

**HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 30, 2014**

**Budget Committee Members Present**

Eileen Latimer, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman  
James Waddell, Seleceman Representative  
Jerry Znoj, School Board Representative  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative  
Glenn Farrell  
Joe Grzybowski  
Sunny Kravitz  
Stephen LaBranche  
Brian Lapham  
Jim O'Loughlin  
Michael Pierce  
Richard Reniere

Chairman Latimer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She said this would be the first working session of the season.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members of the Committee made self-introductions.

Chairman Latimer welcomed new Committee member Glen Farrell.

Chairman Latimer said the secretarial position is still open. David Wood has sent an email saying he would continue to serve, but not as Vice Chairman. He is rescinding his previous intent to resign.

**Moved** by Mr. Grzybowski, seconded by Mr. Lapham, that David Wood continue to serve out his term on the Hampton Budget Committee.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Pierce). Motion passed.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$15,500 for Board of Selectmen.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 1 no (Lapham). Motion passed.

Town Manager

Chairman Latimer welcomed Jamie Sullivan, Acting Town Manager.

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$252,983 for Town Manager.

Mr. Sullivan said the salary line covers compensation for the Town Manager, his assistant and the Assistant Town Manager.

Mr. Znoj said he has no problem with Mr. Sullivan but he did not believe a town of 15,000 should have a Town Manager and an Assistant Town Manager.

Chairman Latimer said this is a policy decision.

Mr. Znoj said this will drive up the outside legal costs. One man in Legal cannot do all the work. Hours have been taken out of a required area and moved to a luxury position. Mr. Znoj said he was not in favor of this. Mr. Pierce said he agreed with Mr. Znoj. The voters did not get to decide on this position or salary. Mr. Pierce said he was definitely against this increase. Mr. Lapham said he also had a problem with this position.

Mr. Sullivan said there will be a net savings to the Town by having this position. The second attorney's position has been eliminated. Mr. Sullivan said he receives no benefits from the Town.

Chairman Latimer said it was a long debate as to whether there was a need for two attorneys. It was decided that there was a need. Now there will be only one attorney.

Mr. Plouffe said this clearly was a management decision and he was not sure if it was done correctly. More might be heard on this at the public hearing. The Board of Selectmen has set a policy and whether the Committee agrees or not, it has been done.

Mr. LaBranche said it was his understanding that Mr. Sullivan was to work 32 hours a week. Mr. LaBranche said he believed the law says benefits have to be provided for anyone who works over 30 hours per week. Mr. Sullivan said he was offered benefits, but he already has his own insurance. Mr. LaBranche noted that might not be true for the next person to take the position. Chairman Latimer said the problem is down the road. Sooner or later this will become an issue.

Mr. Reniere said Attorney Gearreald presented a very compelling case for the second attorney a few years ago. Mr. Reniere said he felt Legal does need a second attorney.

Mr. Ladd said he did not think the Committee has enough information about the impact on Legal. He asked if a contract has been signed. Mr. Sullivan said yes. Mr. O'Loughlin asked for hard numbers on the savings. Mr. Sullivan agreed to provide them.

Chairman Latimer said that anything that comes under the heading of policy cannot be touched by the Committee. Committee members are free as private citizens to go before the Board of Selectmen to voice their concerns.

Mr. Waddell said there is a savings in the hard numbers and the Selectmen consulted with the Legal Department about this. As everyone knows, things change.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Kravitz, to table consideration of the Town Manager's budget until hard numbers are received and the Legal Department is present.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 1 no (Waddell). Motion passed.

#### Tax Collector

Chairman Latimer welcomed Donna Bennett, Tax Collector.

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$101,816 for Tax Collector.

Ms. Bennett said her budget increased by 7% due to the part-time deputy going to full-time, a 9% raise for the Tax Collector and an increase in the tax lien line item. Supplies and staff development decreased. When asked what the impact was from the part-time person going full-time, Ms. Bennett said this person would now get health and life insurance and enter the retirement system. Ms. Bennett said the 100 hours of overtime is for a part-time clerk who helps out during the very busy times. Chairman Latimer asked if this person is really needed. Ms. Bennett said yes and she is only used at tax time.

**Vote:** 9 yes, 4 no (LaBranche, Lapham, Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

#### Conservation Commission

Chairman Latimer welcomed Jay Diener, Chairman of the Conservation Commission.

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$32,740 for Conservation Commission.

Mr. Diener said there are two changes this year. The first involves the Conservation Coordinator. This is a part-time position. The number of hours are being reduced, but they

are asking for a 1.25% increase. They are also asking for a \$1.00 per hour increase for the secretary who does meeting minutes.

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

#### Town Clerk

Chairman Latimer welcomed Jane Cypher, Town Clerk.

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$216,236 for Town Clerk.

Ms. Cypher said her budget is down 7% for next year due to fewer elections. Changes are contractual raises for the deputy, bookkeeper, and two part-time clerks. There are also plans to hire a part-time file clerk who will work 16 hours per week.

Ms. Cypher discussed programs that have increased revenue to the Town.

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

Ms. Cypher said there is \$500 in her budget for folding and printing for the Town warrant. This could be taken out of the budget as it is now being done by the Town Manager's assistant.

**Moved** by Mr. Grzybowski, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to remove the \$500 line item for Town Meeting Expense from the Town Clerk budget.

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

**Moved** by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Grzybowski, to move forward to the Public Hearing the adjusted amount of \$247,104 for Election Registration.

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

#### Welfare

Chairman Latimer welcomed Michele Kingsley, Welfare Officer.

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$53,721 for Welfare.

Ms. Kingsley said her office is serving fewer people, but the cases are more complicated. The biggest need is for housing.

Chairman Latimer asked Ms. Kingsley to contact the agencies the Town supports in the Health and Human Services warrant article and tell them they may have to come in to see the Budget Committee when the warrant article is reviewed.

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

#### Heritage Commission

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the sub-total amount of \$1,200 for Heritage Commission.

Chairman Latimer said her recommendation would be to leave \$1 in because there is a warrant article to decommission this.

**Amendment made** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Waddell, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$1 for Heritage Commission.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 1 no (Reniere). Amendment passed.

#### Budget Committee

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$2,556 for Budget Committee.

Chairman Latimer noted that the 3% increase under payment for the Committee secretary was not a raise. It was because there are now more meetings. Chairman Latimer said if there is a default budget, this amount would have to come out of Supplies & Education. She said there is a need to request that the Board of Selectmen adjust the default budget and remove that 3%.

**Moved** by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to request that the Board of Selectmen reduce the default budget amount to the 2014 budget for Budget Committee.

**Vote:** 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Waddell). Motion passed.

Mr. Farrell asked if there was any logic in paying the Budget Committee secretary \$95 per meeting while the Board of Selectmen pay their secretary \$150 per meeting. Chairman Latimer said she felt the amount should be raised and asked the Committee to reconsider.

**Moved** by Mr. O'Loughlin, seconded by Mr. Farrell, to raise the amount per meeting to \$120 for the Budget Committee secretary.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 3 no (Lapham, Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

**Moved** by Mr. Gryzbowski, seconded by Mr. LaBranche, to move forward to the Public Hearing the amount of \$3,050 for Budget Committee.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 3 no (Lapham, Pierce, Znoj). Motion passed.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Latimer said the Minutes of October 21, 2014 as well as the Minutes of June 17, 2014 will be reviewed at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

**Moved** by Mr. Waddell, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary