

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 3, 2009

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Jerry Znoj, Selectman Representative
Norman Silberdick, School Board Representative
Pat Collins
Victor DeMarco
Dick Hansen
Brian Lapham
Jack Lessard
Michael Pierce
Richard Reniere
Larry Stuker
Peter Traynor

Excused

Eileen Latimer

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.

Mr. Znoj said he would like to say a few words about how the Board of Selectmen made their decisions on the budget. He said there has been a history of default budgets over the past few years. Warrant Articles have also been voted down. This is a message from the taxpayers. Overtime is one of the biggest complaints. The Selectmen considered the impact of overtime and spiking charges which have been deferred but have not gone away. Spiking charges can significantly impact the budget. The other thing is the NH biannual budget which could affect state guidelines and education funding. There are also the articles for the fire stations, capital reserve funds and charities on the horizon. The Selectmen wanted to lay a reasonable budget before the public. After careful review, the Selectmen came up with a budget that was a \$500,000 reduction from 2009. \$300,000 of this was overtime. This passed by a 5-0 vote. There is a healthy fund balance and there will be a 3% reduction in overall Town wages.

Chairman Woolsey asked Mr. Pierce to comment on his remarks about the cemetery truck at the last meeting. Mr. Pierce said the voters have rejected the Budget Committee's budget five out of the last six times. Foreclosures are up. There is higher call for welfare assistance. Mr. Pierce said this budget must be looked at very closely.

Chairman Woolsey said that if anyone on this Committee has concerns about anything, the appropriate thing to do is to come to the Committee and ask what the Committee wants to do.

Welfare

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$103,000.

Amendment made by Mr. Lapham, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to add \$20,000 back into the Welfare budget.

Mr. Pierce said he felt the original number is fine.

Moved by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move the question.

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

Chairman Woolsey then asked for a vote on the amendment.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Reniere). Amendment passed.

Chairman Woolsey then asked for a vote on the amended main motion to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$123,000 for Welfare.

Vote: 11 yes, 2 no (Lapham, Reniere). Motion passed.

Mosquito Control

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$60,000 for Mosquito Control.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Reniere, Silberdick). Motion passed.

Miscellaneous Committees

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$500 for Miscellaneous Committees.

Chairman Woolsey said this was for the new Waste and Recycling Education Committee.

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

Town Office Building

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$118,558 for Town Office Building.

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

Municipal Insurance

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Lapham, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,278,758 for Municipal Insurance.

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

Patriotic Purposes and Town Beautification

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Lessard, to move forward to the public hearing the amounts of \$1,650 for Patriotic Purposes and \$500 for Town Beautification.

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

Conservation

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,600 for Conservation.

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

Municipal Debt Service

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Collins, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,246,216 for Municipal Debt Service.

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

Police Department

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Police Chief Jamie Sullivan and Deputy Chief Richard Sawyer.

Chief Sullivan said the budget the department submitted was a \$150,000 reduction from last year. The Board of Selectmen then reduced it by another \$169,000. He said there

would be an impact due to these reductions. The 33% reduction in overtime will have an impact on the department's ability to provide services. Chief Sullivan said they will be as effective as they can be with the resources they will have.

Chief Sullivan said his people have been doing an excellent job and have had no salary increases for four years. This takes a toll on them and their families.

Training is another issue. Training is an insurance policy. If overtime is reduced, training will be impacted. The mounted patrol has also been removed. The patrol is an emotional issue and has been a part of Hampton's history.

Chairman Woolsey said training is critical and there is an obligation to protect all citizens.

Chairman Woolsey asked how many special part-time officers there were. Chief Sullivan replied that this last summer there were 36. They would like to have 50 next year.

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Stuker, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,416,474 for Police Department.

Amendment made by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to restore \$169,256 to the Police Department budget to reach the Manager's recommendation of \$3,585,730.

Mr. Collins said he was in agreement with this amendment. The matter must be looked at realistically.

Mr. Reniere asked what the \$169,000 included. Chief Sullivan said it included overtime, mounted patrol and fuel costs.

Chairman Woolsey asked if five horses were needed. Chief Sullivan replied that they only need the two that they now have.

Mr. Traynor said the department had done a wonderful job with what they have had, but that has been bare bones. He said he is for the Manager's recommendation.

Mr. Hansen said the bottom line is still what is affordable to the people of Hampton.

Mr. DeMarco said his main concern was training. It is the most essential thing you can do for police officers. Mr. DeMarco said he supported the amendment.

Mr. DeMarco asked for the default budget figure. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said that figure is not yet available. Mr. DeMarco said knowledge of this figure is essential when setting the budget.

Mr. Lessard said he felt this was a good budget and he was in favor of getting the mounted patrol back.

Mr. Silberdick said he felt the Selectmen made some very hard decisions and did come up with a good budget. He said the Budget Committee is not primarily conservative and is pro-spending. Hard choices are being faced and if money is added, the taxpayers will reject the budget.

Mr. Plouffe said the Committee is just starting to build this budget. The default figure is not available. Mr. Plouffe said he would support the amendment for now until the public hearing. He said there may be a number in the middle that is better but that can't be decided at this meeting.

Chairman Woolsey said most of the people in the Town feel safe yet have no understanding of the activity that takes place particularly at the beach, i.e., drugs, gangs, etc. The absolute best deterrent to these things is "presence".

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the amendment to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,585,730 for the Police Department.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Hansen, Pierce, Silberdick, Znoj). Amendment passed.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the amended main motion to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,585,730 for the Police Department.

Vote: 9 yes, 4 no (Hansen, Pierce, Silberdick, Znoj). Motion passed.

Animal Control

Moved by Mr. Znoj, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$56,591 for Animal Control.

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

The rolling stock was discussed.

Chairman Woolsey thanked Chief Sullivan and Deputy Chief Sawyer.

Approval of Minutes of October 29, 2009

Moved by Mr. Stuker, seconded by Mr. Traynor, to approve the Minutes of October 29, 2009.

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Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Collins, Silberdick). Motion passed.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at which time Public Works 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.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman