

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Public Hearing 2019 Budget
January 9, 2019**

PRESENT: SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN; CHAD R. BENNETT, SELECTMAN; JOSEPH A. GUTHRIE, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Budget Committee Members S. Londrigan, C. Cipriano, D. Green, S. Bookless and E. Reschberger
Guests: J. Worthen, T. Lovell, M. Johnson, N. Gallo, R. Krol, C. Fernandes, B.O'Brien, P. Williams,
Chief Carrier, Chief Beaudoin, C. Hastings, R. Morris, J. Passinese, L. Rockwell and J. Dimando

The public hearing was opened at 7:00 pm.

The Hampstead Board of Selectmen will hold a public budget hearing on Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Hampstead Town Office Building, 11 Main Street, Hampstead, NH for the purpose of hearing public testimony and gathering information on the budget.

Chairman Murphy read the warrant up to Article 1 (election of officers).

Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are zoning articles.

Article 7- Town Operating Budget- \$6,887,278.00 with a default budget of \$6,891,928.00

Department	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Dif.	Default
Executive/Admin	\$193,480.00	\$201,534.00	\$8,054.00	\$200,498.00
Town Clerk	\$143,035.00	\$149,060.00	\$6,025.00	\$147,221.00
Election	\$11,440.00	\$7,200.00	(\$4,200.00)	\$ 11,000.00
Auditing	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$250.00	\$ 11,000.00
Tax Collector	\$48,774.00	\$51,583.00	\$ 2,809.00	\$ 51,075.00
Treasurer	\$15,440.00	\$15,440.00	\$0.00	\$ 15,340.00
Assessing	\$ 91,201.00	\$ 92,301.00	(\$1,100.00)	\$ 92,301.00
Legal	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$ 12,000.00
Personnel Adm.	\$373,257.75	\$426,013.00	\$52,580.00	\$404,680.00
Planning	\$81,053.00	\$67,368.00	(\$13,685.00)	\$ 64,068.00
Zoning	\$140,017.00	\$145,873.00	\$5,856.00	\$144,463.00
Board of Adjustment	\$9,205.00	\$9,205.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 9,205.00
Government Bldgs.	\$257,448.00	\$342,417.00	\$84,969.00	\$332,356.00
Cemeteries	\$48,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$0.00	\$ 48,000.00
Insurance	\$129,473.00	\$109,484.00	(\$19,989.00)	\$109,484.00
Regional Planning	\$8,644.00	\$8,568.00	(\$76.00)	\$ 8,568.00
Police	\$1,379,983.00	\$1,566,887.00	\$161,715.00	\$1,565,313.00
Fire	\$1,002,870.00	\$1,043,524.00	\$40,654.00	\$1,021,475.00
EMD	\$10,926.00	\$10,476.00	(\$450.00)	\$10,926.00
Highway	\$960,630.00	\$866,807.00	(\$93,823.00)	\$967,170.00
Street Lighting	\$25,000.00	\$18,500.00	(\$6,500.00)	\$18,500.00
Recycling and Waste	\$687,630.00	\$813,382.00	\$125,752.00	\$815,382.00
Animal Control	\$23,292.00	\$23,292.00	\$0.00	\$23,292.00
Pest Control	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

Health Agencies	\$69,262.00	\$59,262.00	(\$8,150.00)	\$59,262.00
Welfare	\$23,853.00	\$23,853.00	\$0.00	\$23,853.00
Recreation	\$91,711.00	\$95,388.00	\$3,677.00	\$95,023.00
Cable	\$40,500.00	\$40,500.00	\$0.00	\$40,500.00
Library Trustees	\$98,589.00	\$106,983.00	\$8,394.00	\$94,234.00
Library	\$433,820.00	\$478,348.00	\$44,528.00	\$456,707.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$8,000.00	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00
Conservation	\$3,592.00	\$4,350.00	\$938.00	\$3,782.00
Total Budget	\$6,495,150.00	\$6,887,278.00	\$400,678.00	\$6,891,928.00

Library Trustee Natalie Gallo asked to speak to the Library budget and increases. She stated that a letter had been sent to the Selectmen explaining the changes in the Library Budget and wanted it read into the record. Chairman Murphy asked that she recap the three page letter. She started with a clarification that they do not have a 501c3 organization that they can just draw funds from when needed. They request items from the Friends of the Library, but the requests are not always granted and she gave some examples of items funded and not funded. She also went on to explain that the Library Trustees were under the impression that the Selectmen were not moving forward with an updated Wage Study so they decided to move forward with their employees, as they are allowed to do. The positions at the library are not the same as they were 10 years ago and needed to be updated to what the jobs are currently doing. She noted that 10 of the 16 employees had changes but only 6 had a financial change. She noted an example was the Pages. They weren't on the wage scale and started below any starting rate on it.

The Library had a change in their proposed budget that wasn't given to the Selectmen's office. They were able to decrease the line for Equipment by \$5,500 and bring it to \$6,500 by using funds from another location. This brings their total budget to \$579,831.00 (\$101,483.00 for the Trustee line).

Mrs. Gallo went on to speak about the \$10,000 warrant article proposal. She stated that the fund has been in place since 2009 and they have used the fund to plan long term projects. They are currently planning on replacing the siding on the library and anticipate it will take three years to get enough funds at the \$10,000 per year. She asked that it be noted that the Library Trustees have full responsibility over their employees and the wages and compensation for them, but the Selectmen have the authority over the bottom line of the Library.

There was some discussion as to why the Trustees thought that the Selectmen were not going to move forward with a study. In the long run, it was determined there was a lack of communication on both sides and they agreed to try to resolve it from happening again. Mrs. Theriault asked Mrs. Gallo if the Library would be able to be part of the planned study to help with the internal equity. She noted to the audience that one of the job changes puts the position above the two Chiefs and onto a scale that doesn't even exist, which has an impact on the internal comparison. Mrs. Theriault stated that if the Library agreed to be a participant in the study, there could be changes to some of the grades and both Mrs. Gallo and Mrs. Krol agreed as long as it was apples to apples such as Library to Library not Library to a Town employee in similar position. Mrs. Theriault said that when the job descriptions are completed, there would be a factoring of the placements. Mrs. Gallo said they were okay with it again, as long as apples to

apples and that there are some skills that are unique to library employees. Mrs. Theriault said it would be the same process as was done 10 years ago.

Selectman Bennett asked about the total Library Budget. He noted that he had requested that the budget be reduced to a 5% to 6% increase. With the change they made tonight, the budget is still up 8%. Chairman Murphy told him this wasn't the time to make those changes and that it would need to be done at deliberative session. It was agreed that the Library was asked to look at their budget and cut where they could, which shows in this proposed budget tonight. Mrs. Dimando asked what would happen if someone moved to lower the budget. Chairman Murphy pointed out that it applies to the bottom line and is at the discretion of the Selectmen where to make the changes.

Chairman Murphy read all the warrant articles.

Article 8 Request for \$41,957 for a new Full Time Firefighter/EMT effective July 1, 2019, the sum of which represents \$20,060 in a partial year's wages and \$21,897 for benefits.

Article 9 Request for \$10,000 to be placed in the existing Building Repairs and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund.

The current balance in the account is \$40,003.01

Article 10 Request for \$10,000 for existing Library Building Maintenance Non Capital Reserve Fund. The current balance in the account is \$14,791.73

Article 11- Request for \$4,800 to support Meals on Wheels for one year.

Article 12- Request for \$1,500.00 to support the American Red Cross.

Article 13 Request for \$1,000.00 to support Greater Derry Adult Tutorial

Article 14-Request for \$14,800 to support Family Mediation

Mrs. Gallo is one of the representatives to Family Mediation for the Town of Hampstead. She was asked what the status of Family Mediation was. Chief Beaudoin stated that he has had no contact with anyone from Family Mediation for a while and thought that they were no longer functioning. Mrs. Gallo explained that they have revamped the organization and have started having meetings with area police departments. She will check to see why Hampstead has not been invited to any meetings and even noted that they were actually expanding and asking for Salem to participate.

Article 15-Request for \$60,000 for the purchase, installation and construction of a cremation wall and paved walkway in Lakeview Cemetery.

Article 16- Request to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for planning, engineering, construction and equipping of a Community Center and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000 to be placed in this fund. The Board of Selectmen shall be named as the

agents to expend from said fund.

Mr. O'Brien stated that the Town of Hampstead needs a community center and that the Library has been functioning in that capacity. Mrs. Dimando corrected him by stating that the library has been the location but the town has provided the funding and services. In order to move forward there needs to be a revenue stream to fund the proposed community center. This fund will allow a place for the funds to be set aside. It doesn't need to be set at \$1,000, but does need a dollar amount. Selectman Guthrie was asked if he had any plans or something envisioned. He responded that he was thinking similar to the one in Sandown. He noted one floor on a slab with a hall and kitchen and some offices, maybe the size of the gym. If the town approves the article, then they would start to discuss more specific information.

Article 17- To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14-a, to allow the Selectmen to acquire or sell land, buildings or both, provided, however, they shall first submit any such proposed acquisition or sale to the Planning Board and to the Conservation Commission for review and recommendation by those bodies.

The purpose of this article is to allow the Selectmen to sell land, which Selectman Guthrie wants to do to get funds for the potential community center. Previously the Selectmen only had authority to sell land that was received by tax deed or gift. Any other type of land needed to go to town meeting for approval. Mrs. Theriault and DRA (Dept. of Revenue Admin) could find no record of this RSA being adopted.

Article 18- To see if the Town will vote to remove the "conservation easement" on Map 16 lot 2 off Hadley Road (discontinued) by vote on Article 23 of the 1999 meeting, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to enter into a long-term agreement to construct a telecommunication tower with revenue from any lease to be placed into the Conservation Land Purchase Fund and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen and Conservation Commission to negotiate the terms of the lease and take any other action to carry out this vote.

Mr. Lovell, Chairman of the Conservation Commission explained that the tower would be at the end of Hadley Road and they are working on the terms of the contract, but it would build a road and parking lot to enter the site. This would also help Plaistow and Hampstead with the dead zones in that area.

Article 19- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease agreement with the Lion's Club to lease a portion of a pavilion located on Map 7 Lot 101 off Little's Lane and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms of the lease and take any other action necessary to carry out this vote.

This would also allow the Fire Department to store equipment.

Article 20- Request for \$43,500 for improvements to the Meeting House parking area. The Board of Selectmen upon the recommendation of the Historic Heritage Commission shall be named as agents to expend from said fund.

Rob Morris, Chip Hastings and Joe Passinese presented a small drawing of what the parking area would look like. Chip Hastings explained that they met with various contractors to get estimates to do the different things that need to be done at the site, such as a paving company, hardscaper and wall builder. There would be a stone wall across the park that would have a 4 foot opening every 50 feet. They would be looking to have arborvitaes planted behind the backstop to eventually hide that from the view. The plants would grow to be about 10-12 feet. The wall would prevent cars from driving onto the field. They would like to have a small garden area and will talk with the Garden Club about this. They are leaving the area close to the house as open right now so that they have a snow storage area. If a barrier is needed, they would look at it down the road. They anticipate that it would create about 7 parking spots but clean up and make the area better looking. He also noted that there is still the issue with the site distance coming out of that area.

Article 21-To see if the Town will remove the requirement approved by vote on Article 45 at the 1990 Town Meeting, that the Greater Hampstead Civic Club, Inc. is responsible for paying all costs of the operation and taxes if any including but not limited to electrical and heating costs for the building leased to the Civic Club. The Civic Club will continue to pay for the maintenance and upkeep of the building and all other provisions of Article 45 shall remain in effect.

Article 22 (by Petition)

To see if the Town will vote to direct the Selectmen to investigate the utilization of Town, County, State and Federal funds and take those actions necessary to preserve and protect the groundwater of our town.

The Selectmen will:

1. Apply for any County, State and/or Federal funds available dealing with the preservation of the groundwater.
2. Investigate alternate sources of public water supplies to supplement the groundwater of our Town.
3. Scrutinize zoning ordinances to protect and preserve groundwater quantity/quality for future developments.

In addition, the Town of Hampstead encourages its citizens to assist in the preservation and protection of our groundwater and we ask the Selectmen to create a Groundwater Committee to recommend and propose local steps to preserve and protect our groundwater. (by petition)

Selectman Guthrie reported that the article is a follow up of issues that have come forward with residents in town having issues with well water. He noted that the committee would be an important part and is asking the Selectmen to recommend this article and that he would be point man on it.

Article 23 (by Petition)

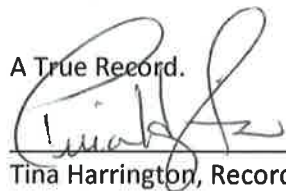
To see if the town will freeze the school portion of town property tax to property owners over the age of 65 years. Thereby keeping the future school portion of the property tax,

payable by a property owner, to that applicable at the age of 65 years. This will eliminate escalation of the school portion of taxes for those on fixed incomes. This is similar to other municipalities in the USA.(by petition)

Mrs. Theriault noted that this is the same article as was on the 2018 warrant. It met the criteria of a petition warrant article and therefore needs to be placed on the warrant. It was noted that the article is not enforceable. Selectman Guthrie mentioned that there are two bills before the house this year dealing with this issue. There was a question that if the article passed and then the House passes a new bill, what would happen. Selectman Guthrie noted that would be a legal question. The public hearing was closed at 8:33 pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Guthrie and seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

A True Record.



Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:



Sean P. Murphy, Chairman



Chad B. Bennett, Selectman



Joseph A. Guthrie, Selectman