

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2021

Call to Order-Chairman Brian Warburton 7:00pm

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 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

Pledge of Allegiance 7:01pm Larry Quinn

Introduction of Members (Roll Call) 7:02pm

Brian Warburton
Richie Sawyer
Ginny Bridle-Russell
Joyce Skaperdas
Steve Henderson
Larry Quinn
Katherine Harake
Bob Ladd

Absent: Stephen LaBranche

7:02pm Stephen LaBranche resignation email from now until 10/21 the chair will accept any interest of any members at large of the community. They will fill out from now until March when the town election happens bwarburton@comcast.net 6039181757

7:04pm Moment of silence for Jack Doheney, Town Clerk Shirley Doheney's husband who passed today.

Skip Sullivan informed Chairman that the past Town Manager James Barrington has suffered a severe stroke and on life support. Prayers for his family.

Minutes June 15, 2021 7:05pm

Motion to accept by Mr. Henderson Seconded by Mr. Quinn Roll Call Vote Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 1

Appointments 7:06pm

Reminder for folks at home the school is in a different fiscal year than the town. They are from July-June fiscal year.

SAU90-Dr. Lois Costa, Superintendent of Schools and Mariah Curtis Director of Finance 7:07pm

Ms. Curtis gives summary of what will be presented.

Highlights from 2020-2021

Dr. Costa Costa: We opened last year in the hybrid model in cohorts. As the year went on we were able to do in person in March. There were no closures or significant outbreaks.

We implemented district wide mentors for all students (in addition to their homeroom teacher)

200 students attended the extended summer program

hosted Camp Invention with over 140 students throughout the Seacoast.

Trying to take care of the community as well as be communicative with them via weekly newsletter summarizing academic and COVID number updates.

We received the following awards:

\$5,000 DUNKIN

\$10,000 from Shaws

Both were used to off set programs and help the loss.

Discussion Year End June 30

Ms. Curtis: The budget is budgeted about a year prior to the actual budget. When we started the budget COVID didn't exist. We had no extra funds in supplies, cleaning, etc. When we started the year in school we were wise to not spend extra money due to not a lot of extra funds. When December came we received COVID money a little over \$250,000(CARES. We had to have all of it spent and prove that we had the items by 12/21. We purchased chrome books, utilized video cameras, etc. with that money.

\$1,194,071 is being returned to offset taxes due to unexpected moneys and revenues we received.

Runs through the breakdown revenues and where they came from. General fund, federal funds and special education trust funds.

Preview of SAU90 upcoming year

Dr. Costa speaks on how the year has gone so far. Students are in a full 5 days a week with layers of protection including 3-6 feet apart, we are keeping students K-5 in cohorts. In the middle school it's different because they start rotating from subject to subject. We are also offering sports programs this year and we are trying to do local field trips. Environmental Camp wasn't able to happen but we are sending our 8th graders to the Brown Center for group activities and team building.

Ms. Curtis discusses the budget for the upcoming year.

950 students started the school year. 14 new teachers, 9 new paras and 5 new district wide staff members

One thing that became obvious is the discrepancy in salaries between us and local towns. We lost some significant positions due to this. We are focusing in on this when it comes to the budget.

Questions

Ms. Harake: Thank you for the summary. You mentioned you were able to provide breakfast and lunch to students. Do you know what kind of outlay that was?

Ms. Curtis: I think having a full belly for kids is very important. We were able to feed them all summer.

We will get reimbursed for the cost of the food and so we have to give the state a count of how many kids took a meal.

Ms. Harake asks about the available numbers

Ms. Harake: Do you have any demographic projections for the school

Ms. Curtis does but doesn't have it on them. There's a report that comes out each year that goes back 5 years.

Discussion around demographics

Mr. Ladd-What guidelines are follows for school decisions

Dr. Costa: We primarily work with CDC and Nh DHHS but we also under the direction of the Commissioner of Education. We collaborate with others in the area as well.

Ms. Shaperdas: Mariah you had said you sent over and above the budget if it wasn't for the federal funds. Just trying to calculate.

Discussion around offsets, interest applications etc.

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Ms. Skaperdas: Are kids wearing masks this year?

Yes, per the recommendations

Ms. Skaperdas: What are the new roles hired for district wide
Technology staff, accountant position.

Ms. Skaperdas: Not new positions?

Dr. Costa: No, just replacements.

Ms. Skaperdas NES program at Centre? How many students?

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We have 4. It doesn't sound like a lot but it's out of district placement

Discussion around cost for that

Ms. Skaperdas: Mike Anderson will he be in this year's budget?

