

TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2014

(Approved December 18, 2014)

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

VISITORS: Penny Williams, Priscilla Lindquist

1. CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

2. WELCOME JOHN SKIDMORE; THANK JACK THOMAS

Chairman Jorge Mesa-Tejada welcomed John Skidmore back and stated that his demonstrated expertise and dedication to the BudCom were greatly appreciated.

He also thanked Jack Thomas for his willingness to serve, albeit short.

2. VISITORS COMMENTS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Motion: Steve Londrigan moved to accept the minutes of September 11, 2014 as written, seconded by Proc Wentworth.

Ann Howe requested time to read the minutes. Then, she stated that she had changes. Mesa-Tejada asked her what they were; she wouldn't say. Instead, she stated that she would provide them later.

When informed that the changes must be made in public, Ann Howe stated that once she emails her comments, they'll be public. After a short discussion, the motion was changed as follows:

Revised Motion: Steve Londrigan moved to accept the minutes of September 11, 2014 as written—pending receipt of Ann Howe's comments, seconded by Proc Wentworth.

Ann Howe moved to table the motion. There was no second so the revised motion was passed as follows:

VOTE: 3 YES; 1 NO; 1 abstention

4. REPORT: SURPLUS EXPLANATION/MEETING WITH GEORGE STOKINGER – ANN HOWE/STEVE LONDRIGAN

Chairman Mesa-Tejada invited Steve Londrigan and Ann Howe to report on the results of their meeting with George Stokinger, Business Administrator, pertaining to explanation/origin of annual surplus. This meeting was in response to a vote of the BudCom at the September 11th meeting.

Ann Howe stated that Steve Londrigan had taken it upon himself to cancel the meeting and that her request that this item be removed from the agenda was not granted.

Mr. Mesa-Tejada stated that the item had been voted by the whole committee and had to be closed. He then asked when they planned to meet with the Business Administrator.

Steve Londrigan stated that since this item had been open for four months with no progress, he asked to be relieved of this responsibility.

Then, chairman Mesa-Tejada asked Ann Howe when she planned to meet with Mr. Stokinger. She replied: "I'll let you know."

Based on that statement and the lack of progress, chairman Mesa-Tejada declared the item dead.

5. DISCUSSION: SAU 55 BUDGET

The discussion of the SAU Budget had to be delayed because all the pages were not copied. While replacement pages were being printed, Ann Howe accused Mesa-Tejada of deliberately not informing her about the appointment of John Skidmore.

Mr. Mesa-Tejada informed her that the process of replacing an elected member to any board or committee rests with the Selectmen, not with the affected board or commission. Ann Howe told Mr. Mesa-Tejada that she didn't want him to tell her anything. Then, she wanted to talk about an email that Mr. Mesa-Tejada wrote to the School Board.

Mr. Mesa-Tejada immediately told her that the discussion topic was SAU 55 Budget, nothing else, and ruled her Out of Order. She kept on talking while Mr. Mesa-Tejada kept calling her Out of Order.

Ann Howe lost her composure, slammed her hand on the desk and shouted "No, you're the one who is out of order."

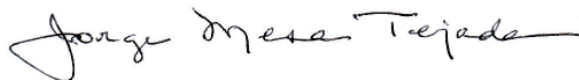
In view of the circumstances, Mr. Mesa-Tejada declared a recess at 7:12 PM and asked Cable to shut off transmission.

The BudCom reconvened at 7:18 PM. With no agreement to proceed with the agenda, Steve Londrigan moved to adjourn, seconded by Proc Wentworth.

VOTE: 4 YES; 1 NO

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM without conducting any further business.

For the Committee,



Jorge Mesa-Tejada, chairman