

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 6, 2007

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Mike Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin, Selectman Representative (7:55)
Jim Desrosiers, School Board Representative
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative
Russ Bernstein
Victor DeMarco
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Maury Friedman
Norman Silberdick

Excused

Dick Hansen

Unexcused

Pat Collins

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Woolsey said the Hampton School Budget for 2008-2009 would be discussed at this meeting. She welcomed Jim Gaylord, Superintendent of Schools, and Sandra Nickerson, Chairman of the Hampton School Board.

Operating Budget

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the public hearing the amount of \$17,779,964 for the Hampton School Budget for 2008-2009.

Mr. Gaylord explained that there will be an adjustment of \$10,078 for three people who have notified the Board that they will be retiring. This notification came after the budget was set. Therefore the new line would be \$17,769,886. Mr. Gaylord said the budget is up approximately 2.3%. The FY 2009 amount does not include any costs associated with a new support staff (SESPA) contract; however, it does include an estimate for the SEA

sick/personal day buyback. Mr. Gaylord said he feels this budget meets the needs of the schools and the School Board did its job in reducing items where appropriate.

Chairman Woolsey reminded everyone that this budget covers July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Amendment moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$17,769,886 for the Hampton School Budget for 2008-2009

Chairman Woolsey asked Mr. Gaylord if he had any feeling for how much money the district is going to have to pay due to federal mandates and how much will be reimbursed. Mr. Gaylord said that overall, unless the school funding at the federal level changes a great deal, we will be seeing a decrease in most of the grants.

Mr. Silberdick asked about the reduction in Special Education. Mr. Gaylord said this is always very volatile and can't be predicted.

Mr. Nichols said the FICA is up substantially, 14.7% over two years. He asked if this was due to adding people or to pay raises. Mr. Gaylord said this was primarily related to pay raises as the number of people has been reduced.

Mr. Nichols asked if Sick Day Pay Back was a new line item because of collective bargaining. Mr. Gaylord replied that it was.

Mr. Nichols said that he felt this was an attempt at a tighter budget than has been seen in the last several years. The school district has returned unspent money for the last couple of years. He said he doubted this would happen this year. Mr. Gaylord agreed.

Mr. Pierce asked why there were three full-time music teachers. Mr. Gaylord said this is program driven.

Mr. Pierce asked what the cost would be for full-day kindergarten. Mr. Gaylord said the present half-day program is \$33,000 and full-day would be \$138,000. He said this is a wonderful program move for all the children. Ms. Nickerson said that if it doesn't work out, it can be reassessed.

Mr. Pierce asked about Salary Other-Summer School. Mr. Gaylord said this is the Home School Coordinator. This amount was moved from the Guidance account.

Mr. Pierce asked what Salary-Other Technology was. Mr. Gaylord said this was for summer hires.

Hampton Budget Committee

December 6, 2007

Page 3

Mr. Pierce asked what was included in Aids and Monitors. Mr. Gaylord said this included cafeteria monitors, crossing guards and clerical aids.

Mr. Pierce asked about the \$45,000 salary for the School Resource Officer. Mr. Gaylord said this is a partial salary. The officer works for the Town during the rest of the year.

Mr. Griffin joined the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Pierce asked about recycling. Keith Lessard said there are already programs in the district. The programs are going to be expanded. Mr. Pierce asked if there would be a warrant article for repairs and maintenance every year. Mr. Lessard responded that this is for capital improvements every year.

Mr. Pierce asked if solar panels are being looked at to cut down on the cost of electricity. Mr. Gaylord said that a Town Energy Committee is being formed. Mr. Griffin said this new committee would like to have Mr. Gaylord as a speaker. The Energy Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Town Hall.

Mr. Pierce asked about the line item for software under Supplies. Mr. Gaylord said this is for the office, not the students.

Mr. Pierce asked if so many copiers were necessary. Mr. Gaylord said yes. Mr. Barry is running a study to see how money can be saved.

Mr. Bernstein said he believed this budget was a good one. He asked about student population decline. Mr. Gaylord said it is running true to form. The population at the beach is a factor.

Mr. Friedman passed out a graph showing an increase in expenditures of 26% and a decrease in the school population of 17% in five years. Mr. Gaylord said two studies have been done. However, much of the increase is in mandated items and utility costs.

Mr. Nichols said he did an analysis comparing 2005 to 2009. Total spending was up 20%. Salaries and benefits were 77% of the total. He said there has to be a strategy for the future to manage this. He asked that the School Board come back to the Committee at some point in the future with a strategic approach in light of projections of declining enrollments. Mr. Gaylord said that overall there have been reductions. Populations act like waves rather than peaks and valleys. Chairman Woolsey said that it would be sensible to ask for an overview after this school year is over. The September meeting as scheduled would be a good time.

Mr. DeMarco complimented the School Board on this budget. He said he realized there were items beyond their control – increase in retirement, health insurance going so high, etc. He said the decrease in the number of children doesn't really affect anything – only one or two children per classroom.

Ms. Latimer also remarked about federal mandates being out of the Board's control. She asked about home schooling. Mr. Gaylord said this is a liaison between the school and home for assistance, making sure social services are available if needed. Chairman Woolsey said it is very difficult for people who need help to understand where to go. It is great for disadvantaged families with young children to see this as part of the school set-up.

Mr. Silberdick said this was a good budget.

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to move the question

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion as amended to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$17,769,886 for the Hampton School Budget for 2008-2009.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Articles

Warrant Article #3 – Technology Systems

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing Warrant Article #3 - Technology Systems in the amount of \$210,000.

Mr. Nichols said he believes this amount should be decreased considering that computer prices are coming down and the student population is decreasing.

Mr. Gaylord said that they are on a 5-year replacement cycle for computers. Several are reaching that point. They are installing wireless. There are three leases for mobile labs.

Mr. Pierce said he could not support this much money.

Moved by Mr. DeMarco, seconded by Ms. Latimer, to reopen the total bottom line of the operating budget for purposes of addressing Warrant Article #3 – Technology Systems.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gaylord suggested putting the \$76,000 for leases back in the Operating Budget and leave the remaining in the Warrant Article.

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to add \$76,000 to the Technology Section in the Operating Budget for a total of \$17,845,886.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the new bottom line of \$17,845,886 for the Operating Budget for the Hampton School Budget for 2008-2009.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to adjust the amount to be recommended to the Public Hearing for Warrant Article #3 – Technology Systems to \$134,000.

Amendment moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to amend the amount to be recommended to the Public Hearing for Warrant Article #3 – Technology Systems to \$100,000.

Vote: 7 yes, 6 no (Bernstein, DeMarco, Desrosiers, Latimer, Lessard, Woolsey).
Amendment passed.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the amended amount of \$100,000 to be recommended to the Public Hearing for Warrant Article #3 – Technology Systems.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #4 – Repair & Maintenance

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$300,000 for Warrant Article #4 – Repair & Maintenance.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Warrant Article #5 – Special Education Fund

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$50,000 for Warrant Article #5 – Special Education Fund

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

Warrant Article #6 – Child Benefit Services

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$53,000 for Warrant Article #6 – Child Benefit Services.

Vote: 12 yes, 1 no (Pierce). Motion passed.

Revenues

Moved by Mr. Desrosiers, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to accept the estimated Revenues in the amount of \$747,238

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey thanked Mr. Gaylord and Ms. Nickerson. Mr. Gaylord asked the Committee to contact him with any further questions.

Approval of Minutes – December 4, 2007

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of December 4, 2007.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said there will be no meeting on December 13th. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 3, 2008. at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time Debt Service/Estimated Revenues and Final Review will be addressed. As this is a lot of material to cover, another meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Hampton Budget Committee
December 6, 2007
Page 7

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary Louise Woolsey, Chairman

