

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 19, 2010

Budget Committee Members Present

Larry Stuker, Chairman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Vice-Chairman
Maureen O'Leary, School Board Representative
Pat Collins
Dick Hansen (7:45 p.m.)
Brian Lapham
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Mark McFarlin
Michael Pierce
Michael Plouffe
Richard Reniere

Excused

Peter Traynor

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 Board.

Chairman Stuker announced that the Committee is headed into the budget work sessions beginning Wednesday, October 27th, when they will address General Government including Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Legal, Assessing, Cemetery Trustees, Trustees of the Trust Funds, Planning, Zoning, Building Inspector, Welfare and Library. On Tuesday, November 2nd, the Committee will address the Police Department, Animal Control, Private Detail revolving fund, Mounted Patrol, Rolling Stock, and Recreation. On Friday, November 12th, the Public Works Department will be addressed. On Tuesday, November 16th, the Fire Department will be addressed. On Thursday, December 9th, there will be the final review of the Town Budget 2011 and Revenues. On Tuesday, December 21st, the Committee will address the School District Budget (2011-2012), Revenues and Final Review.

Chairman Stuker introduced Chris Silver, Chief, Hampton Fire Department. Chief Silver gave a slide presentation on the replacement of the Town and Beach Fire Stations.

The original warrant article passed in March was to provide for \$30,000 to have a study comparing cost estimates. Chief Silver said he wanted to provide for both stations and an adjustment was made granting \$30,000 for the Winnacunnet station and up to \$20,000 for the Ashworth Ave. station. To date approximately \$30,000 has been spent. Chief Silver said they started by selecting an architect – Goudreau & Associates. They were the most

qualified and also had the lowest cost proposal. Chief Silver said he and the architects identified the goals and they brought in members of other departments for their input.

Chief Silver said the plan has always been that Hampton is one town with one Fire Department and is a two fire station community.

Chief Silver discussed the process, the locations of the stations, the identification of needs and the design of space. They looked at five different sites for the beach station. Each site was graded. It was their view that the Precinct lot gave the most advantages. The Winnacunnet station was easy. There is already a station there. They proposed that additions be made to the east, but there is also room to the west.

Chief Silver then went through the history of the Fire Department. The present station was established in 1923 and has gone beyond its useful life. Chief Silver discussed the many existing problems at the Winnacunnet station. Approximately 60% of the building can be retained.

Chief Silver then showed elevations of the two proposed stations. He discussed engineering schematics and cost estimates. Cost estimates are \$4.8 million for the Winnacunnet station and \$3.2 million for the Beach station. Chief Silver said he has been looking at possible reductions and feels \$350,000 could be saved. There will be a re-estimate by the construction company which may come in lower. This is all consistent with the Charette.

Chief Silver said the Precinct voters have approved this and a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the process has been sent to the Selectmen.

Chief Silver said he recommends that both stations go forward together and that there should be no delay.

Chairman Stuker said a great deal of information can be obtained by going to www.hamptonfirerescue.com. Chief Silver also said he can be contacted at csilver@hamptonfirerescue.com.

Mr. Reniere said he felt both stations should be under one warrant article. Chief Silver agreed that this would be prudent.

Mr. Lapham asked how long it would take to build the two stations. Chief Silver said they could be constructed simultaneously and it would take approximately 16 months. However it will take a few months after funding to develop construction documents.

Ms. Latimer asked about financing. Chief Silver said that so far it is agreed that a 20-year bond would be the best choice. Ms. Latimer said that if we wait the costs will escalate.

Mr. Pierce asked if either the old Town Office building or the District Court building would be involved. Chief Silver said they could add either east or west and neither of these buildings would be affected. Mr. Lessard said he felt if both stations were constructed at the same time it would be less costly.

Mr. McFarlin asked about amounts added to the operating budget for heating, AC, etc. Chief Silver said this will become more clearly identified when they have construction documents. These new buildings will be much more energy efficient.

Ms. Woolsey said this was a great presentation and Chief Silver has done an amazing job.

Ms. Woolsey asked if the Town would absorb the costs for the beach station being demolished. Chief Silver said these costs are already included.

Ms. Woolsey asked about furnishings. Chief Silver said he has been meeting with furniture manufacturers regarding what may be needed. It will probably come to \$50-\$55,000.

Ms. Woolsey discussed the ISO ratings. This can dramatically affect insurance for residents. She said she has been told that insurance carriers are pulling out of the beach due to the wind. If there is not an adequate station at the beach, businesses will leave.

Chairman Stuker asked if the two station buildings would be condemned if they were not government buildings. Chief Silver said one of them would be condemned.

Chairman Stuker talked about cost of ownership. If you look at both stations from 2012 or 2013 plus 50 years, the cost of ownership is fairly low.

Chairman Stuker applauded Chief Silver for his great work on these projects.

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Ms. Latimer to support Chief Silver's plan as it stands today for the two stations and to commend him for his efforts.

Mr. Pierce said he felt it was premature for the Committee to support the plan at this time because the exact costs are not yet available. Mr. Collins agreed.

Chief Silver said final documents won't occur until after the construction documents are completed. This is as far as they can go prior to the next vote.

Moved by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Ms. Woolsey, to move the question.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stuker asked for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 9 yes, 2 no (Collins, Pierce), 1 abstention (O'Leary). Motion passed.

School Board Report

Ms. O'Leary said the School Board will be starting the budget process on November 3rd.

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2010

Moved by Ms. Woolsey, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2010.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Collins, Pierce). Motion passed.

Ms. Latimer said the Committee should have a list of pending litigation. Chairman Stuker said he would speak to the Town Attorney on this matter.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Larry Stuker, Chairman