

BUDGET COMMITTEE
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2022

Chairman Harake called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Chairman leads the pledge of allegiance.

Introduction of Members (Roll Call) 6:01 PM

Katherine Harake, Chairman

Joyce Skaperdas, Vice Chair

Larry Quinn

Brian Warburton

Mike Plouffe

Chuck Rage

Ginny Bridle-Russell

Matt Saunders

Richie Sawyer

Absent: Bob Ladd

Approval of minutes 7:02 PM

Ms. Sawyer MOTIONED to approve the January 13th minutes. SECONDED by Mr. Warburton. Vote: 7-0-1. Abstained: Mr. Rage.

Comments From Public:

I. SAU 90 Budget Warrant Articles

Article 1: No public comment.

Article 2: No public comment.

Article 3: Ms. Harake notes that this article was approved by the budget committee. No public comment.

Article 4: No public comment.

Article 5: No public comment.

II. Town of Hampton Budget and Warrant Articles

Ms. Harake notes that that is a new warrant article that was not on the agenda in the prior meeting, **Article 36**, and she asks that the committee take a look at it now.

Mr. Sawyer requests that the article be read allowed to the public.

Article 36: Winnacunnet road mill and overlay. \$3 million from the UFB to mill and overlay Winnacunnet Road in its entirety from Lafayette road to Ocean Blvd. This was not recommended by the Board of Selectmen 4-1-0.

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED for the municipal budget committee to not recommend Article

36. SECONDED by Mr. Warburton.

Ms. Bridle-Russell asks where the sum of \$300,000 came from. Ms. Harake and Mr. Sawyer note that the amount is actually \$3 million. Mr. Sullivan states that they are unaware of how the number was decided. It was the number they had in their warrant article.

Mr. Sullivan recommends that the committee make a decision on whether they recommend this article or not, then put it back in the pile and allow the public to speak when we get to this article later in the meeting. He notes that they would be happy to answer any questions, but it is a private petition and that means it will go on as written whether the budget committee recommends it to the public or not.

Ms. Harake asks for clarification of the motion and then asks for a vote.

Vote: 7-0-1 Abstained: Ms. Harake.

Ms. Harake notes that two articles have been removed since the last meeting, the library fire protection article and the part-time police academy article.

Article 9: Bond of \$7,020,000 to repurpose High Street. Recommended by both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee. No Public Comment.

Article 10: \$15,700,000 for the construction and design of the wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Sawyer notes that this is phase 2 of the project.

Ms. Harake notes that this was recommended by the budget committee.

No public comment.

Article 11: \$30,206,241 Town Budget. Approved by the budget committee.

Mr. Sawyer highlights the default budget of \$30,184,194, which will result if the article is defeated.

No public comment.

Article 12: in regard to the collective bargaining agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association Sargeants. Estimated increases until 2025. This was approved by the budget committee: 8-0-1. No public comment.

Article 13: Cost items in the bargaining agreement between the Board of Selectmen and the Hampton Police Association Patrolmen. 8-0-1 recommended by the budget committee. No public comment.

Article 14: \$148,960 for two full-time patrolmen for the Hampton police department. Recommended by the budget committee. No public comment.

Article 15: Two additional laborers for the Hampton Department of Public Works. This was supported by the budget committee 9-0-0. No public comment.

Article 16: \$309,573 for the four additional full-time firefighters. Recommended by the budget committee. No public comment.

Article 17: Regarding the park's foreman position. No public comment.

Article 18: Regarding expanding the conservation coordinator position from part-time to full-time. No public comment.

Article 19: \$825,000 to be raised for a fire engine and equipment. Recommended by the budget committee.

Ms. Caregas: I'll just mention that this has zero impact.

No public comment.

Article 20: Improvements to the streets for \$503,660. Approved by the budget committee. No public comment.

Article 21: Additional space for the Parks and Receptions Department. No public comment.

Article 22: Vehicle purchases for the Department of Public Works. No public comment.

Article 23: An additional \$300,000 to be added to the road improvement capital reserve fund. No public comment.

Article 24: The purchase of 22 acres of land in Hampton through the conservation commission. No public comment.

Article 25: Regarding a contingency fund. Not recommended: 5-4-0. No public comment.

Article 26: Regarding the number of Human Service Agencies that we give money to. No public comment.

Article 27: Tuck building maintenance and repair and related investments in that area. No public comment.

Article 28: Hampton police station security and access security control systems. No public comment.

Article 29: The police forfeiture fund.

Mr. Sawyer notes that this is the funds that the police department obtains through their investigations seized through illegal activities and the money is forfeited to the police department for their use. This just gives an authorization for them to expend that money.

No public comment.

Article 30: \$50,000 for cemetery maintenance. No public comment.

Article 31: Pedestrian and traffic safety capital reserved fund. No public comment.

Article 32: Firefighters turn-out gear and personal protective equipment. No public comment.

Article 33: Experience Hampton for the Christmas Parade. No public comment,

Article 34: \$1000 for CASA volunteers. No public comment.

Article 35: To add St. Vincent de Paul to the humanitarian services list. No public comment.

Article 36: Ms. Harake notes that this is the private petition they voted on at the beginning of the meeting.

Ms. Skaperdas asks for an explanation of “No tax impact for 2022” for the public and asks if this means there will be a future tax impact. It is explained that there will be no future tax impact. It will come from money that people have already been taxed on, so the phrase “no fiscal impact” can be seen as untrue. There will be no additional tax.

Ms. Skaperdas asks that it be changed to ensure anyone reading through this article can feel confident that there will be no future impact. It will be changed to say “No future fiscal impact”.

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to close the public hearing and bring it back to the budget committee for further discussion or reconsiderations. SECONDED by Ms. Bridle-Russell. Vote: 8-0-0.

New Business:

Ms. Skaperdas: After some consideration, I have decided to run for a second seat for the budget committee.

Ms. Harake: Next meeting will be the deliberative session. I would like to ask the budget committee to think if there are any issues or topics that came up this year that we could have a special meeting on after the deliberative session.

Adjournment 7:28 PM

Mr. Sawyer MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 PM. Seconded by Mr. Warburton. Vote: 8-0-0.