

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 15, 2005

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman  
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chairman  
Ginny Russell, Selectman Representative  
John Bridle, School Board Representative  
Pat Collins  
Maury Friedman  
Dick Hansen  
William Lally  
Jack Lessard  
Richard Nichols  
Michael Pierce  
Charlie Preston

Excused

Russ Bernstein  
Eileen Latimer

Not Present

John Kane, Precinct Representative

Others Present

James Barrington, Town Manager; Dawna Duhamel, Finance Director; William Wrenn, Chief, Hampton Police Department; Captain Jamie Sullivan, Operations, Hampton Police Department.

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

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Budget Committee.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Approval of Minutes – November 10, 2005**

**Moved** by Michael Plouffe, seconded by Dick Lessard, to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2005, as amended.

Changes made were as follows:

1. On page 3, paragraph 1, add “at the beach in season”.
2. On page 3, paragraph 6, add that Mr. Friedman said that the Committee should try to deal with the issue of transfer station hours and ask Mr. Hangen what the additional cost would be to have longer hours. Ms. Russell said that if money for this is in the operating budget it can be used anywhere. Even so, it is time that this Committee took a stand on this and if it is agreed that the station should be kept open longer, the Committee should find out what the cost would be and recommend adding that to the budget.

3. On page 3, paragraph 7, the dollar amount should be changed to \$3,400,000.

**Vote:** 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Collins, Lally).

Chairman Woolsey introduced William Wrenn, Chief, Hampton Police Department, and Captain Jamie Sullivan, Operations, Hampton Police Department.

### **Hampton Police Department**

**Moved** by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the following:

Hampton Police Department	\$3,780,652
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Chief Wrenn said that the department has worked very hard this year to stay within the budget. They have been very successful this year in working with the numbers given by the Town. It was possible to save a lot of money in the spring due to the rain and it was also a good summer.

In preparing the new budget, the increase comes to 4.5% which includes a 2.3% increase for motor vehicles. Utility costs are a big item this year.

Chairman Woolsey said that she was very impressed that when the default budget became a fact, the needs of the Police Department were addressed without recommending layoffs.

Mr. Nichols asked what the cost per man on the street was. He said he felt the overall number was high compared to Exeter. Chief Wrenn said the department usually looks at this as cost per population. He said Exeter has a fine service. He does not believe they have debt service. Hampton's operation is much larger and there are training costs associated with part-time people, etc.

### **Administration**

Mr. Pierce asked why training was scheduled on overtime. Chief Wrenn replied that their operation is 24 hours a day. Those officers who work nights will receive overtime if they come in during the day for training. This is in the union contract.

Mr. Friedman asked Chief Wrenn if he could obtain by next Tuesday something that would show the distribution of workload by month. Chief Wrenn said he would get this for the Committee.

### **Crime Control & Investigations**

Project 54 was discussed. Ms. Russell asked if new cruisers are put in will this equipment be installed in all vehicles. Captain Sullivan said yes and that the grant is for a lot of money. Chairman Woolsey asked if the equipment could be pulled out of trade-in vehicles and installed in new ones. Chief Wrenn said that this can be done. The question was asked if ATV's had been looked into as Project 54 is also involved in this. Captain Sullivan said yes it has been looked into and testing is being done.

Mr. Pierce noted the \$27,000 for the mounted patrol. He said he thought that was going to be removed from the budget. Chief Wrenn said that the horses still have to be stabled, etc. until the voters decided whether to keep the mounted patrol. Mr. Preston asked if the mounted patrol was going to be covered in a warrant article. Chief Wrenn said yes. It is important to see if the public thinks it is a viable program.

#### Traffic Control & Patrol

Mr. Preston asked about motorcycle patrolmen. Chief Wrenn said there are two programs for this – a new operator's class and annual recertification.

Mr. Pierce asked what the SRT representation fee was. Chief Wrenn said it is the Special Emergency Response Team. Mr. Pierce asked about promotional testing. Chief Wrenn said this deals with promotional exams.

Chairman Woolsey asked Chief Wrenn to explain testing programs. He said that everyone is put through a full testing process which includes, oral examination, polygraph, psychological testing, background and credit checks. There is also physical fitness testing.

Mr. Friedman asked for an explanation of vacation wages. Chief Wrenn said that money is budgeted for replacements for people on vacation.

Chairman Woolsey asked if traffic cones and barricades could be obtained from Public Works. Chief Wrenn said this is not feasible because sometime both departments need these items at the same time and this would be a problem. The department wants to make sure there are enough for its operation.

#### Support Services

Mr. Lally asked if part-timers were kept on longer this year because of the Seafood Festival. Chief Wrenn said yes and it saved money.

Mr. Friedman asked if communication specialists were on duty 24/7. Chief Wrenn said all shifts are covered except for one 8-hour shift which is done on an overtime basis. Mr. Friedman asked what would happen if one of these people is out sick or on vacation. Chief Wrenn said that the vacation wages item would cover this.

Mr. Pierce asked if everyone, as a Town, is trying to get the best deal on telephone service. Chief Wrenn said yes and this is continually being re-evaluated.

Mr. Pierce asked why there was \$9,000 last year for private details and only \$1 this year. Mr. Barrington said last year the Town went through this process, but the law had not changed at that time. Then the voters said no on the special detail revenue fund and that money was used for internal private details.

Police Station & Building

Mr. Hansen asked about increase in overtime wages. Chief Wrenn said it has to do with dealing with a larger building and having only one custodian. Forty hours is not always enough for the custodian's job to be completed.

Mr. Pierce asked if anyone else could use the training room. Chief Wrenn said it depends. If the Fire Department wanted to use it, it would be allowed and this could probably be extended to other departments. Mr. Pierce asked about the workout room. Chief Wrenn said that there are too many liabilities involved to let anyone else use it.

Mr. Nichols noted that the budget for electricity went from \$12,000 in 2003 to \$87,000 in this proposed budget. Captain Sullivan said that the new building is four times larger than the old one. Chief Wrenn said there is much more lighting on the outside also. These numbers are based on an estimate from Unutil. However, everything possible is being done to conserve energy.

Animal Control

**Moved** by Ms. Russell, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the following:

Animal Control	\$57,089
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Chairman Woolsey then thanked Chief Wrenn and Captain Sullivan for their fine presentation. She extended congratulations on behalf of the Committee to Chief Wrenn for being nominated by Governor Lynch for the position of Commissioner of the State Corrections Department.

Regarding the hours at the transfer station, Chairman Woolsey said that the taxpayers of the Town have the right to expect services, particularly one that is relatively inexpensive. The Committee will ask John Hangen for figures and hope the five selectmen can see fit to include this service. Ms. Russell replied that there must be 3 out of 5 votes by the selectmen to keep the transfer station open longer and those votes are not there.

Chairman Woolsey said that this Committee will put forth a memo to the selectmen when this operating budget is forwarded to them which will incorporate suggestions and guidance. She said the transfer station would be high on her list.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. The Fire Department budget will be addressed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Lessard **moved**, seconded by Mr. Hansen, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Hampton Budget Committee  
November 15, 2005  
Page 5

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary

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Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman