

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 19, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

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

Excused

Russ Bernstein

Unexcused

Pat Collins

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.

Chairman Woolsey said that this meeting was a work session, public hearing and final review for the Hampton Beach Village Precinct. Chairman Woolsey said the Precinct Annual Meeting would be held on March 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the Beach Fire Station.

Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2008

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2008.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Hansen, Kubik). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey introduced Gary Kubik, Precinct Commissioner, John Kane, Precinct Marketing Director, and John Gebhart, Precinct Treasurer.

OPERATING BUDGET

The total proposed budget for 2008 is \$550,335 vs. the 2007 budget of \$532,125.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Moved by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$178,535 for General Government.

Executive - \$4,000
Same as last year.

Financial Administration - \$12,000
Increase due to hiring of new bookkeeper and auditor.

Legal Expense - \$7,500
These funds are set aside to pay the Precinct Attorney for attending the annual meeting and for any other matter that may come up.

Garage Maintenance - \$7,500
Most of the work has been done so this amount has been decreased from last year.

Garage Attendant - \$15,000
An additional attendant was hired this year.

Playground - \$8,000

Insurance - \$15,000
The Precinct is required to carry a \$2 million liability policy.

Other General Government-\$108,035

Precinct Hall - \$1,500
New tables and chairs will be purchased for the Precinct Hall.

At this time Precinct Commissioner Chuck Rage joined the meeting.

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Pierce, to reduce the amount for General Government to \$176,535.

Mr. Kane said that the \$2,000 is very important and should be retained in the budget.

The motion was withdrawn.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

CULTURE & RECREATION

Moved by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend to the Public Hearing the amount of \$371,800.

Advertising - \$143,800

This is the same as last year.

Entertainment - \$83,000

Increase due to higher cost for bands.

Idol Competition - \$7,000

This is the same as last year.

Children's Week - \$6,000

This is the same as last year.

Fireworks - \$50,500

This year there will be 14 shoots vs. 13 last year.

Sand Sculptures - \$65,000

Increase is due to higher fees for sand delivery, fuel, housing, etc.

Mr. Rage said that there are a lot of volunteers for this event and it makes a real difference.

Chairman Woolsey asked how much money the sand sculpture event brings in. Mr. Kane said this event is the season kickoff and many visitors book for it. This event is picked up by a lot of media. Chairman Woolsey asked about a date. Mr. Kane said the event is scheduled for June 19, 20 and 21.

Volleyball Competition-\$2,500

Various businesses will form teams to compete in this event.

HBVD Ambassadors-\$7,000

The Ambassadors are required by the State of New Hampshire to oversee that the entertainment goes smoothly and to take care of parking and busses.

Mr. Silberdick said he was concerned that the revenues are going down. Mr. Kane said that they were counting on less interest on their funds. Mr. Silberdick asked if it is possible to measure what is coming back from advertising. Mr. Kane said that the website is one of the busiest in New Hampshire. Hotel owners and real estate people say many people are coming from Albany, Canada, etc. Canada accounted for 30% of the market last year.

Mr. Nichols asked what revenue number was used to set the tax rate. Chairman Woolsey said that would be on the form taken to DRA. Chairman Woolsey said the voters at the Deliberative Session will want to know what was on the actual MS34-reserved and unreserved fund balances.

Mr. Pierce asked what the bond payment in General Government was for. Mr. Kane replied that it is to pay for part of the lighting infrastructure.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

REVENUES

Moved by Mr. Kubik, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to recommend the estimated revenues of \$87,996 to the Public Hearing.

There was some discussion on the various accounts held by the Precinct.

Ms. Latimer asked about "Other Income". Mr. Kane said most of that is derived from the Sand Sculpture event.

Mr. DeMarco asked if the Chamber gave back anything on the Seafood Festival. Mr. Kane said they did not. The Seafood Festival is the Chamber's main money maker.

Moved by Mr. Lessard, seconded by Mr. Hansen, to move the question.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Woolsey asked for a vote on the main motion.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

The work session was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Hearing began at 8:28 p.m.

There were no comments from the audience. Chairman Woolsey asked if all Committee members were comfortable with the figures going to the Deliberative Session of the Precinct on March 28. All agreed that they were.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:30 p.m.

FINAL REVIEW

Chairman Woolsey asked the Committee members whether any changes were to be made to the figures to be presented to the Public Hearing. There being no changes offered, the final review was closed.

Chairman Woolsey said she and Mr. Pierce had spoken earlier regarding the contracts that are up for vote on March 11th. Mr. Pierce asked that an opinion be sought from the Local Government Center regarding public knowledge of the negotiated contracts.

Mr. Pierce said the voters have a right to know on what they are spending \$1.7 million. Mr. Pierce said he thought the contracts should be posted so that the taxpayers can understand.

Mr. Nichols said that the issue is that the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen have taken the position that the contracts are not for public viewing.

Moved by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. DeMarco, to have the Chairman seek clarification from the Local Government Center as to the date when newly ratified CBA's can be presented to the public under RSA 91.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

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
February 19, 2008
Page 6

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman