

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 14, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
Jerry Znoj, Selectman Representative  
Norman Silberdick, School Board Representative  
Pat Collins  
Victor DeMarco  
Dick Hansen  
Brian Lapam  
Eileen Latimer  
Michael Pierce  
Richard Reniere  
Peter Traynor

Excused

Jack Lessard  
Larry Stuker

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey said this meeting would address the School and Town Special Money Articles.

**Hampton School District**

Article 1 – Operating Budget

Chairman Woolsey said this article has been resolved.

Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement

**Moved** by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Mr. Silberdick said this agreement calls for a year 1 step increase plus no increase in pay. In year 2 there will be step increases plus 1% increase in pay. Year 3 will have a step increase plus 2% increase in pay. There will be a longevity increase in Year 2. Prescription coverage is reduced in Year 2 resulting in cost savings. The JY plan which is the most expensive will be eliminated in Year 1.

Mr. Pierce asked about projected costs. Mr. Silberdick said he did not have them. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said the Town has projected costs out to 22 years. Mr. Pierce asked if it was acceptable that the School District did not have these projected costs. Mr. DeMarco said that it was approved to not have the projected costs. Mr. Silberdick said he would obtain information on this issue. Chairman Woolsey said an adjustment can be made at the School District meeting if necessary. The figure won't change, but a projection can be made. Chairman Woolsey asked Mr. Silberdick to obtain the appropriate information and give it to the Committee at the Public Hearing on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Vote:** 7 yes, 5 no (Hansen, Lapham, Pierce, Traynor, Znoj). Motion passed.

#### Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Silberdick said this article was to accept the fact finders' recommendation dated January 5, 2010 for a collective bargaining agreement between the Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Association. Mr. Silberdick said the School Board does not recommend this article because of the binding arbitration clause.

**Moved** by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to not recommend to the Public Hearing Article 3 – Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 2 no (Collins, Latimer), 1 abstention (DeMarco). Motion passed.

#### Article 4 – School Maintenance - \$300,000

Keith Lessard explained how important it is to keep up with maintenance at the schools.

**Moved** by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to recommend to the Public Hearing Article 3 – School Maintenance.

Mr. Lapham asked why this wasn't in the operating budget. Mr. Lessard said if it was it would only be for one year and it could also be used for other purposes. Mr. Lessard then discussed the fire suppression and notification systems.

**Vote:** 11 yes, 1 no (Znoj). Motion passed.

#### Article 5 – Vehicle to replace Food Service Vehicle - \$30,000

**Moved** by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to recommend to the Public Hearing Article 5 – Vehicle to replace Food Service Vehicle.

Mr. Lessard said this is important to the food service program. Present vehicle is 15 years old and is in the elements all the time.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Znoj). Motion passed.

Article 6 – Create an expendable trust fund for Special Education

**Moved** by Mr. Silberdick, seconded by Mr. Collins, to recommend to the Public Hearing Article 6 – Create an expendable trust fund for Special Education.

Sara Stetson, Special Education Director, said it is very difficult to predict needs for special ed. Even one child can dramatically increase the amount needed. She said she felt it would be better to set aside a reserve account for unexpected events.

Mr. Lapham said he felt there were too many funds. Ms. Stetson said that if there is a catastrophic event they would not want to take the funds away from the other children. This would be an “in case” fund. Ms. Stetson said she felt it is better to prepare a budget for what is known now and have this reserve fund for unexpected events. Ms. Stetson reminded the Committee that no matter what the cost every child must be educated. This is a federal mandate.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 1 no (Lapham). Motion passed.

Article 7 – Child Benefits Services for students who attend Sacred Heart School - \$46,800

Cathy Smith, principal of Sacred Heart School, said they were asking for 8.2% less than last year because of the economic times. She explained that this money is used for a nurse, educational testing, textbooks, etc.

Mr. Traynor asked if this was for students from Hampton only. Ms. Smith replied that it was.

Mr. Collins said this is cost effective for the Town. People who send their children to Sacred Heart are already paying taxes.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 2 no (Latimer, Traynor). Motion passed.

At this time Mr. Silberdick left the meeting.

**Town of Hampton**

Repair and restoration of cemetery markers at the Ring and Pine Grove Cemeteries - \$5,000 – private petition

**Moved** by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to recommend to the Public Hearing the article to repair and restore cemetery markers at the Ring and Pine Grove Cemeteries.

Mr. Pierce asked if there weren't funds for this in the cemetery budget. Chairman Woolsey said not for unused cemeteries.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Woolsey said she was going to combine a number of articles as follows:

Article 11 – Larvaecizing mosquito breeding areas - \$50,000

Article 10 – Human Services Agencies - \$172,751

Article 16 – TV Cable Origination Fund - \$100,000 (no tax impact)

Article 17 – Police Forfeiture Fund - \$90,000 (no tax impact)

Article 19 – Cemetery Burial Trust fund - \$27,850 (no tax impact)

Article 18 – To take from the Recreation Department fund to reconstruct the hockey rink on Hardharts Way and replace the chain link fence (no tax impact)

**Moved** by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to recommend to the Public Hearing Articles 11, 10, 16, 17, 19, 18.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (DeMarco, Reniere). Motion passed.

Mr. DeMarco said he did not recall the Budget Committee receiving articles without the BOS having voted on them and recommending or not recommending. Mr. Znoj said the ones just voted on were recommended. Others were not voted on. Chairman Woolsey said she would like this information in the morning. Mr. Welch said that would not be possible because the BOS will vote on them on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. When asked about this date, Mr. Welch said it was when the Chairman of the BOS would return. Chairman Woolsey said the previous vote would be rescinded except for the private petitioned article and she will expect a vote on every article except the pumper Monday night. She also mentioned that the BOS had elected not to put forth an article for the fire station.

Article 9 – Pumper for Fire Department - \$567,000

**Moved** by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing Article 9 – Pumper for Fire Department.

Chairman Woolsey said she did not believe all of the Selectmen had examined the fire station proposals. She complimented Chief Silver on his remarkable work on this project.

Chairman Woolsey said the intent of Article 9 is to fund a capital equipment request in a single year. She said she is skeptical about putting this on the backs of the taxpayers for one year. She said the Fire Department has 4 pumpers. The two oldest were purchased in 1988. Life expectancy for a pumper is 20 years. Engine 1 is dead. Engine 4 has passed its tests for now, but won't for long. Chairman Woolsey said she was very concerned that we will not keep our ISO rating unless there are four working engines.

Mr. Plouffe said this pumper would be provided with a new 2009 engine and this would make it cheaper. Also the 2009's are proven. Chief Silver said Pierce Manufacturing has extremely high quality control standards.

Chairman Woolsey said there were two options – spreading the cost with a 4-year lease or putting it all on the taxpayers with a one time purchase. Chief Silver said the BOS decided not to lease. Chairman Woolsey said she would suggest a “not recommend” to go to the Public Hearing and then look for an amendment.

Mr. DeMarco said it didn't appear to him that the majority of the BOS are thinking for themselves but instead follow one person. After so much effort has been put in, the BOS then throw out the fire station. The plan we have now is good, but has been dismissed by the BOS. Mr. DeMarco said at the very least the public should be able to decide. Mr. DeMarco said if the fire station is out, the apparatus should be acquired. He suggested getting both pumpers.

Chairman Woolsey said she would have an amendment to this article at the deliberative session. Mr. Welch said she might not be able to do this because this article is not structured to go to borrow. Chairman Woolsey said the motion would be tabled for now and asked Mr. Welch to check with counsel.

Chief Silver said only one pumper should be considered at this time. Right now there is a need for only one pumper and the replacement schedule would be intact.

Mr. Pierce said he thought buying outright is better because the taxpayers won't have to pay for a pumper and a fire station at the same time.

Chairman Woolsey said the attitude of the BOS is what makes or breaks a project.

Mr. Traynor said the BOS gave the impression that they would support the fire station. There was a commitment from them and now they have backed out. Mr. Traynor said the BOS is jeopardizing the safety and well being of the Town.

Ms. Latimer said she was dismayed. She said the Town is spending a half million on legal fees and several warrant articles have ended up with legality questions. Ms. Latimer said money has been spent on surveys, plans, etc. and then there is no follow through. The voters gave the Town \$50,000 to do the Fire Department plan and now it is pushed aside. This money has been wasted.

Mr. Znoj said he didn't feel there was value for the money at this time. Mr. Znoj said he voted to defer because there was no consolidated dispatch. Mr. DeMarco said he disagreed with Mr. Znoj. The Selectmen appointed a representative to the Fire Station Committee. This individual had nothing but praise for everything. If the BOS thought something was amiss, why wait until the final report. Mr. Znoj said this representative did not know the costs. Chairman Woolsey said the BOS simply did not "sell" it.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion for the pumper.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said there will be some questions on the DPW articles before the Public Hearing.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting will be the Public Hearing to be held in the Hampton Academy cafeteria on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman

