

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 20, 2007

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
Maureen Buckley, Precinct Representative  
Russ Bernstein  
Maury Friedman  
Dick Hansen  
Jack Lessard  
Richard Nichols  
Michael Pierce

Excused

Pat Collins  
Victor DeMarco  
Eileen Latimer  
Norman Silberdick

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She said that this was the reorganization meeting for the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey explained that there had been a conflict for the Selectmen's Meeting Room this evening and the meeting had to be changed to 6:30 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Woolsey then asked for nominations for Chairman for the coming year.

**Moved** by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to appoint Mary-Louise Woolsey as Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the coming year.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Woolsey). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey then asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

**Moved** by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to appoint Michael Plouffe as Vice-Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee for the coming year.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Plouffe). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said that Rick Griffin will be the Selectman Representative for the coming year with Ginny Russell as alternate. The School Board Representative still needs to be selected.

**Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2007**

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of February 20, 2007.

**Vote:** 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Buckley). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said that the Precinct Deliberative Session will be held Friday, March 30, at 7:00 p.m. It is scheduled to take place downstairs at the Fire Station. Chairman Woolsey asked Ms. Buckley to look into the possibility of holding it at the Police Station so that the meeting could be televised live.

Chairman Woolsey said she would like to focus in the coming year on the good things that are happening. As an example, she mentioned the proposal put forth by Captain Tim Crotts, Deputy Chief, Hampton Police Department, on a new mobile phone rate plan which would combine all departments into one master account and would result in substantial cost savings. Chairman Woolsey said she would like to highlight departments and employees who come up with cost savings ideas.

Chairman Woolsey discussed the Conservation position. She asked the group to recall that one of the Committee's recommendations to the Board of Selectmen concerned this position. The Committee asked that this position be implemented by fees. Chairman Woolsey asked Ginny Russell, Selectman, to coordinate with the Planning Board to see if something could get going by way of a fee system.

Chairman Woolsey also suggested advertising as a means of revenue, specifically on the packers. Mr. Nichols said the Post Office vehicles which are subcontracted carry advertising so it would not be unique for the Town to do this.

Chairman Woolsey mentioned the individual locators in the Fire Department. She asked Ms. Russell to check with Chief Lipe to see if their locators are working properly.

Chairman Woolsey said that the Selectmen have talked about setting up times for all departments and elected boards to be on Channel 22. She asked that a schedule for this be set up and posted.

John Nickerson of the Cable Committee said that they are getting new volunteers all the time. They have three new volunteers and one intern. He said the main problem is the Precinct meeting. When the streets were dug up, the cable connection disappeared and would cost \$5,000 to replace. Mr. Nichols asked for more reruns of meetings on Channel 22. Mr. Nickerson said this is in the planning stage. Chairman Woolsey thanked Mr. Nickerson for everything done by the Cable Committee.

The NH retirement system was discussed. Chairman Woolsey read an article from the Union Leader and said it is good to hear that Concord is working on this problem. Mr. Pierce said there are more articles in the Union Leader on this subject. The program is in serious trouble and something must be done.

Chairman Woolsey talked about an article in the Portsmouth Herald entitled "Taxpayers Fight for Refund". The outcome of this case could potentially affect the Town of Hampton as well.

Turnout at the polls was rather disappointing. Chairman Woolsey said it is very important to influence people to get to the polls and the deliberative session.

Mr. Nichols said that he had looked at the financial impact of the recent election and believes that there will be a 3%-4% increase in taxes. The Schools had a greater impact than the Town.

Chairman Woolsey asked Ms. Russell about the salary of Fred Welch, the new Town Manager. Ms. Russell said Mr. Griffin will report that at the next Budget Committee meeting.

Future meetings were discussed. It was decided that the Committee would meet with the Selectmen and Town Manager in May or June and with the School Board in September. Meetings in April and May are to be determined at a later date.

Mr. Friedman said he would like a scheduled visit by the Committee to the Town facilities including the schools. Chairman Woolsey said it would be possible to do the three schools in one day. Mr. Griffin will get back to the Committee regarding the Town departments.

Mr. Friedman said he has asked before for a little more insight into the Town, how it operates and how it compares with other towns. Ms. Russell said that Ben Moore, Selectman, and three other residents of Hampton have formed an ad hoc committee to do this. When the report is completed it will be given to the Budget Committee.

Mr. Friedman said he would like to see a session or portion of a session devoted to soliciting input from the voters prior to the budget cycle.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Nichols **moved**, seconded by Mr. Lessard, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman