unfairness. I will change my vote to Matt Saunders, he came in third, he deserves to be here. Chairman: I want the record to show, it is not the precedence, and Rick did get elected the next year as a Selectman. Mrs. Bridle-Russell: I know he did, but it was a decisiveness year in between.

Chairman Warburton: All of those in favor of Mr. Plouffe VOTE: 3; Mr. Saunders VOTE: 5

Chairman Warburton: Mike Plouffe, do you have anything to say before you head out. Thank you, Mr. Bernstein, and Mr. Sheffert, I hope you continue to run, we need people like you.

Town Clerk Swearing in of New Budget Committee Member Matt Saunders, to serve in Office, until March 2022.

Minutes: September 21, 2021, 7:26 p.m.

Chairman Warburton: Any changes?

Motion to approve by Ms. Skaperdas Seconded by Mr. Henderson 8-0-1(Saunders)

Selectmen's Update 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Sawyer: Point of order. I would like to speak to our last meeting. Chairman, at the last meeting you announced you were not going to recognize the vote we took regarding the requests for information, there was a lot of discussion, I expected at some point that reason would come in into the thought process and that you would have understood what we were trying to accomplish. But your attitude at that meeting to me was not befitting as Chairman of this committee, you have offered several times that we have voted you in and that if we didn't agree with you that we can vote you out, so at this point I make a MOTION to make Katharine Harake as Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee.

Mr. Ladd: please repeat the motion.

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to make Katherine Harake the Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee, SECONDED by Mr. Ladd.

Mr. Henderson: So, there was a disagreement. Sometimes people don't like him looking for the numbers and answers. He's done a ton to help the people of this town.

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Mr. Quinn: I believe that Mr. Warburton is an object of a hit job by the Board of Selectmen's killer so to speak. I don't like that. I don't know what you've done to be eluted upon but it's obvious that all has occurred since the arrival of Mr. ex Police Chief Sawyer and that sucks.

Ms. Skaperdas: I believe that the town deserves a budget season that is educational, professional and efficient, and I believe that Katherine will help us achieve those goals

Mrs. Bridle-Russell: Brian leads by his passion there isn't anyone more passionate and sometimes it gets him in trouble with members Board of Selectman. Brian leads with passion, if that bothers people, I am sorry, but he has the passion to be chairman, and the motion should not come from board representative. I won't be voting for anyone but Brian.

Mr. Ladd: My concern Chairman, is when at the last meeting you said you wouldn't abide by the committee vote, I can't abide by your unruliness to accept that the vote of the committee is to be followed and not to be ignore if you don't agree with it, had you said you would abide by the vote, I would not be voting to defrock at this time, I haven't heard from you now which indicates that you would accept that there must be votes by the committee before you send questions to the BoS, so I assume your position has not changed, and is the same, that "I'll do what I want, if I don't agree with it, I won't accept it and I won't follow it" and I can't accept that impression.

Mrs. Harake: I respected this board when I was elected, at the last meeting, and at the next meeting. I just want to do my job for the town, the committee etc. I did see other towns budgets schedules, are we behind. What is our schedule. I would like to get work done, be efficient, and we don't have to agree, but that is not organized, I will try to be respectful, and clear, and give everyone a chance, to do my best and follow the rules, and get our job done.

Chairman Warburton: The Selectmen haven't even finished their deliberations yet. The reason I put November 2nd is a placeholder. We haven't heard from them, and we are organized.

Mr. Henderson: Would like clarification for the public and for the board of the vote a couple meetings ago. How are you going to handle it going forward?

Chairman Warburton: As you can see, I add the heading Information Requests, which has not been on the agenda before. I have taken heed of the advice of the last meeting and have taken back those requests. That is why I added the Information Requests item.

Chairman Warburton: Let's take a vote on the motion on the table by Mr. Sawyer to remove me as chairman and appoint Mrs. Harake as Chairman for remainder of the season. I would like to explain some things, I am a big boy, I am not going to the papers, I will not be bad mouthing, I have for 40 years through coaching and working for the Town and the State parks that have put over 100 hours a week down there, I don't need to explain to anyone that I have done for this community. If you want to remove me, go ahead.

Those in favor of removing the chair of this committee as Chairman.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mrs. Harake, Mr. Ladd, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Sawyer, Ms. Skaperdas.

Mr. Warburton: Mrs. Harake has the chair.

Mr. Henderson: with the removal of Mr. Warburton as the Chair, I officially resign from the Budget committee. I've put more years in this department, more years in this town, and I am not wasting my time because we bring certain people onto this committee that want to sit there and

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who are more worried about putting more money in their pocket than the taxpayers pay or anything else, my official resignation is in.

