

HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 4, 2008

Budget Committee Members Present

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman
Michael Plouffe, Vice-Chairman
Richard Nichols, Selectman Representative
Pat Collins
Victor DeMarco
Dick Hansen
Eileen Latimer
Jack Lessard
Michael Pierce
Norman Silberdick (7:30 p.m.)
Larry Stuker
Peter Traynor

Excused

Maury Friedman

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 – October 21, 2008

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Stuker, to approve the Minutes of October 21, 2008, as amended.

The following amendment was made: On page 3, third paragraph, insert “Mr. DeMarco said he would like to see what the contributions and revenues were. Chairman Woolsey requested Ms. Cooper to provide documentation for library gifts and revenues for 2008”.

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Hansen). Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – October 30, 2008

Moved by Mr. Plouffe, seconded by Mr. Stuker, to approve the Minutes of October 30, 2008.

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions (Collins, Hansen, Latimer, Stuker). Motion passed.

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Tracy Emerick, Chairman of the Planning Board and Jamie Steffen, Town Planner. She asked Mr. Emerick for an explanation on impact fees.

Mr. Emerick said work was done on starting impact fees in 2003 and an ordinance was put through in 2004. Builders have to pay impact fees on a per unit basis. This is a fixed amount. Since 2004, the impact fees have been for education. \$436,411 has been collected and out of that \$77,000 went to Winnacunnet High School. There are also monies for the Hampton School District. Funds have to be used within six years. Mike Schwotzer, Town Finance Officer, said the impact fees monies reside in an account and when a request is made that meets all requirements, money can be disbursed. Mr. Schwotzer said that currently the Town is looking at using funds for public safety and infrastructure.

Chairman Woolsey asked if it would be necessary to go back for any more warrant articles. Mr. Emerick said it would not. Ms. Latimer asked if there would be two entities or one if public safety is added. Mr. Emerick said there would be one entity but monies have to be kept separately. Mr. Schwotzer said it is the job of the Planning Board to make sure monies are spent correctly.

Planning Board

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$34,485 for the Planning Board.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Office of Planning

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$89,020 for the Office of Planning.

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

Zoning Board

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$9,811 for the Zoning Board.

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

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Joyce Sheehan, Tax Collector.

Tax Collector

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$98,283 for Tax Collector's Office.

Mr. Sheehan said this budget is a 2.19% increase over last year.

Mr. Stuker asked about \$425 for the Tax Collectors Association. Ms. Sheehan said this amount includes membership fees and fees for classes that are required by law.

Mr. Stuker asked about \$11,340 for Support & License Agreement. Ms. Sheehan explained that this is for computer software. The cost for this increased by \$683 this year. This software is absolutely essential.

Mr. Silberdick asked about increase in part-time wages. Ms. Sheehan said this was for the part-time deputies and has been increased to come up to code with same type cities.

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

Chairman Woolsey welcomed Dyanna Martin, Recreation & Parks Director.

Parking Administration

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$59,993 for Parking Administration.

Vote: 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (DeMarco). Motion passed.

Recreation & Parks

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$194,717 for Recreation & Parks.

Ms. Martin said this budget is basically the same as the past few years. There have been increases in utilities.

Emergency Management - Lifeguards

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$23,590 for Emergency Management - Lifeguards.

Ms. Martin said this was for Town beaches.

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

Emergency Management – Civil Defense, Tree Planning & Removal and Hydrants

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$3,000 for Civil Defense, the amount of \$10,000 for Tree Planning & Removal and the amount of \$407,000 for hydrants.

Mr. Stuker asked if the Town couldn't determine the rates with Aquarian through right of way laws. Mr. Fred Welch, Town Manager, said it could not be done in this Town.

Ms. Latimer said she thought it was premature to deal with the \$407,000 for hydrants until results come from the Public Utilities Commission.

Vote: 8 yes, 4 no (Latimer, Pierce, Silberdick, Traynor). Motion passed.

Mosquito Control

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

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

Patriotic Purposes

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$1,650 for Patriotic Purposes..

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

Town Beautification

Moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Plouffe, to move forward to the public hearing the amount of \$500 for Town Beautification.

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

Mr. DeMarco asked if it would be possible to put a figure in the budget for a lobbyist. Mr. Welch said in New Hampshire you have to be licensed to lobby. You would also have to piggyback with another entity because of the cost.

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Library

Chairman Woolsey read a letter from Amanda Reynolds Cooper, Director of the Lane Memorial Library. In the letter Ms. Cooper provided, as requested by the Budget Committee, documentation of library gifts and revenue generated in 2008 as well as details regarding the funds carried forward from 2007 and expended in 2008.

It was decided that at the next meeting, after review of the Police Department, the Committee would revisit the Library, Legal and Cemeteries.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

Chairman Woolsey said that even though this is a bad time for our economy, a budget still must be set up that guarantees adequate services to the Town.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary

Mary-Louise Woolsey, Chairman