

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 3, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Mike Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin, Selectman Representative
Gary Kubik, Precinct Representative
Russ Bernstein
Pat Collins
Victor DeMarco
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Richard Nichols
Michael Pierce
Maury Friedman
Norman Silberdick

Excused

Dick Hansen

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Woolsey introduced the members of the Committee.

Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2007

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2007.

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

Chairman Woolsey said that the legal notices for public hearings for the Town and School on January 10th and the Precinct on February 19th have been posted in the *Hampton Union*.

Chairman Woolsey recognized Jack Lessard for his work supplying toys to needy children.

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Fred Welch, Town Manager, and Hank Lipe, Chief, Hampton Fire Department.

Chairman Woolsey said the purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on the two bonds proposed by the Board of Selectmen for two physical plants for the Fire Department. She said that if the Budget Committee chooses not to recommend, the bond is dead. The decision of this Committee is critical.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Griffin, that the article for the beach fire station be forwarded to the Public Hearing. This is a bond in the amount of \$2,211,100.

Mr. Welch said that if this bond passes, the first interest payment of \$195,314 would not occur until 2009. The tax impact for 2009 would be 8.1 cents per \$1,000 evaluation.

Mr. Nichols questioned the planning of parking spaces. Chairman Woolsey said she felt this proposal needs work by both the Board of Selectmen and the Precinct Commissioners regarding land use, parking spaces, etc.

Chief Lipe said the parking spaces are more compact. Mr. Welch said these more compact spaces comply with the parking code.

Chief Lipe said there is always the question of parking vs. public safety. This is a challenge. There are not a lot of places to put a fire station at the beach and wherever it is, there will be a traffic challenge. The proposed location is within the flow.

Chairman Woolsey said this could not be resolved at this meeting. This proposal needs more work.

VOTE: 0 yes, 13 no. Motion failed by unanimous vote.

The uptown Fire Station on Winnacunnet Road was then discussed.

Chief Lipe gave a presentation showing a history of the Fire Department beginning in 1905.

Chief Lipe then gave a comparison to several other towns (Stratham, Dover, Portsmouth) showing improved stations and their cost.

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Griffin, that the article for the uptown Fire Station be forwarded to the Public Hearing. This is a bond in the amount of \$4,576,250.

Chief Lipe then presented the plan for the new uptown station. He said community risk was an issue for both stations. They are not sprinkled. There are flammable liquids within the stations. There is a risk to employees due to exhaust emissions. More space is needed to avoid equipment damage. The new uptown station will meet standards of

functionality. There will be an added bay space. If the beach station floods out there will be room for their personnel and equipment.

This proposed building will also be able to provide space to the Building Department, Planning Department and the Conservation Commission. Fire Prevention will also be included. This will be a full operations center and will provide a place for continuity in case of disaster. There will also be decontamination capabilities for personnel and equipment in this new facility.

Chairman Woolsey asked if there was a possibility of making this the first “green” building in Hampton. Mr. Welch said that this would add approximately \$800,000 to the cost.

Various heating systems such as radiant heat were discussed. Chairman Woolsey asked, depending on how the vote goes, if a figure could be obtained for the heating only. Chief Lipe said he would work on obtaining a figure by the time of the Public Hearing.

Chairman Woolsey said she was concerned about not looking to the future. She said if this would save on operating costs, she would like to see figures. It might not be possible to do other items, but heating is an important issue.

Mr. Friedman said that he was concerned about the cost of operating the new building. He said he would like to know the difference between the costs for a “green” building vs. “non-green”. Mr. Welch said this is impossible to predict because we cannot know what the future cost of energy will be .

Chairman Woolsey asked about the removal of the existing station. Chief Lipe said it would be done in such a way that the station would never have to close.

Mr. Welch said that the impact of this proposal, if passed, would be 16 cents per \$1,000 evaluation and the amount would descend each year.

Mr. Nichols said he felt this station needs to be built, but this proposed building is just too big and too expensive. In 2006 the public turned down a proposal for \$1.7 million. He said he did not believe this would pass.

Mr. Silberdick said he felt this proposal came too late. There were no alternate plans to assess. This should be done in stages and the Budget Committee needs to be involved along the way.

Mr. DeMarco said he would have liked to have had this information much earlier in the year.

Mr. Griffin said that he would like to see a lower price, but people seem to forget other important issues such as getting a new Town Manager have happened this year. Mr. Griffin said he thought this proposal should go to the Public Hearing. Then if it does not pass, the Town could look at doing something for less money or in phases.

Mr. Friedman said he felt the architects should have met with the Committee. The Community Facilities Plan has never been updated. There is no master plan. Mr. Friedman discussed the duplicate facilities for training, fitness, and communications that are in the Police Station and also planned for this new fire facility.

Ms. Latimer said that this proposed facility is more than the others in Dover, etc. and the prices are not so different. It is important to move forward. Ms. Latimer said this is a good plan and solves a lot of the Town's problems.

VOTE: 8 yes, 5 no (Collins, Friedman, Nichols, Pierce, Silberdick). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey said the next meeting would be on Tuesday, January 8th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. At this meeting the Special Money Articles will be reviewed.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman

