

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 24, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Jerry Znoj, Selectman Representative
Norman Silberdick, Selectman Representative
June White, Precinct Representative
Victor DeMarco
Dick Hansen
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Michael Pierce
Richard Reniere
Larry Stuker

Excused

Peter Traynor

Absent

Pat Collins

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey thanked the technical staff for their work during the past year.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2010

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2010.

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

Approval of Minutes of January 30, 2010

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2010.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 5 abstentions (Hansen, Lapham, Latimer, Lessard, Stuker). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said she was very proud of the members who were able to make the meeting after the Deliberative Session and proud that the decision was changed on Article 3 (Fact Finder's Report). This was a district-wide article and if this Committee was given incorrect information, the rest of the district was also given incorrect information.

Chairman Woolsey discussed the cost of legal representation for outside counsel. She said the Committee has a right to know these costs. The Committee has serious concerns about the money being spent under the Legal account. Chairman Woolsey gave a recap of legal costs over the last ten years and how they have grown. She discussed three decisions against the Town:

- 1) PELRB decision 2/11/2010 "Sick Leave Bank" Case No. P-071923 (Consolidated.
- 2) PELRB decision 2/11/2010 SEA bargaining unit – "evergreen" Case No. G-0113-1.
- 3) Superior Court decision 1/19/2010 "Right to Know" Hampton Police Assn.

Chairman Woolsey said the Committee should understand what is happening with these lawsuits and what is being spent as a community.

Chairman Woolsey said she would like a motion to send the following letter:

To: Town of Hampton, Board of Selectmen, through Selectman Representative to the Municipal Budget Committee Gerald Znoj

From: Hampton Municipal Budget Committee

Re: Total cost of legal representation related to 2 PELRB rulings and 1 Rockingham County Superior Court ruling:

- 1) PELRB decision 2/11/2010 "Sick Leave Bank" Case No. P-071923 (Consolidated.
- 2) PELRB decision 2/11/2010 SEA bargaining unit – "evergreen" Case No. G-0113-1.
- 3) Superior Court decision 1/19/2010 "Right to Know" Hampton Police Assn.

We require the presence of the Town Manager and Finance Director at our regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m. Any selectmen, in addition to Mr. Znoj, who wish to attend are welcome to do so. On that date you will present us with a complete accounting of all costs related to the above legal actions, including those in the Superior court and Supreme Court (09-14-2009); any and all billable hours to counsel representing the Town; any and all filing and associated fees dating from the inception of each of these actions; and total cost of Town Office staff spent in complying with 01/19/10 Superior Court decision "Right to Know".

We request this cost information under RSA 32:16 II "Duties and Authority of the Budget Committee", as well as RSA91A:4 and RSA91A:1-a IV.

Mary-Louise Woolsey Chairman
For the Municipal Budget Committee

Moved by Ms. Latimer, seconded by Ms. White, to send the stated letter to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. DeMarco asked if the Board of Selectmen directed that these actions be taken. Mr. Znoj said yes. Evergreen is finished and two are still open.

Ms. Latimer said her concern is that most of this should have been resolved at the bargaining table in the first place. Legal fees are escalating out of sight. Ms. Latimer said she felt it was important to send this letter and find out what the costs are.

Mr. Reniere said these cases all came about because of lack of communication and this letter will not change anything.

Amendment made by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to change the word "require" in the 2nd paragraph of Chairman Woolsey's letter to the Board of Selectmen to "request".

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Silberdick, Znoj). Amendment passed.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion as amended.

Vote: 8 yes, 4 no (Lapham, Pierce, Reniere, Silberdick), 1 abstention (Znoj). Motion passed.

Hampton Beach Village Precinct

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Gary Kubik, Commissioner, and John Gebhart, Treasurer.

Mr. Kubik said the Precinct would have no special money articles.

Chairman Woolsey said she wanted to remind the public that Warrant Article 14 for lighting at the beach will have no tax impact and the money is already there. A vote is needed to release it for the purpose for which it was intended.

Moved by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$99,375 for General Government.

Mr. Kubik addressed Executive, Financial Administration, Legal, Personnel Administration, General Government Buildings, Insurance and Other General Government.

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

Mr. Kubik said that Jack Knox, long time beach entertainer and member of the Continentals, passed away yesterday.

Moved by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$351,800 for Culture & Recreation.

Mr. Kubik addressed Advertising, Bands, Idol Competition, Children's Week, Fireworks, Sand Sculpture, Special Activities and Hampton Chamber Support.

Mr. Reniere asked how many venues were at the Seashell. Mr. Kubik replied that there are approximately 80. Chairman Woolsey asked if the fireworks figure included New Years Eve. Mr. Kubik said it does.

Mr. Lapham asked about fireworks cancellations. Mr. Kubik said if there is a cancellation it will be posted by 4:00 p.m. It will be on the hotline 926-SHOW and Channel 22.

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

Moved by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$75,214 for debt service.

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

Moved by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$526,389 for the total budget for 2010 for the Hampton Beach Village Precinct.

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

Moved by Ms. White, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the amount of \$77,200 for estimated revenues for 2010.

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

Chairman Woolsey began the public hearing at 8:45 p.m.

Mark McFarlin, 3 Warner Lane, came forward. He said he wanted to say how much Garry Meyer who recently passed away will be missed. Chairman Woolsey said a letter of condolence from the Budget Committee will be sent to the late Budget Committee candidate Garry Meyer's wife.

The public hearing closed at 8:53 p.m.

Chairman Woolsey asked if anyone wanted to make any changes in the Precinct budget. No one wished to do so.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman