

# Hampton Municipal Budget Committee

## Public Hearing

### DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
Academy Auditorium 7 PM

#### **Attendance**

Brian Warburton, Chair  
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair  
Stephen LaBranche  
Steven Henderson  
Rusty Bridle, Selectman Representative  
Virginia Bridle-Russell, SAU90 Representative (excused)  
David Maurer

#### **Absent)**

Joyce Skaperdas  
Robert Ladd, Hampton Village Beach District Representative

#### **1. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Warburton**

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance by Ms Murphy**

#### **3. Introduction of Members**

Mr Warburton congratulated Ms Bridle-Russell on 25 years of public service.

#### **4. Introduction and Instructions**

Mr Warburton explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to review the Warrant Articles, obtain feedback from the public, and discuss any suggested amendments which the Committee Members deem worthy of consideration. The Town of Hampton FY2020 Operating Budget is presented in the amount of \$28,322,336. If the voters do not pass this budget, the Default Budget in the amount of \$28,335,036 will prevail. The public will have the opportunity to speak on each warrant article. Questions and comments must be addressed to the Chair who will determine the person(s) to respond.

*[Secretary's notation: Mr Warburton read the full text of each town or schools warrant article. The descriptions of the Warrant Articles below are for identification purposes. The full text of Town Warrant Articles can be found on the Town of Hampton Website or obtained from the Finance Director. The full text of the SAU 90 warrant articles can be obtained from the Superintendent's Office. See also Budget Committee Minutes of December 2019 and January 2020.]*

## **5. Hampton School District/SAU 90 Warrant Articles**

Attending: Kathleen Murphy, Superintendent, Keith Lessard, Facilities Director.

### Warrant Article #1 SAU 90 FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget

The FY 2020-2021 Operating Budget is presented in the sum of \$23,789,112. If the voters do not approve this amount, the Default Budget in the amount of \$ 23,703,302 will prevail.

Recommended by the School Board (5-0-0). Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee 8-0-0

### Warrant Article #2 Collective Bargaining

The School Board and the Seacoast Educational Association reached agreement on contracts from 2020-21 through 2023-2034 with \$433,336 the amount for 2020-21. Recommended by the School Board (4-0-1). Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee (7-0-1)

### Warrant Article #3 Long term maintenance program for Marston and Centre Schools

This is the continuation of the long term maintenance program for the Marston and Centre Schools in the sum of \$300,000 for FY2020-2021. Recommended by the School Board (5-0-0). Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee (8-0-0)

### Warrant Article #4 Sacred Heart School

To provide child benefit services for students who live in Hampton and attend Sacred Heart School in the sum of \$43,975. Recommended by the School Board (5-0-0). Recommended by the Municipal Budget Committee (8-0-0).

## **6. FY2020 Hampton Town Warrant Articles**

Attending: Fred Welch, Town Manager, Jamie Sullivan: Deputy Town Manager, Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director, Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney; Mary Louise Woolsey, Regina Barnes, Jim Waddell, Selectmen; Chris Jacobs, DPW Director, Jennifer Hale, Deputy DPW Director; Jamie Ayotte, Fire Chief; Richard Sawyer, Police Chief,  
Present: Timothy "Citizen" Jones, Michael Pierce.

Mr Warburton explained that the Budget Committee only considers money articles.

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**Articles Read by Mr Warburton: No Comments from the Public**

Warrant Article #13 Asset Management Program \$30,000

Warrant Article #18 Road Improvements for Winnacunnet Road and High Street. \$435,000.

Warrant Article #26 Human Services Agencies \$183,039

Warrant Article #27 Playground Equipment \$126,700

Warrant Article #29 Improving radio infrastructure and town communications systems 116,300

Warrant Article #30 Criminal Justice Forfeiture Programs \$90,000 (withdrawal)

Warrant Article #33 FEMA Grant Assistance Program \$50,000

Warrant Article #34 Transfer Station Improvement Feasibility Study \$50,000

Warrant Article #35 Tree Removal from High Street Cemetery \$50,000

Warrant Article #36 New Vehicle for Fire Prevention Officer \$40,000

Warrant Article #37 Replacing (part of) Town Office second floor heating system \$32,000

Warrant Article #38 Firefighter Turn Out Gear \$27,500

Warrant Article #39 Pick up Truck for Building Department \$24,599

Warrant Article #40 Household Hazardous Waste Collection \$20,000

Warrant Article #41 Hampton Conservation Commission Fund Add \$20,000

Warrant Article #44 Christmas Parades \$3,000

Warrant Article #45 Cemetery Markers for Veterans Graves \$6,500

Warrant Article #46 Step Up Parents \$500

Mr Pierce requested that the public be provided with budget/warrant information more in advance than it was this year. Ms Woolsey applauded the Budget Committee for this year's process, and expressed appreciation to Mr Welch and others for maintaining management's focus. According to Ms Woolsey, 16 warrants had no tax impact.

## **Warrant Articles Read By Mr Warburton Having Comments**

### **Warrant Article #10 Master Plan Initiative**

Mr Bachand said the Steering Committee had spent many months doing comparable research to arrive at the estimated \$125,000 cost for a fully comprehensible and inclusive Master Plan. A Survey, which can be found via the Town Website, had also been developed to seek ideas and comments from residents, businesses, visitors, and town employees about what they want Hampton to become in the future. He encouraged the public to take part in the survey, and to vote "Yes" on this Warrant Article.

