

**HAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES**

Tuesday July 17, 2018

Selectmen's Meeting Room 7PM

Attendance

Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Chair
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair
Stephen LaBranche
Brian Lapham
Brian Warburton
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative
Frank De Luca, SAU90 Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District Representative

Absent

David Maurer (excused)

1. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Jones

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introduction of Members

Members introduced themselves.

4. Old Business

Mr Jones recommended that Old Business be addressed in subsequent meeting(s).

5. Special Town Meeting Warrant Article

In Attendance: Fred Welch, Town Manager

Mr Jones distributed the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article requesting \$4,937,868 to construct a temporary wastewater force main pipe, and 2 new force main pipes which are the necessary upgrades needed to replace 2 existing old wastewater force main pipes. The Legislature and the Governor have approved the Special Town Meeting solely for the Warrant Article bond issue vote. The Budget Committee is involved because of the debt but cannot make any changes, although changes can be proposed at the First Town Meeting Deliberative Session. Mr Warburton added that the Town is accessing State Revolving Fund money -- the

town's unassigned fund balance is not being used. Financing would be in the form of a 30-year Bond; a 60 % vote is needed.

Mr Welch confirmed that the cost to install the temporary pipe is approximately \$70,000 plus the rental of \$11,000/week. Once the warrant article is approved, the special permanent pipes (expected to last for 50 years) need to be ordered, so that work isn't likely to begin until October. Completion is expected in the spring, but weather conditions, severe heat, failure of compressed air testing or the welded connections could cause delays. So far this year they are pumping up to 3,500,000 gallons/day. The existing pipe is brittle, easily disintegrates, had hidden holes, and is not worth fixing, as the cost is \$100,000 each time it fails; it will be drained, cleaned, remain in place and be plugged. Trying to remove it would be overly expensive and negatively impact the environment.

Ms Barnes and Mr Warburton commended Mr Welch, Mr Jacobs, Ms Hale, and especially Hampton's State Senator for facilitating the cooperation between the town and the state in re the smooth process when submitting the finance assistance proposal and legislative approval of the special warrant article. The tax impact on a \$400,000 residence will be \$0.075 per/\$1,000 valuation. .

Mr Welch said that if the Special Warrant Article does not pass the state could issue a mandate for either a Bond or a tax rate levy. The state has worked very hard with the town to arrange the SRF to lower the costs, and obtain all of the permits. If another warrant article were required the costs would probably increase by \$1,000,000, and interest rates would also be higher. Additionally, the SRF loan might not be available. Eventually the pipes have to be replaced, In the event of another emergency break there is no room for more piping; in a major storm, sewage would back-up. If the pumping station were overwhelmed, it would take a year to restore and the beach would have to be closed. The town cannot permit that to happen. Ms Barnes agreed that the state has a mandate letter (already drafted) to issue if the warrant does not pass. She thought the warrant will pass by 60% especially because more interested people are in town during the summer, and noted this affected the whole town, not just the Beach. Mr Lapham said this had to keep moving because the town is fighting time.

Mr Jones thought the voters should be encouraged to pass the warrant article not out of fear, but as good sense for the Town of Hampton. Ms Barnes sees a very positive attitude from townspeople knowing the work has to be done. Mr Welch commented that the state has been very cooperative, withdrawing another order and working with the town to get this done. The NHDES and the Governor opened the doors for SRF financing at a favorable rate, and to access other agencies; more borrowing is not available.

Mr Jones commented that 18 months ago the warrant article with the same objectives of public safety, health, and sanitation failed. The threats from the state for non-action were offensive. The vote for the Special Warrant Article is in the best interests of the town.

Motion	Stephen LaBranche	to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article as submitted to the Municipal Budget Committee on July 17, 2018.
Second	Brian Lapham	Approved: Unanimous 8-0

Mr Jones summarized the schedule for the Special Town Meeting Warrant Article:

July 31, 2018 – BudComm. Public Hearing, Selectmen’s Meeting Room 7PM
August 6, 2018 – Deliberative Session, Selectmen’s Meeting Room, (public can amend)
August 24, 2018 – Town Meeting Voting, Marston School

6. Budget Committee Meetings

July 31, 2018 Public Hearing 7PM
August 6, 2018 – following the Deliberative Session

Regular Budget Committee Meetings will restart in September.

7. Adjournment

Motion	Stephen LaBranche	to adjourn the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee meeting of July 17, 2018 at 7:40PM
Second	Frank De Luca	Approved: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by
Barbara Kravitz, Recording Secretary,
Town of Hampton
Municipal Budget Committee