

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 18, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Larry Stuker, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice Chairman
Richard Bateman, Selectman Representative
Maureen O'Leary, School Board Representative
June White, Precinct Representative
Pat Collins
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Mark McFarlin
Michael Pierce
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere
Peter Traynor

Excused

Dick Hansen

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Stuker introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Stuker said the possible privatization of the waste water treatment plant and the drainage situation in town would be discussed. He welcomed John Price, Director of Public Works, Fred Welch, Town Manager, and Richard Nichols, Selectman.

Mr. Price said his department has talked to a number of engineering firms and he has made the recommendation to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen that engineers look at the operation of the waste water treatment plant. Mr. Price said he wanted to ensure the best thing is done for the dollars. It was decided not to go out to bid for privatization. The engineering firm of Camp Dresser & McKee has been hired to do a study.

As for drainage, Beta, the on-call engineering firm for the Town is in the process of gathering information. They have been on Cogger Street and have done a survey. They are also looking at High Street and the west side of Lafayette Road.

Mr. McFarlin said he felt it was best to look at all alternatives before jumping into privatization of the waste water treatment plant. Mr. Price said CDM was selected because they do not have a vested interest because they would not operate the plant. Mr. McFarlin

asked if DPW had looked at pervious paving. Mr. Price said they had and hope that the Planning Board will also look at it in reference to new developments.

Mr. Pierce asked if there were any plans to address the drainage issue on Cogger Street. Mr. Price said there are drainage swales behind Cogger Street. They go to a drain that runs along Mill Road and proceeds from there. They are working to solve the problem where the water backs up. Mr. Pierce said he felt Cogger Street should be high priority. Mr. Welch said the swales around the Nickerson property will be cleaned out.

Mr. Traynor asked if the Town would be restricted on High Street because that is partly salt marsh. Mr. Welch said it would not because it is brackish water.

Regarding CDM, Ms. Latimer asked why this was not put out to bid. Mr. Price replied that it was only a request for proposals. Ms. Latimer asked if CDM had worked previously for the Town. Mr. Price said they had not but they have done three projects in NH. Mr. Welch explained that requests for proposals is asking a firm what should be done.

Ms. Latimer asked why CDM was chosen. Mr. Price and Mr. Welch replied that they both had personal knowledge of this firm and their work. Two other firms were also looked at. CDM does not operate waste water treatment plants.

Mr. Collins said he was content that the nature of the work is being explored. Mr. Lapham asked where the \$46,000 for this study came from. Mr. Nichols said it comes from the operating budget under Engineering Services. Mr. Lapham asked who would oversee this. Mr. Price said he, the Manager, the Board of Selectmen and Finance would oversee this project.

Mr. Reniere asked if another company would be sought if it was decided to go to privtization. Mr. Price said at that point they would go out for bids.

Mr. Plouffe discussed the lower end of High Street. He said the Town is in the same predicament as North Hampton was a few years ago. Mr. Plouffe said he felt part of the answer is that an outfall is going to have to be found behind the ledge where the Coast Guard station used to be. The ice pond is also a factor.

Mr. Lessard said he agreed with Mr. Plouffe.

Mr. Price thanked Mr. Plouffe and Mr. Lessard for spending time with Beta Engineering.

Mr. Bateman said this drainage problem must be solved. The Planning Board does not have time to plan and is controlled by the individuals who come before them.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey asked what the role of the EPA was regarding the waste water treatment plant. Mr. Price said their regulations are followed and they perform periodic checks.

Ms. Latimer said these are two big issues and asked if there was a particular problem. Mr. Price said there was not a problem but they could be doing better. Ms. Latimer asked if there were any citations. Mr. Price said there were not. Mr. Welch said the drainage problem will only get worse with more development.

Ms. Latimer said there are affected neighborhoods that will not be included in the study and asked why they were not. Mr. Welch replied that the reason is because it is private property and the people who own it will not cooperate.

Chairman Stuker asked about Town liability if the plant is privatized. Mr. Price said there would be no liability because everything would be covered in the contracts with the firm chosen to run the treatment plant.

Chairman Stuker asked if the Town would budget money to address these items in a systematic way. Mr. Nichols said there is \$125,000 budgeted for drainage for this year. They are also requesting grants through FEMA and other federal avenues. A decision may have to be made about which is highest priority – roads or drainage.

Mr. Welch said that it will be necessary to start looking at each one of the 23 drainage districts and each one needs to be systematically addressed.

Mr. Traynor asked about getting help from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Price said they are always working with the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Bateman said he would urge every homeowner to look at his or her deed to see if they have a responsibility to clean out their own swales.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey said she and Ms. Latimer had met with Aquarian and they were willing to be helpful.

Ms. Latimer said another new neighborhood might be built soon. She suggested that a moratorium on building be established until the drainage problems are taken care of. Mr. Bateman said sometimes someone wanting to build cannot be refused because of state guidelines. Mr. Welch said that in looking at the cost it would be cheaper to buy the land and put it into permanent conservation.

Vice Chairman Woolsey then made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen under the Budget Committee's authority granted by statute 32-16 to provide the following information:

1. The amount of money that has been spent by the Fire Department over the past 2 years for vehicle inspection and maintenance due to outsourcing rather than with the cooperation of Public Works.
2. The cost of equipping Public Works vehicles over the past 2 years with lighting accessories and radios.
3. The cost of the Pontiac SUV intended for the use of the Public Works Director which was purchased beyond the bid process in 2008.
4. The cost of converting the emergency response vehicle and engineering expenses over the past two years for outsourcing to MA companies compared to NH vendors.
5. Amounts for and the accounts charged to for security upgrades including inside the transfer station, the Public Works office and externals.
6. Specific costs for employees having administrative leave or suspended over the past 2 years and the number not justified.
7. Specific costs of labor actions, including labor counsel, against employees of the Public Works Department in the past two years.

There was no second to the motion. Motion failed.

Chairman Stuker thanked Mr. Price, Mr. Welch and Mr. Nichols for attending the meeting.

Chairman Stuker said the next item to be discussed was the costs associated with the withdrawal from SAU21.

Maureen O'Leary, School Board Representative, said that the Hampton Schools will become SAU90 as of July 1, 2011. The associated costs are startup costs for establishing a space for an office at Marston School. The Hampton School Board has identified 70% of the estimated costs, estimated to be \$216,000. They will be using \$154,000 out of the current 09-10 school budget. These are unencumbered funds. The Board will keep looking for additional funds. There are also cost savings for insurance in the amount of \$78,000. A consulting firm has been hired to search for a superintendent.

Mr. Traynor asked if the teachers will operate under current contracts under SAU90. Ms. O'Leary said they will for the remaining time on their contracts.

Mr. Bateman suggested looking at the Odyssey House property across from the Jr. High. Ms. O'Leary said they have already decided to have the office at Marston School.

Vice-Chairman Woolsey asked how the feeding of students into Winnacunnet would be coordinated. She asked what would be done if students from other towns were not at the same level as the Hampton students. Ms. O'Leary said she felt the high school could speak to the fact that there are always differences among the incoming students.

Mr. Traynor said he felt the possible use of the Odyssey House property should be explored. Other Town functions could also be housed there.

Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2010

Moved by Mr. Traynor, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of April 20, 2010 as amended.

Vote: 9 yes, 0 no, 5 abstentions (Bateman, Collins, Lessard, O'Leary, Reniere). Motion passed.

Amendments to the Minutes were as follows:

Page 3, paragraph 2. First sentence should read "Mr. McFarlin said the Committee should be looking much more closely at health trust monies for employees, etc. and adequate staffing per vehicle."

Page 3, paragraph 3. Last sentence should read "Hampton would pay for it and everyone else would share it."

Page 3, paragraph 5. Last sentence should read "This needs to be addressed and also the issue of how many officers there will be for the summer."

Precinct Report

June White said warrant articles have been posted and will be voted on at a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 2nd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Church at D Street and Ashworth.

Mr. Traynor asked if people could vote if they lived somewhere else but owned property in the Precinct. Mr. Reniere said to vote a person must be a registered voter in the Hampton Beach Village District and their primary residence must be there. Proof of residence must be presented. The Supervisor of the Checklist will oversee this. Mr. Reniere said that non-residents may speak at the meeting, however, and the purpose of the meeting is to get as many opinions as possible.

Mr. Bateman said that the Precinct and the Town should work together to have a Christmas parade.

Selectman Report

Vice-Chairman Woolsey asked about the salt shed. Mr. Bateman said he did not know what was happening at this time. Vice-Chairman Woolsey asked that he bring up this subject at the next Board of Selectman meeting because she had heard that all bids came in over the \$150,000 allowed in the warrant article.

Chairman Woolsey also asked Mr. Bateman to ask about the possible expenditure of \$25,000 to fix the roof on the beach fire station. She also asked him to find out where the Town stands on the General Accounting Standards Compliance.

Ms. Latimer asked Mr. Bateman to talk to the BOS regarding the fact the Town has only one ambulance. Mr. Bateman said he felt this situation was terrible. He said Hampton is a host location urging people to come here. These people need to know they will be taken care of.

Mr. Traynor asked about the generator for the Town Hall. Mr. Bateman said it has arrived and should be up and running soon.

Ms. Latimer said there are documents that have gone around about costs of certain things in town. She said she believed these expenses will come up in the budget year. She said it would be remiss for the Committee not to review these documents.

Chairman Stuker said the next meeting will be Tuesday, June 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