Ann Carnaby did not want to see a master plan set on a shelf collecting dust. The plan should be developed with citizen input. Physically, it needed to be smaller in size and serve as a road map and guide for how the town should grow in the next 15 years. For example the town is wrestling with roads and infrastructure issues. She urged the public to participate in the Survey to provide vital information, and to vote "Yes" on the Ballot.

Mr Jones asked what would happen if the work exceeded \$125,000, and wondered if the work would then stop. Mr Bachand said the pricing was clear in the rfp and he was confident that the cost to Hampton would not exceed \$125,000; the Consultant has to abide by the contract. He agreed with Mr Jones that there would be a fixed-rate contract.

### **Warrant Article #15 – Operating Budget.**

The FY2020 Operating Budget was presented as \$28,322,336. If this failed, the Default Budget would be \$28,335,036. In response to Mr Jones, Ms Pulliam said the NHMA line is \$19,044. Mr Jones felt that the main benefit for the town was access to the free NHMA seminars which is under the Selectmen's control. The Budget Committee had arranged useful seminars. If this will no longer be done he felt the appropriation should be eliminated. NHMA also functions as the lobbyist for the Towns which Mr Jones thought "reprehensible" as legislators do this. Mr Warburton would take this under advisement.

### **Warrant Articles #16 and 17 Fire Department Collective Bargaining**

Hampton Professional Firefighters Association: 2020- 2023 Agreement; \$87,623 as the estimated increase for FY2020.

Hampton Fire Department Supervisory Association: 2020-2023 Agreement; with \$31,742 as the estimated increase for FY2020.

Warrant Article #19 - 3 and ½ year contract(s) with various entities for collection, transport, and disposal of solid waste, recyclables, and construction demolition waste to cover estimated increases in contract costs with \$425,127 as the FY2020 increase. (Unassigned Fund Balance). In response to Mr Jones, Mr Jacobs noted the multiple contracts expire on different dates; estimated costs are based on trash service averages. In response to Mr Jones, Mr Welch said this is a warrant article because an analysis is done before making contracts. Mr Jones thought that next year they could be in default.

Warrant Article #20 Replacing Locke Road clay sewer lines and closed drainage systems, followed by paving of the entire roadway. \$850,000

In response to Mr Pierce, Mr Welch said all pipes replaced will be in the public right-of-way because the town can't go over the property line. In response to Mr Jones about sidewalks, Ms Hale said they look at the entire entity.

Warrant Article #21 Improvement to Streets, and repairs to Town parking Lots and parking areas. \$486,231. In response to Mr Jones, Mr Jacobs said there is a priority list of streets needing work that is in the CIP. Ms Hale said Mace Road is not included.

Warrant Article #22 (2) 3 ton trucks with plows; (1) utility hot box, (1) 926 Caterpillar Loader. \$303,000. Mr Pierce wanted to know what the condition of the Unassigned Fund Balance would be if all withdrawals passed.

Warrant Article #23 Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Add \$300,000.

Ms Woolsey commented that most complaints are about roads so this should be the focus.

Warrant Article #24 Moving forward solutions for flooding with flood control design for protection of Ashworth Avenue and surrounding streets, areas surrounding Meadow Pond, and the Hampton Seabrook Estuary and contributing waterways. \$200,000. Mr Jones was concerned the solutions were unspecified, and vaguely to be taken on trust. Ms Hale said studying the region is a first step in addressing flooding and sea level rise problems so the town can be in a position to access money that may be available for future funding and/or matching grants. Mr Jones thought it important to show specificity and deal with scientifically managed projects. Ms Carnaby explained that the Master Plan had been awarded a \$35,000 grant from NHDES to address coastal/flooding issues. This work would be coordinated with the design engineers to develop a plan. Mr Pierce said the seawall should be specified in the warrant article.

Warrant Article #25 Reconstruction of High Street and Mill Road Intersection. \$195,000. Mr Pierce thought the language ambiguous in re ADA compliant reconstruction within the right-of-way, and setting up the basis for signal lights. Ms Hale said the scope of reconstruction includes ADA accessibility via 5-foot sidewalks, noting that not all sidewalks can be 5 feet wide.

Warrant Article #28 5-year lease purchase agreement for 1 Mack Cab Over Refuse and Recycling Truck with automated 2-sided Loader Body, and 1 Mack 16-yard rear loading refuse and recycling truck. \$126,500 for both trucks for year one. Mr Jones asked for the effect on future budgets. Mr Jacobs said the payments are level for the 5 years; he did not know future tax rates.

Warrant Article #31 Interior Building Improvements at the DPW Main Office. \$85,000 from Unassigned Fund Balance. Ms Woolsey said the town is fortunate to have this DPW staff and is responsible for upgrades to decent quarters.

Warrant Article #32 Recycling Revolving Fund. \$80,000 to establish funding. Mr Welch said this is seed money to offset costs and lower tax impact.

## **7. BudComm Meeting Schedule**

**February 1, 2020, Town Deliberative Session, Hampton Academy**

**February 11, 2020 Primary Voting**

**February 18, 2020 BudComm regular meeting Hampton Town Hall 7pm**

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr Warburton thanked the Members and expressed appreciation to those at Channel 22 and Channel 13. Mr LaBranche moved to adjourn the January 16, 2020 Municipal Budget Public Hearing at 8:57. Second: Mr Plouffe.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Kravitz

Recording Secretary

Municipal Budget Committee