

**Hampton Municipal Budget Committee
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday May 19, 2020
Teleconference Meeting 7 PM**

Attendance

Brian Warburton, Chair
Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair
Steven Henderson
Joyce Skaperdas
Larry Quinn
Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative
Robert Ladd, Hampton Village Beach District Representative
Virginia Bridle-Russell, SAU90 Representative

Absent

Stephen LaBranche

1. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Warburton

Mr Warburton read the required Public Notice in re COVID-19 :

As Chairman of the Hampton Municipal Budget Committee, I have determined that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of the Board members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governors Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming: We are utilizing an audio teleconference service for this electronic Meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform by calling toll free 1-857-444-0744 and use the code 156034. If anybody has a problem, please call 603-929-5805

2. Pledge of Allegiance by Mr Plouffe

3. Roll Call of Members – as listed above

4.Reorganization of Municipal Budget Committee

Mr Warburton noted that the BudComm had not met since the Town Meeting Vote on March 10, 2020. Accordingly the Committee must reorganize at this meeting.

Chair

Mr Henderson nominated Mr Warburton as Chair; Second Ms Barnes. Mr Warburton Called the Roll. All members present (see above) voted in the affirmative, except for Mr Warburton who Abstained.

Vice Chair

Mr Warburton nominated Mr Plouffe for Vice Chair; Second: Ms Skaperdas. All members present (see above) voted in the affirmative, except for Mr Plouffe who Abstained.

5. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2020

Mr Plouffe moved to accept the Minutes of February 18, 2020 as written; Second: Ms Skaperdas Mr Warburton, Mr Plouffe, Mr Henderson, and Mr Ladd voted in the affirmative. Ms Barnes, Ms Bridle-Russell and Mr Quinn Abstained. Mr Warburton called attention to page 3 and his concern about one agency giving another agency funding.

6. Board of Selectmen

Mr Warburton thanked the Finance Director, Kristi Pulliam, for the April Financials, and also thanked Deputy Town Manager, Jamie Sullivan, for organizing the IT for meetings.

Ms Barnes is happy to return to the Budget Committee, commenting that this has been a good year for the town. BudComm did an awesome job last year. People are getting used to “social distancing” and that the Town Hall building has been closed. It is good to see the outdoor restaurants. The Police Chief attended the May BOS teleconference discussion of the financials. Revenue is not where it should be so they are watching closely. The estimated shortfall is \$574,000; spending has been cut for all departments and the work mode is different – the normal workday is disrupted. Residents and businesses need patience and to follow the guidelines. The Police are finding the best way for enforcement. The Police Chief can be contacted for questions especially about the 1A closure.

7. SAU 90 School District

Ms Bridle-Russell said the Schools Finance Director and the Superintendent do the review and administrative oversight and introduce new ideas. The Schools and the Town are working together. SAU 90 is providing close to 200 lunches during the COVID crisis. Teachers are providing remote learning. They are estimating a surplus at the end of the school year (June 30) of about \$350,000. The move from temporary administrative offices will occur before July 1 when the new Superintendent begins. In response to Ms Skaperdas Ms Bridle-Russell said that all students have computers that are working well. Ms Skarpadas said she was proud of the technology support and providing meals.

8. Hampton Village Beach District

Mr Ladd said the tentative date for the Village Beach District annual meeting is June 9. There's never been anything like the COVID experience. May activities have been cancelled and the Sand Castle event has been moved to the Labor Day timeframe. They are working off a default budget until the annual meeting when they will elect officers. One idea is to provide entertainment at the Shell with benches removed and chairs set 6 feet apart. It is uncertain whether the Casino will be open. They will do their best. Mr Sullivan reported that the Governor has not approved the proposed beach traffic pattern which he thought would stay as is. They are in good shape but there could be more challenges.

9. Master Plan Initiative Representation

Mr Warburton said he has been the BudComm representative to the Master Plan Steering Committee and would be pleased to continue. Now that the Warrant Article passed, they want a formal appointment vote. **Mr Plouffe moved to appoint Mr Warburton to the Master Plan Steering Committee as the BudComm representative; Second: Mr Henderson. Mr Warburton Called the Roll. All members present (see above) voted in the affirmative, except for Mr Warburton who Abstained.** Mr Warburton thanked Ann Carnaby and Ms Kravitz for helping get the Warrant Article passed.

10. New Business

Stipend for Recording Secretary Mr Warburton

Mr Warburton said that Ms Kravitz had not been paid since the February meeting and proposed that she be paid for the months of March, April, and May. **Mr Ladd moved to authorize payments to Ms Kravitz for the Months of March, April, and May; Second: Ms Bridle-Russell. Mr Warburton called the Roll. All members present (see above) voted in the affirmative,**

Task Force

Mr Warburton remarked on the good news that SAU 90 expects a \$350,000 surplus. He reminded that the school year runs from July 1 to June 30. Distance Learning is the result of the COVID-19 situation. A task force is looking at social media, costs to the town including for needed manpower, etc. Mr Sullivan is working closely with SAU 90 and SAU 21 and pursuing all potential funding mechanisms, per BOS approval, including via the CARES Act population based distribution (\$359,000), the FEMA emergency response and recovery for 75 percent with the town paying 25%, major storms emergency response and recovery efforts, money for and preventing the virus spread with PPE, masks, overtime, etc, firefighter assistance, law enforcement, and 1st respondents..Mr Warburton cautioned that costs are spent up front with all of these funding resources given as reimbursements. With the tax bills due on July 1, he thought the town was in good shape, but wondered what would happen if someone could not pay the tax.

Report on the Rockingham Planning Commission/Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on May 13, 2020

Mr Warburton asked Ms Kravitz to report on the RPC/MPO virtual meeting which included certain Hampton projects.

Ms Kravitz said the RPC/MPO is the designated entity for processing federal funding for transportation projects in our region. At this time about 140 projects submitted to the MPO are reviewed and ranked every 2 years. The Lafayette Road improvements and the Winnacunnet Road resurfacing are among the Hampton projects listed on the NH Department of Transportation 10-year plan. Four times a year the NHDOT submits proposed transportation improvement program (TIP) project adjustments (up or down) to be analyzed by RPC staff with recommendations submitted to the MPO Policy Committee. The Committee is comprised of RPC Commissioners and certain agency representatives who vote on the proposed TIP amendments. This means that Hampton's 3 Commissioners participate in this vote.

For the May RPC meeting commissioners and other representatives to the MPO were convened on Zoom. Using RPC's innovative technology the public was able to view and listen to the proceedings and to submit written or voice comments, thereby participating simultaneously in the discussion.

Commentary

Mr Sullivan said the department heads, employees and teachers were cooperating together and working nights, days and weekends. Ms Barnes and Mr Ladd added that the Town was fortunate to have this cooperation. Mr Plouffe agreed, commenting that things changed fast, and summer BudComm meetings should be called if necessary. Mr Henderson said there was a lot of work to that do with likely reduced revenue, meals needed for workers, roadwork and infrastructure; the Town needs to generate revenue for the infrastructure and move forward. Ms Barnes said this would be a good time to work on roads while there is less traffic.

In response to Ms Barnes, Mr Sullivan's understanding was the Beach Plan that went to the Selectmen was not approved.

Ms Bridle-Russell thanked Superintendent Kathleen Murphy for her work for students and the town, noting the benefit of supplying lunches and trying to get the return of the money for 8th graders as their trip to Washington was cancelled. Mr Ladd said the townspeople needed to be patient given the limited resources. Mr Warburton was looking forward to working with Mr Sullivan, Mr Waddell and the new Schools Superintendent. He also remarked that Ms Murphy's departure was a loss to the town, and thanked her for 10 years of service, noting that her reputation, curriculum innovation and commitment to upgrading the Academy speaks for itself.

11. BudComm Meeting Schedule

BudComm next meets on June 16, probably via tele-conference.

12. Adjournment

Mr Plouffe motioned adjournment at 7:55 PM; Second: Ms Skaperdas. Mr Warburton Called the Role. All members present voted affirmative.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kravitz
Recording Secretary
Municipal Budget Committee