

**Hampton Municipal Budget Committee
DRAFT MINUTES**

**Tuesday June 16, 2020
Teleconference Meeting 7 PM**

Attendance

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

Attending via Teleconference

Jamie Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager
Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director
Barbara Kravitz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order at 7 PM by Mr Plouffe

Mr Warburton asked for a moment of silence for certain Hampton individuals that have recently passed:

Mr Warburton thanked Deputy Town Manager Jamie Sullivan for arranging the meeting teleconferencing, and read the following 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 [Committee] 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 Hampton Municipal Budget Committee
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[Committee] 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

1. Roll Call of Members – as listed above

Mr Warburton welcomed Mr Quinn to BudComm and thanked David Maurer for his service.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2020

Mr Henderson moved to accept the Minutes of May 19, 2020 asked that “meals for workers” be removed from page 4; Second: Ms Bridle-Russell. The Minutes of May 19, 2020 were accepted with the noted elimination. Roll call vote: In favor: Mr Warburton, Mr Plouffe, Mr Henderson, Mr Ladd, Ms Skaperdas, Ms Bridle-Russell, Mr Quinn Ms Barnes,. Abstained” Mr LaBranche.

3. Board of Selectmen

Ms Barnes announced that she has been appointed to the Legislative Policy Committee of the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), and believes this will result in benefit to Hampton. NHMA concerns include infrastructure and land use, energy and environment, water resources, solid waste management, and COVID-19. With the Legislature approving a Housing Board of Appeals, if a development is denied the developer can apply to the appeals board in Concord. Ms Barnes will be proactive to assure that local decisions are upheld.

Ms Barnes commented that she enjoys working with the Selectmen, Planning Board, and the Town Manager, and asked Ms Pulliam and Mr Sullivan about reimbursements for town expenses including for COVID-19. Ms Pulliam said crisis financial revenue-sharing is expected to be \$359,000; so far the Town has submitted \$104,000 for reimbursement, mostly for wages and suppliers (\$70,000 is for overtime and benefits). Mr Sullivan said submission deadlines have been extended. As the Fire Department is understaffed one request will be to add a person to that department.

In response to Ms Skaperdas, Ms Barnes said an ambulance has been rerouted for the Beach. Mr Sullivan said because the 1A closure was in response to the Governor’s crisis declaration, an additional ambulance is needed for the closed area. The town will seek 75% of the cost first from FEMA. There are specific guidelines under the CARES Act that may cover the town’s 25% match. Mr Sullivan added that the town is separately applying for fire, and police grants, as well as for public safety hazard pay, noting Hampton has about 300 full time and 150 part time employees. Mr Warburton thought that costs for new remote work could go up, clarified that the \$359,000 is the total CARES allotment, and reminded that when the Town seeks reimbursement it is for expenses already paid. He thanked Ms Pulliam for the financial information. Mr Sullivan noted that revenue from tax collection for this fiscal year is up compared to last year. Mr Warburton said new tax bills will come in December.

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6. SAU 90

Ms Bridle-Russell said the SAU 90 surplus to be returned to the taxpayers will be between \$300,000 and \$350,000 and is comprised of some FEMA offsets, savings of about \$200,000 on unspent interest for the bond issue, plus investment of unspent funds. No further expenses are expected for the Academy where a stand up desk, refrigeration, and lines in the hallways have recently been added. So far about 60% of staff is returning in the fall; committees including Wellness, Instruction, and Curriculum will continue.

Ms Bridle-Russell wished Ms Murphy well in her position with the Concord New Hampshire School District. The new Superintendent will begin July 1.

4. Hampton Village Beach District

Mr Ladd reported that the federally protected piping plovers settled as far north as the Ashworth -- fire trucks can't get by for the fireworks. So far the state has not issued permits for the Beach; the hope is for the end of the month. In response to Ms Skaperdas, Mr Warburton noted that fireworks are not legal in Hampton. In any case a state permit would be needed, noting that Beach events require state permits.

5. CHAT.

Mr LaBranche said today's CHAT meeting was conducted on line. The guest speaker was Stacy Curry from Woodbridge, New Jersey. The Township is a year-round community of approximately 100,000 and had suffered two crisis hurricanes creating issues for residents in about 400 houses. Ms Curry coordinates the Voluntary Buyout/Managed Retreat Program in the flood zone. The options are waterproofing property, raising a building, or managed retreat. In such an emergency FEMA might consider a 100% buyout. About 200 residents accepted buyouts, taking those properties off the tax rolls. Some of the other residents stayed in place; others relocated in the town, or moved away. After a few years revenue to the town had grown to a net gain from taxpayers who moved within the township. One disadvantage was that the buyout price was figured at the pre-hurricane value. Ms Curry said outreach to explain the program and go through the application process spanned a few years.

Mr LaBranche said the speaker at the CHAT May meeting described the partial wall built in Salisbury, MA, causing an overflow problem for property outside of the wall.

In response to Mr LaBranche's request to continue as the BudComm representative to the CHAT, Mr Henderson moved to appoint Mr LaBranche to represent the Budget Committee at the CHAT; Second: Mr Plouffe. In a roll call vote all members present approved except Mr LaBranche who Abstained.

9 CIP

Mr Warburton called for an appointment to represent BudComm on the CIP Committee, noting that there was only one meeting last year. Mr Plouffe moved to appoint Mr Henderson as the BudComm Representative to the CIP Committee for a period of one year; Second: Ms Skaperdas. In a roll call vote all members present approved except Mr Henderson who Abstained. Ms Barnes moved to appoint Mr Plouffe as the BudComm Alternate Representative for a period of one year; Second: Mr LaBranche. In a roll call vote all members present approved except Mr Plouffe who Abstained.

10. COVID-19 Task Force

Mr Warburton reported that the COVID Task Force was meeting monthly via the WEB, and included SAU 90 and SAU 21 (Winnacunnet). Mr Sullivan agreed there was good communication and collaboration.

1. Master Plan Initiative

Ms Kravitz reported that the Phase 1 (Vision and Coastal Management) Consultants were distributing a survey to gain perspectives from town employees. An RFP is being drafted for the selection of a Phase 2 Consultant to complete the balance of the Master Plan segments. This work is approved by the taxpayers in the amount of \$125,000.

Mr Warburton noted that Ms Kravitz is the Chair of the Rockingham Planning Commission which has done very good work for the Town, and corrected his statement at a prior meeting to recognize that Jay Deiner had received an award from the RPC (not Ann Carnaby).

2. New Business

There being none.

3. BudComm Meeting Schedule

BudComm will next meet in September when the new SAU 90 Superintendent and Finance Director will be included in the Agenda. Possibly, this meeting will be held in Town Hall.

4. Commentary

Mr Henderson, Mr Plouffe and Ms Skaperdas thanked Superintendent Murphy and wished her well in her Concord position.

Ms Barnes announced that Mr Sullivan would become the Hampton Town Manager as of July 1.

Mr LaBranche noted the upset caused by the COVID-19 virus was worldwide. Closing part of Route 1A was an experiment. He liked that restaurants could have outdoor seating, the partial opening of hotels, and the lack of noise from motorcycles and cars. Mr LaBranche urged people to continue with masks and social distancing.

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Mr Warburton commended Fred Welch for his 12+ years as the town manager, noting he would continue to do some work.

Mr Ladd commended John Kane for his Beach marketing services including bringing the circus, and the fire show to Hampton.

Mr Ladd regretted losing Superintendent Murphy whom he thought was spectacularly experienced and got so much done. The previous finance director's departure was also a loss.

15. Adjournment

Mr Plouffe motioned adjournment at 8:05 PM; Second: Mr LaBranche. Mr Warburton noted that all members present approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Kravitz
Recording Secretary
Hampton Municipal Budget Committee