Dr. Costa: We have the benefit of having him local and at a fair price.

Ms. Skaperdas: It seems to be there is more paras at Centre vs Marston. Is it because younger children need more? Ill be looking at those numbers closer just to see where moneys are allocated. I am also interested in for the size of our district the amount of facilities we have. Just an FYI for what I will be looking for.

Mr. Sawyer: Compliments on maintaining composure and putting kids first. Thank you for that.

Ms. Bridle: A vital person for SAU90 has been Greg Limperis who is going to be the Technology Director at Lowell Public Schools. We will miss him and he has been amazing. Also, we have a big problem in this area-we must take all teacher request, supply orders, etc. and put them against what taxpayers can afford. It's going to be an intense year for the school department and the town. A lot of debate and a lot of conversation.

Mr. Henderson: Most people don't understand how much these teachers are working trying to put a program together. It was a difficult year and I understand that there are families in the community where both parents have to work. Joyce covered questions I was going to ask. You guys did a fantastic job running the schools and yes it will be tough to get out of this pandemic. Great job putting a great budget together.

Chairman Warburton: Being married to a teacher I can see how much these teachers are working. They played a huge role in socioemotional issues, after hours, etc. Every school district is so different. The

communication Dr Costa spearheaded throughout the year engaging the public has been great. Appreciate the revenue breakdown.

Three year (+2) transportation contract with First Student. Mariah thinks head of First Student might come back on a different contract but going to try and keep it the same.

A reminder for budget committee teachers and staff contracts are coming up in March. Police union will also be up. Things to think about.

Dr. Costa can you tell us about the salary wage corrections?

We are talking a number of positions.

Discussion around when we became our own district and how there were concerns around salaries.

Ms. Bridle: Board has made a commitment to go through each department and compare to local districts in terms of salaries.

Chairman Warburton: Tuesday December 7 will probably be the night we will have you in.

Ms. Harake: We should keep the standard of the school as high as the rest of the town.

Selectmen's Update 8:08pm The manager and department heads are deep in budgets. Should see something In October

School Board Update 8:09pm I will echo your comment if we hire new people at a certain amount, we need to give the other people that amount too. It's tough for the families living below that now.

Village District Update 8:10pm This was a complicated summer. There were limitations on visas for workers, limitations on parking. Lots of losses but programs went well. One more program, the fire show, is the Fire Show at 8pm on Saturday.

Old Business: 8:11pm

Master Plan Community Forum September 29: Chairman Warburton 8:11pm

We're in Phase 2 and we have hired a consultant. I would also mention to go on to the Planning Board website where you can find all information on the Master Plan. We've really addresses a lot of the components like town flooding, etc. 9/29 at 6pm and at 7pm you can go to the HA gymnasium for a community forum.

New Business: 8:14pm

Chairman sent an email to the town manager. November 2nd is the date we are planning to go through the different department budgets

Chairman discusses RSA 32. That one section negates what took place in May. Through the inception of the budget committee law in 1964 I went back and I don't ever remember a chairman who has been given a stronghold where they cannot ask questions unless they get permission from the body.

Starting tonight I am going to continue to ask for information based on requests you have without a vote. If the information is not provided, we will ask for the information under RSA 91-A Everyone is familiar with how that RSA works.

Mr. Quinn: I agree with you whole heartedly.

Ms. Skaperdas: No comment until I read the RSAs

Mr. Sawyer: You haven't presented anything new that would make me change my case. I have no doubt that the town will give you answers. That's what we voted and you're saying that it's an illegal vote.

Ms. Bridle: I must agree with Richie that it says budget committee. Sometimes people ask for things and nobody on the committee knows. If not, everyone knows what's going on it's a problem. I think we all need to work together. This is the only people we are a committee.

Mr. Ladd: provides comments on his understanding of the requests, Budget book, etc.

Ms. Harake: Asks if there are any questions, he would like us to vote on today. Chairman says no

Mr. Henderson: We've never had an issue with the Chairman bringing questions forward. There are some situations where we have questions prior to the monthly meeting. The budget book is not case law. We want to be transparent with the taxpayers. In 30 years, it's never been done this way.

Discussion continues

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Sawyer, Seconded by Ms. Harake Roll Call Vote Yes 3 No 5

Discussion continues. Final comments.

Motion to adjourn Mr. Sawyer Seconded by Ms. Skaperdas Roll Call Vote Yes 8 No 0

Next Meeting: October 19, 2021

Adjournment 8:43pm