

TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2014

Approved November 13, 2014

PRESENT: Steve Londrigan, Ann Howe, Proc Wentworth, Jorge Mesa-Tejada

ABSENT: Jack Thomas

VISITORS: Penny Williams, Priscilla Lindquist

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jorge Mesa-Tejada, chairman, in the Selectmen's Office, Hampstead Town Hall.

1. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance—Moment of Silence

Mr. Mesa-Tejada led the Pledge of Allegiance. That was followed by a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of the victims of September 11, 2001

2. VISITORS COMMENTS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mesa-Tejada called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2014.

MOTION: Steve Londrigan moved to approve the minutes of July 10, 2014 as written; Proc Wentworth seconded.

VOTE: unanimous in favor

4. DISCUSSION: SCHOOL AND TOWN BUDGET ANALYSIS – Ann Howe/Steve Londrigan

The expected line-item School and Town budget analyses to explain trends over time (previous three—five years) to substantiate proposal to reduce tax impact going forward (i.e., Ann Howe's 3% bottom line reduction) was not presented to the Committee.

Instead, the discussion turned to general, aspirational procedural statements which, while commendable, were mostly outside the authority and purview of the Budget Committee. Some suggestions clearly usurped the statutory powers and duties of the governing bodies.

For instance:

- Why does the school hire 51% part time help? That requires expensive benefits.
- Why are there so many applicants for school positions?
- Why doesn't the school hire teachers with lesser degrees to save money?
- School wants renovations (about a 25% budget increase) plus maintenance. Why not combine them?

After a lengthy, meandering discussion, it was agreed that there was nothing the Committee could do about current budgets; that the proposed analysis would begin during the forthcoming 2015-2016 School and Town October/November budget work sessions.

Then, the Committee would have the first-hand knowledge to propose and support specific, quantitative suggestions based on actual line-item budget proposal for consideration by the governing bodies.

In the interim, the Committee agreed that a good starting point would be for Ann Howe and Steve Londrigan to meet with George Stokinger, Business Administrator, to investigate and understand how the year-to-year Hampstead School District budget surplus seems to hover at \$1,000,000.00 as well as the methodology and origin of those variances over time. They will report their findings to the Committee at its next meeting.

MOTION: Steve Londrigan moved for the Committee to authorize Ann Howe and himself to meet with George Stokinger to explore the origin and methodology of year-end variances; Proc Wentworth seconded.

VOTE: unanimous in favor

Mr. Mesa-Tejada asked the members to be sure to attend the forthcoming School and Town 2015-2016 budget work sessions to get intimate detail on the line items.

NOTE: Mr. Mesa-Tejada invited Ann Howe to submit her narrative of this discussion. However, nothing was received in time to meet the statutory minutes filing requirement.

5. DISCUSSION: SUPERINTENDENT'S BUDGET SURVEY

The Committee discussed the Superintendent's Budget Survey that appeared in the Hampstead School District's website.

The Committee concluded that the survey had little or no bearing on budget development. However, the Committee decided to wait till Superintendent's office releases the results later in the month.

6. DISCUSSION: 2014-15 TOWN AND SCHOOL BUDGET WORK SESSION SCHEDULES

As an introduction to the forthcoming budget work session, the Committee reviewed the School's final audited 2013-2014 Budget Report and Variance (Surplus) statements as well as the current Town's 2014-2015 Monthly Budget report.

The Committee was given the Town's 2014/2015 Budget Development Meeting schedule as well as the School's Budget Work Session schedule.

Mr. Mesa-Tejada cautioned that these work sessions are the only chances the Committee members will have to ask questions of the various departments; the departments will not come to the BudCom meetings.

Thus, it behooves all members to attend, take notes and ask questions.

Additionally, a complete schedule of SB2 March Town Meeting dates was handed out to the members for their information.

7. LIAISON REPORTS

PROC: None

Steve: Meeting with Police Chief to resolve some personnel items that might impact the budget. The Police Station building is progressing but it is experiencing equipment delivery delays (antenna tower, sanitary cell pods) which will probably delay the anticipated October 1st opening.

Ann: None

Jorge: He encouraged members to attend the

- Strategic Plan meeting on Monday 15th, 6:30 PM in Dillard's Conference Room; and
- Renovations Workshop/ Public Hearing, Tuesday, 16th; 7:00 PM at HMS Cafeteria

He will be attending the Local Government Center Budget Workshop Thursday 18th, Manchester

8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Basketball court; Access road update

9. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE:

Because of the amount of budget work sessions in October, it was decided to forgo the normal October 9th meeting

MOTION: Steve Londrigan moved to cancel the October 9th meeting and reconvene on November 13th; Proc Wentworth seconded.

VOTE: unanimous in favor

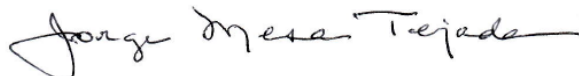
10. VISITORS COMMENTS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steve Londrigan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

For the Committee,



Jorge Mesa-Tejada, chairman