Mr. Warburton. Hold on Ginny don't leave yet, we are not even going to finish the meeting tonight, we are going to adjourn anyway. Chairman Harake. I think I have to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Warburton, hold on a second, you haven't taken the seat.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell. This was a cheap shot. Mr. Warburton. Yeah, of course it was. Mrs. Bridle-Russell: that is what it is, and I am sorry a member of the Selectmen brought it to this Board, I am very disappointed and with the Selectmen's representative.

Ms. Poisson. I resign as the secretary effective immediately.

Mr. Warburton. Motion to adjourn this meeting, moved by Ms. Bridle both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Quinn seconded to adjourn, the meeting is adjourned. I will deliberate with Mr. Sullivan to see where we go from here. As of now Mrs. Harake has taken over the reins, based a motion I think absolute unbelievable motion by a selectmen's rep in this town. Chairman Harake. I think I adjourn the meeting. Mr. Warburton. Then you go sit right here and adjourn it. Chairman Harake. I would like you to stay, I would like you as the coach, you said you have forty years of. Mr. Warburton. I just got removed from this chair, I am not sitting here the rest of the night, I will talk to Mrs. Bridle Russell and others I respect trust to see what my next move is, we are not going to do anything more, I hope you would adjourn.

Ms. Skaperdas: You are leaving. Mr. Warburton: Mr. Henderson and I are leaving. I am just leaving the meeting. Mr. Henderson has resigned.

Ms. Skaperdas: and Mr. Henderson and the secretary. Mrs. Poisson: Immediately.

Mr. Warburton: Mr. Henderson and I are leaving. I am just leaving the meeting. Mr. Henderson has resigned.

Chairman Harake: Can we continue the meeting without a secretary. Mr. Ladd: Yes, we can use the TV recording of the meeting.

Chairman Harake: I can tell some people are upset, hurt, and made hard decisions today. I want to do the best for the Town, make Hampton go in the right direction, thank you for having faith in me. Does anyone have any questions about the financial from July that they would like to ask to Town? No questions. Any motions.

Mr. Ladd: I would MOVED that we formally vote to encourage the prior chairman to continue on with this committee and get a consensus of us here to present that to him, SECONDED by Ms. Skaperdas.

Mr. Sawyer: I want to be clear the reason I made the motion, Brian and I don't see eye to eye on a lot of things, that is what this is for, I respect that we have differing opinions, if we have only go in one direction, then we would have just one person in charge of the budget. We have elected members and appointed members, I disagree that an appointed person cannot make that motion, we are equal members, and the only restriction that appointed person has; is that they cannot be the chairman. When a Chairmanship tell us that he will disregard a vote of the committee, that is intolerable, pick and choose what motions he would respect and abide by, then they are not fit to serve as Chairman at that point. I had voted for Brian as Chairman, even though I disagree with him on many issues, his experience was worth having him as the chair,

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but that was the line you do not cross, “you do not tell people that you are not going to follow the rules”, and that “I don’t care, I am King”.

Chairman Harake: Acknowledge that Mr. Sawyer is not alone, and his motion was passed. From Mr. Ladd’s motion Brain does have the experience valuable to the committee, and like him to continue.

Mr. Quinn: I don’t understand what we are motioning to do, we are asking him to stay. Mr. Sawyer: to encourage him to stay. Mr. Ladd: encourage him to stay. Mr. Quinn: after disapproving him, give him a vote of approval. Okay, I don’t care to vote, I am not going to beg him to stay.

VOTE: 5-1(Quinn)-1(Sawyer)

Chairman Harake: Who will make that motion to fill the vacancy of the vice-chairman.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell. Motioned that we ask Mike Plouffe to take on the vacated position by Mr. Henderson resignation.

Discussion among members about the process of filling the vacancy and the committee will follow the normal process. The Chairman will contract the individuals who came into night for the open position and will look into finding a replacement for the Secretary.

Discussion among committee members about the next meeting and who will be the vice-chairman, Ms. Skaperdas volunteered.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to vote Ms. Skaperdas as Vice-chairman, Seconded by Mr. Ladd VOTE: 6-0-1(Skaperdas).

Chairman Harake: Thanked the committee members as this meeting was very hard and tough decisions were made. The committee will be contacted as to the date of the next meeting, and it will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment 8:02 p.m.

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Mr. Ladd. VOTE: 7-0-0

Katherine Harake, Chairman