

DRAFT MINUTES

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2020

Present: Brian Warburton, Chair

Michael Plouffe, Vice Chair

Steven Henderson

Joyce Skaperdas

Stephen LaBranche

Larry Quinn

Ginny Russell-Bridle, SAU 90 Representative

Regina Barnes, Selectman Representative

Dr. Lois Costa, SAU 90 Superintendent

Mariah Curtis, Director of Finance SAU 90

Attending via Teleconference

Jamie Sullivan, Town Manager

Barbara Kravitz

Bob Ladd, Hampton Village Beach District Representative

Call to Order – Chairman Warburton 7:00pm

Calls meeting to order 7:00pm, states replays of meeting can be seen on the town website

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 by Recording Secretary Colleen Poisson 7:02

Introduction of Members 7:02pm Roll call of members and location

Review and approval of minutes September 10, 2020

Chairman Warburton makes motion to accept the donations. Mr. Plouffe motions to accept. Mr. Henderson seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No Motion passed unanimously.

SAU 90 Presentation 7:06pm-Lois Costa and Mariah Curtis

Highlights of 2019/2020-Dr. Costa

- NH Assistant Principal of the Year
- Finalist of NH Teacher of the Year (nominated by the parents), finalists out of about 40 people.
- Volunteer of the Year for the PTA
- COVID-19 Impact
- SAU90 Office Moved Back to Marston School from Scott Road

Ms. Curtis-Financial Summary

December of 2019 there was a freeze on the budget. ed department
Because of going remote in March, a lot of savings.
Saved on subs, after school activities, supplies, etc. from March to June that was unexpected.
Food loss of \$82,545-would not have been this high if it weren't for COVID because meals were continued to be delivered to the children and staff were paid.
General fund is interest \$ from Hampton Academy project to offset taxes

Dr. Costa-Goals

1. Communication-making sure the stakeholders are informed
2. Safety
3. Professional Practice-Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment
4. Diversity and Equity-how do we make sure that everyone is getting the education they deserve
5. Ultimate goal is to return to brick and mortar learning

Vision: Hampton students will become responsible and respectful global citizens in our ever-changing world

Mission: Inspiring the whole child by providing engaging opportunities for life-long success

Values: Excellence in education, equity, trust, safety, collaboration, fiscal responsibility

Ms. Curtis: Budget 2020-2021

- We plan on a fiscally restrained budget to begin with. We are being mindful on all expenses but we are trying to keep the kids and teachers in a safe environment. Between COVID expenses, the budget and trying to maintain normal expenses with COVID expenses, it's a little tight. Savings are happening in some places-sports, after school activities, etc.
- Academy project should be completed this year.

Dr. Costa-Great start to 2020-2021

-Opened the school year with a hybrid model- Leadership team had great conversations around starting the school year and what's in the best interest of the children. What's unique about Hampton is our size. We wanted to ensure the safety of our staff which meant following the CDC guidelines. These were the non-negotiables. There wasn't enough physical space to have everybody in school.

-A number of new staff joining us this year. Interviews were done virtually. Fantastic people joining SAU90

Ms. Curtis: Student Services

Flat and on target with Special Education. However, very unknown and unforeseen. As of today, we have budgeted everything that we know of and we are right on target. The average of one student can cost around \$100,000 which would affect the budget.

Dr. Costa-Planning for Fiscal Year 2021-22

-Continuing to advance curriculum priorities

-Anticipated budget drivers-not unique to Hampton, this is all of NH

Other significant factors to anticipate:

Ms. Curtis- Budget Impact

Nothing major coming up other than COVID19. We do have a lot of home schools this year that may impact next year. A lot of people opted to have their kids wait a year to go to kindergarten.

Ms. Skaperdas: Could you tell me under the other significant factors to anticipate for your planning for 21/22 is there a dollar amount we should be considering?

Ms. Curtis-We have not put any dollar amounts to that. We have not added any extra funds for COVID19 and/or factors to anticipate.

Ms. Skaperdas -Can you define for me achievement gaps?

Dr. Costa: If we find students have significant loss in education gaps, we would have to support them to get them what they need.

Ms. Skaperdas -Would it be a para?

Dr. Costa -Classroom teacher, Title 1, etc. it would be whatever is needed.

Ms. Skaperdas -Socio/Emotional challenges?

Dr. Costa-We are fortunate that we have great counselors at all schools. We would utilize all those people for those students that need additional support. Mariah-we had discussed in our budget about repurposing two positions we have now and get a psychologist at Centre School. It wouldn't have an expense as it repurposed.

Ms. Bridle: Next week the school board starts to meet to determine the 2020/2021 budget.

Mr. LaBranche: You talked about the Hampton Academy Interest return, how much is there still to do on the Academy?

Ms. Curtis-Academy is finished. Nathan Lenny and the auditors and Mariah will be closing the account out in December.

Mr. LaBranche: Still working on that number? Came in under budget?

Ms. Curits: Yes, there will be money that was not spent that will offset taxes.

Mr. LaBranche: The health trust is very concerning. Everybody is under that one company? And it increased?

Ms. Curtis-Yes, first year we had a large increase. They usually send us a report and I haven't seen it, we just got the number. The average for the year for them was 6.5%.

Mr. LaBranche- Asks about the increase on the teachers salaries. The legislative body NH should get together to consider funding money for the towns to fund education. I would like to say the people who get elected to represent this town should fight to help the town pay for expenses.

Selectman Barnes: I think both sides of the aisle don't look at the municipalities and the effects of what they do I Concord. First, the HealthTrust is interesting because we received a letter from them saying we were going to get a surplus returned to the town.

Ms. Curtis: That's from 2 years ago

Selectman Barnes: Almost \$492,000 to offset taxes?

Ms. Curtis: Yes.

Selectman Barnes: Excellent. Did you receive any money from CARES?

Mariah: We received \$88,000. We did all the air filters in the classrooms. We felt to get the teachers in the school it was significant to do to make them feel comfortable. We also got the machines to take temperatures so someone wouldn't need to stand there and take temperatures. We also had some leftover we used for kids that would be home and needed help with supplies. We have utilized every penny that was given to us.

Mr. Plouffe: Challenging times, great job last year. Facing all of this and getting started this fall is quite challenging and you'll continue to do the best you can do.

Dr. Costa: Every day the kids are in school is a great day.

Mr. Henderson: Great job, great report. My question would be on the health insurance but until we get a direct amount.

Ms. Curtis: That's a max amount, so it could fall under.

Mr. Henderson. 11.5 is up there but it would be nice to know.

Mr. Quinn: Nothing to do with the dollars. This has to do with perspective. How many students have COVID?

Dr. Costa: Last I checked there were 8 or 9 in Hampton and no students at this time.

Chairman Warburton: Excellent presentation. In the next 3-4 weeks I'll be meeting with Mariah and Lois to get ready for the budget. I don't know how Carolyn Holmes sleeps, an unbelievable award. Great job moving back to Marston. Four new people, who are they?

Dr. Costa-Bridget Hughes-new assistant principal-Kathleen Hoppa ass principal at Marston, Nate moved up to Principal, Lois Director of Student Services and myself as Superintendent.

Chairman Warburton: I don't know where you found Greg Limperis but you better keep him. I am so impressed. His technology is superior. So the Budget Committee is aware, when you look at your budget books, out of district is a huge expense. Required for us to pay out of district cost for special education. We are basically getting nothing from FEMA?

Ms. Curtis: Correct. Put together a spreadsheet for about \$40,000 outlining expenses for COVID items, FEMA approved it, and FEMA then turned around and said they weren't paying it.

Chairman Warburton: HYA for those folks to be allowed to be in the gyms

Ms. Bridle: Made the decision to let HYA in but at this point but nothing is set and stone. We didn't have any COVID cases at that point, we needed to get more information so stay tuned.

Mr. LaBranche-Sacred Heart, do they have COVID cases?

Dr. Costa & Ms. Curtis-not that we know.

Old Business 7:56pm

Chairman Warburton: As many of you know I believe in hard work. I want to commend Selectman Barnes and her effort in this position. She works hard all the time, she has given us information constantly and I want you to know how much I appreciate the effort you put in.

Selectmen's Report: Selectman Regina Barnes

So far the board as looked at the police and the fire budgets and last night we looked at public works. That's what I have individually gone through with my past experience on the budget committee. I try to ask the right questions and get documented responses. A couple other things that I have done:

Town management presented a very conservative budget this year. It's trim and it needs to be trim because of what we've had going on. What the regular taxpayer needs to understand that out of our almost \$29Million budget, the wages make up 43% of our budget. Those are pretty set and stone due to unions, etc. I set up a worksheet that breaks down what accounts make-up of the public works, fire and police due to wages. These are items we can't do anything about, they're set and stone. The numbers have been sent to management to confirm the \$ is correct.

State Parks and out of state trash-The total tons of trash that were collected by town employees is only 4% of total tons.

Hampton has received 359,481 from CARES. We submitted about \$316,000 for additional reimbursement but we are not positive we are receiving that reimbursement.

Chairman Warburton: \$194,000 was expended for first responders when Gov. Sununu decided that all first responders to get an extra \$300/week for 10 weeks per individual and included part timers. This was reimbursed to the town. We had to pay it out and they gave it back.

Chairman Warburton: Probably going to have to find \$306,000 somewhere if we don't get reimbursed correct?

Ms. Barnes: Yes. I am disappointed that the state hasn't taken more of the CARES act and put it back into the municipalities as those hit taxpayers' wallets.

Chairman Warburton: Nowhere in the reports did I see anything about the street sweeper. Did we bill the state for the use of that? It was used a lot this year. Can we find out if we billed for the extra use?

School Board Report- No update

Village District: Bob Ladd

We had no events in the month of June, The shell was closed for the entire season and no fireworks were had. Most of our major events failed to occur. The fact that anything was able to be accomplished is due to the volunteers and precinct members. This year just wasn't good. The sand castles were able to happen but moved to September from June. The Chamber of Commerce was also unable to do the Seafood Festival.

Mentioned the Rec Department funding the fire show. The second weekend in September I thought was a logical weekend to do it. I reached out to all the major players in the town to try to get them to cosponsor an event. We don't need the \$1000 but my thought was getting all the major players together to cosponsor.

Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team: Stephen LaBranche

We had our meeting this afternoon for two hours. I just sent the Chair the minutes from last month's meeting. I also included worksheets that we work with. We are ready to make some recommendations to the town. These have come from all the workshops we've had. It looks as if we are getting to the end of the road to what we originally planned. Whether CHAT continues to exist is up to the town of Hampton. I would hate to see it dissolve because the flooding issues are not going away. Flooding in Hampton is not just something that happens at the beach.

Review of Town Information Requests: 8:25pm

Chairman Warburton: You all got receipts of emails I have sent you. One was from Kristy regarding questions that we raised. One thing we need to put our mind set in is the trash issue combined with warrant articles combined with the larger picture. We need to marry that to what the budget is and what it's going to be. We should really drill down on what it's costing us allowing us to dig deeper on what we actually need in this town.

Ms. Bridle: No questions, I will say I do conquer with you. Not only do we have to decide what's wanted, but we have to decide what the taxpayers in Hampton can afford. We have a lot of people who have lived here a long time who can't afford everything. It's going to be a tough budget year.

Chairman Warburton: This is a tough year for the schools, It's going to be an interesting year for schools.

Mr. Quinn: There was a lot of information, it was ripe for analysis.

Mr. Henderson: It's going to be a tough year. Listening to the Selectmen's meeting last night and all the new things popping up. We're going to have to sit down and figure out what the taxpayers can afford in this town. A lot of work to be done in a lot of different avenues

Mr. Plouffe: I echo that. It's all there, and it doesn't get any better.

Ms. Skaperdas: Thanks Kristy for the work. Are these answers provided to the taxpayers on the website?

Chairman Warburton: No, they just get back to us. It's up to the person in this seat to give the information. Kristy did a great job.

Ms. Skaperdas: I am always very positive heading into budget season and I know we're all faced with hurdles due to the pandemic. Hoping we will see the money from the CARES acts and truly believe all committees will present the right budget.

Chairman Warburton: We prepare the budget for the town. Once the other committees come to us, we don't look back, we prepare the budget for the taxpayers.

Mr. LaBranche: Thanks Kristy. I am sure we are going to have a lot more questions for her as it goes on. It's all going to happen but it's just not all going to happen next year. Ginny you always speak for the taxpayer and you're very familiar with the people that live in this town. There are a lot of wants, needs and wish lists and then there's reality.

Selectman Barnes: Thank you to Kristy. She always gets you the answers that you need. I do want to remind the Budget Committee that the figures for FEMA and CARES are for expenses through august. I did ask the town manager if he thought there would be any additional expenses. Reads the town manager's response. As part of the budget process, we need to be aware we are going to be fronting additional expenses that we usually don't see. I did want to bring up the amount of trash. I based my worksheet that I did based off Public Works. Billing was for under 235 tons. I did the math based on that number. It was slightly under 4%

Chairman Warburton: My question was Thursday-Sunday public works went down on the state side to pick up trash, what happened to the trash that the employees picked up with public works vehicles. I just want to get the whole picture.

Selectman Barnes: NHCOT is going to put together the plan for reconstruction of bridge 1A to high street. She stated she realizes what the issues are and have been in the past. She is hoping this will help move the relationship forward.

Chairman Warburton: We shouldn't be in the business of subsidizing the State of NH for operations. 27% of the public works budget has to do with trash.

Chairman Warburton updates on specific articles that were asked about.

2017 Article 1.1 million sewer on Lafayette-project was complete

2017 Town Warrant article 44-Illegal article should have never been brought to the Budget Committee the night before the public hearing. \$300k to include improvements

2018-\$1.5 million reconstruction including paving, associated drainage, sidewalks etc. "The work was pushed off for a number of operational reasons"

Master Plan Update-Barbara Kravitz 8:48

We are about 65% through the first phase. They will be presenting a visual concept for the master plan tomorrow night and that is what we will be looking at. Phase 2 covers the funding that the town has authorized. The total amount between the two phases is \$170,000 and is for the Master Plan work itself. It's exciting to be looking forward.

New Business: 8:50pm

Upcoming budget workshops November and December: Warburton sent everyone an email. The following dates:

Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7pm in the Selectmen's Room

November 10, 12, 17, 24

December 1, 3 final review dates. When the budget will be finalized. This budget will go onto the public hearing session.

Other new business 8:56pm

Mr. LaBranche: Please go out and vote.

Adjournment 9:00pm

Chairman Warburton calls for motion to end the meeting. Mr. Plouffe moved to end the meeting, Mr. Henderson seconds.

Roll Call Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No Motion passed unanimously.