

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 19, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
Jerry Znoj, Selectman Representative  
Norman Silberdick, School Board Representative  
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative  
Pat Collins  
Victor DeMarco  
Dick Hansen  
Brian Lapham  
Eileen Latimer  
Jack Lessard  
Michael Pierce  
Richard Reniere  
Larry Stuker  
Peter Traynor

Chairman Woolsey called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She said this meeting was a Public Hearing for the Town and Hampton School District Special Money Articles, Operating Budget and Revenues.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Board.

**Approval of Minutes of January 5, 2010**

**Moved** by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to approve the Minutes of January 5, 2010.

**Vote:** 13 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Kubik, Reniere). Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2010**

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the Minutes of January 14, 2010.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no, 3 abstentions (Kubik, Lessard, Stuker). Motion passed.

### **Hampton School District**

Chairman Woolsey said the Hampton School District Revenues for 2010-2011 in the amount of \$680,738 have been approved.

#### **Article 1 – Operating Budget - \$18,015,988**

Chairman Woolsey said the Budget Committee had approved that figure.

Art Gopalan, 21 Windmill Lane, came forward. He said he proposed trimming the budget in technical and furniture spending and putting forth a budget that represents reading, writing, math and science.

#### **Article 2 – Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Chairman Woolsey said the Budget Committee had approved this article.

Mr. Pierce said that when the School Board voted to recommend this article it was not done in public. Rusty Bridle, Chairman of the School Board, responded that the vote was taken January 6<sup>th</sup> at a duly posted public meeting.

Mr. Pierce asked about the projected expenditures only being shown for three years. Chairman Woolsey said the Town of Hampton in last year's presentation of the collective bargaining agreements included a 20-year projection per the Alton Ruling of the NH Supreme Court. There is concern that collective bargaining agreements are being put out in a different manner.

Mr. Gopalan said he also was concerned about projected costs. He said teachers should be rewarded on performance of students and not seniority.

Nancy Tuttle, Finance Assistant for SAU21 came forward. She said there is nothing in the law that states how many years you have to project. You need to go out to the year when you reach the top of your schedule.

#### **Article 3 – Fact Finder's recommendations for Collective Bargaining Agreement**

Chairman Woolsey said the School Board and Budget Committee do not recommend this article.

Ms. Tuttle said this is a fact finder's recommendation. When voters vote on this article they are voting on the entire report – all language, not just cost items.

Mr. Bridle said the School Board did not agree with this because of the binding arbitration which could be too costly.

Mr. Traynor asked if those under the present contract have binding arbitration. Mr. Bridle said they did not and neither do the teachers.

Linda Libby, Hampton, came forward. She said that if the people of Hampton pass this article it is a yes for the language as well. Maureen Ward, Superintendent, said that all six districts must pass this article. Ms. Libby said she was Chairman of the Assessment Negotiating Team for this article. The team felt the fact finder's report was extremely fair and balanced. She said the voters should read the report thoroughly.

Article 4 – School Maintenance - \$300,000

Mr. Gopalan asked what the payback was for the energy efficiency program at Marston and Centre Schools.

Keith Lessard thanked the community for their support of the maintenance of the schools. He explained the energy plan which will reduce electrical consumption. Also Unutil has been asked for reimbursement. Mr. Lessard said most projects are completed except for the restrooms at Marston.

Article 5 – Replacement of vehicle for Food Service - \$30,000

Chairman Woolsey said both the School Board and Budget Committee recommend this article.

Article 6 – Special Education Fund

Chairman Woolsey said there are unexpended monies at the end of the year and a portion would be diverted to this fund.

Article 7 – Child Benefit Services – Sacred Heart School - \$46,800

Chairman Woolsey said this is a privately petitioned article and both the School Board and Budget Committee recommend.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, came forward. He said there is a lot of information in these articles and he would like to be able to come to these meetings after having studied them. Not having this information until the meeting is not very helpful.

Ms. Tuttle said the reason the School District could not have them ready earlier was because they did not receive them until January 5<sup>th</sup> and the Board has until the second Tuesday in January to accept them.

**Amendment moved** by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to amend the School District operating budget for 2010-2011 to \$17,821,541.

Mr. Traynor said he would like to change the Technology New Equipment figure to \$1.00, change the Replace Tech Equipment figure to \$1.00 and change the New Furniture figure to \$1.00.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 6 no (Collins, DeMarco, Lapham, Lessard, Reniere, Stuker). Amendment passed.

Chairman Woolsey then asked for a vote on the final figure of \$17,821,541 for the School District operating budget for 2010 – 2011.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 6 no (Collins, DeMarco, Lessard, Reniere, Silberdick, Stuker). Motion passed.

Regarding Article 1, Mr. Pierce said there was a need to come up with a projection and three years is not sufficient.

Mr. Silberdick said the writing of the article was legally correct and reviewed by counsel and the NH Department of Revenue. If you go out to 20 years, there is a lot of junk data. Every teacher may not stay for 20 years.

Chairman Woolsey asked Mr. Schwotzer, Finance Director, what parameters he used for the Town. Mr. Schwotzer said his estimate was based on when the last person would get to the last step. He said he agreed with Mr. Silberdick that everything can change. He said they are not told by the courts how to calculate this.

Ms. Latimer said the Town and School should get on the same page and calculate in the same way.

The Public Hearing for the Hampton School District adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

### **Town of Hampton**

The Public Hearing for the Town of Hampton was called to order at 8:16 p.m.

Chairman Woolsey said the Town of Hampton Revenues of \$6,142,154 have been approved.

Article 8 – Operating Budget - \$24,364,484

Mr. Gopalan said the budget should be amended to be in line with that recommended by the Board of Selectmen. He said the Budget Committee put back in overtime and the mounted patrol and would take the money from the Department of Public Works. This is not beneficial when there are so many roads that need to be repaired.

Brian Warburton, 24 Sanborn Road, came forward. He asked why the Board of Selectmen did not recommend the warrant articles before this public hearing. Richard Nichols, Selectman, said that the BOS Chairman was traveling. The Chairman requested that he be able to participate in the vote to recommend or not recommend and the BOS made the decision to do that on January 22 when he returned. Mr. Nichols said he asked the Town Manager to poll the BOS and it was unanimous that they keep the January 22<sup>nd</sup> date. Attorney Gearreald was asked to confirm that this was legal. He said it was.

Chairman Woolsey said three votes takes the Board. She said as a taxpayer she doesn't care who goes on vacation. As a courtesy to this Budget Committee this vote of the BOS should have been provided in a timely manner.

Mr. Rice said that he thought it was irresponsible for a Chairman of the BOS to schedule three weeks of vacation during the busiest time of the year. He said this BOS was remiss in its responsibility to the Town of Hampton.

Diandre Sanphy, Hampton, came forward. She said she had heard a vote may be made by a person on a board by electronic means. She asked why that was not utilized by the BOS. Mr. Welch said that a person must be present at a meeting to vote. It would have to be a phone conference call during a public meeting.

Sue Kepner, 105 Mill Road, came forward. She said she was representing the Recycling Education Committee. She said she had heard rumors that money would be cut from this committee. Mr. Welch said that the Town is currently negotiating with Waste Management and single stream will probably start next week. The Concord structure is also going to be built. Ms. Kepner said to look on Channel 22 for a conversation on recycling. Materials can also be picked up at the Library, Town Office and Transfer Station.

Mr. Rice said he was a little surprised that the Town is negotiating with Waste Management for single stream. He asked if there was a competitive bid vs. the co-op.

Mr. Welch said that the present contract with Waste Management did not have single stream. They offered to add it to our existing contract until June 30<sup>th</sup>. A bid may be done at that time.

Article 9 – Pumper Truck - \$546,000

Chairman Woolsey said this article was recommended by the Budget Committee.

Article 10 – Social Services - \$172,751

This was recommended by the Budget Committee and bundled the same as last year.

Article 11 – Mosquito Control - \$50,000

This was recommended by the Budget Committee.

Article 14 – Beach Street Lighting - \$177,000 (no tax impact)

Chairman Woolsey said there was a huge misunderstanding on the part of the public last year on this article. This money exists now and has been set aside. Mr. Schwotzer said this is in a special revenue fund and will stay there until the voters release it.

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

Article 17 – Police Forfeiture Fund (no tax impact)

Chairman Woolsey said this is granted for drug enforcement.

Article 18 – Recreation Infrastructure - \$76,000 (no tax impact)

Chairman Woolsey said this is part of the Recreation revolving fund.

Article 22 – Surviving Spouse – Tax Credits

Article 41 – Historical Cemetery Markers (\$5,000)

Chairman Woolsey said this is a private petitioned article. It is a heritage issue.

Article 15 – Salt Shed - \$150,000

Chairman Woolsey said she had a serious problem with the Selectmen putting aside such a large amount of money each year in surplus. She said she believes each year should be

self-contained. The benefit of any surplus should be received in that year. Mr. Nichols said they ended up with additional savings which will drive that fund balance up to around \$4 million. This decision was made to fund some important projects such as roads, the salt shed, etc. with this money. Mr. Welch said \$3.2 million was his original goal. It is necessary to keep a surplus because of unpaid taxes. This should be at least \$3 million. Anything beyond that can be used to buy permanent facilities, etc. The Town can vote to use those monies for specific items. Chairman Woolsey said she still felt it should go against the tax rate.

Chairman Woolsey and Mr. Pierce questioned the advisability of building a shed that would hold only ½ years supply of salt. Mr. Nichols said this will be enough.

The Public Hearing on the Town of Hampton adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

### **Budget Committee Work Session**

The Budget Committee work session began at 9:21 p.m.

#### **Article 1 – Operating Budget - \$24,364,484**

**Amendment moved** by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Ms. Latimer to decrease the Town of Hampton Operating Budget for 2010 to \$24,322,808.

Mr. Traynor said he arrived at this figure by eliminating from the Attorney's office Part Time Wages and Staff Development.

Mr. Znoj said he disagreed. He said more money would have to be spent if it was necessary to utilize outside counsel.

Ms. Latimer said this department has escalated out of control with costs. Mr. Stuker said the amount of litigation involved requires a certain amount of staff to address it. Mr. Silberdick said he would echo support for the Attorney's office. Mr. DeMarco said he disagreed with this cut. Mr. Collins agreed. Attorney Gearreald then gave an explanation of the costs involved in the Attorney's office.

**Vote:** 4 yes, 11 no (Collins, DeMarco, Hansen, Lapham, Lessard, Pierce, Plouffe, Reniere, Silberdick, Stuker, Znoj). Amendment failed.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the following:

- Article 10 – Social Service Articles
- Article 11 – Mosquito Control

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the following:

Article 14 – Beach Street Lighting  
Article 16 – Cable TV Origination Fund  
Article 19 – Cemetery Burial Trust

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the following:

Article 22 – Surviving Spouse

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the following:

Article 12 – Public Works Capital Reserve  
Article 13 – Road Improvements

**Vote:** 15 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

**Moved** by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the following:

Article 15 – Salt Shed

**Vote:** 13 yes, 2 no (Pierce, Woolsey). Motion passed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman