

North Hampton Budget Committee Minutes

7:05PM - 10:04PM

18 Dec 2001

Present: Homer Johnson, Kim Kisner, Ted Kopanski, Larry Miller, Jon Rineman, Robbie Robinson, Stuart Scharff, Lloyd Sullivan, Cynthia Swank

- 1) Approved minutes of 4 December 2001 meeting (unanimous, Rineman abstaining).
- 2) Dennis Mires, the architect who has done the initial planning for the Municipal Complex, gave a presentation describing the process and recommendations. Based upon an assessment of existing facilities, estimated Town growth, and space standards for the various functions, he determined that Town Offices, Fire, Police, Highway and the Library will all require more space to meet the Town's needs over the next twenty years. The plan he proposed is to move Highway to Cherry Road, build a new Library on land acquired for the purpose, move Town Offices to the existing Library, have the Police expand to the 2nd floor of the Police Station, and expand the Fire Department space by adding another bay. By moving Highway, additional driveway and parking space could be created.

The immediate need is to provide space for Town Offices while the rest of the plan is implemented over the next seven years. There were two options, buying a modular building and placing it behind the existing Town Offices and doing some renovation of Town Offices or completing the renovation of the 2nd floor of the Police Station by expanding the downstairs vestibule and installing an elevator and doing some renovation of existing Town Offices. A majority of the Board of Selectmen have already voted for the 2nd option.

Mires responded to questions from the Committee and from members of the audience and listened to comments offered by people in attendance. The Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Board hold a public presentation of the Municipal Complex plan prior to the Budget Committee's Public Hearing on the budgets and warrant articles January 10th.

- 3) Kim Kisner, Chair of the School Board, answered questions raised at the December 4 meeting relating to software, school tax rate, speech and language pathologists, comparisons of North Hampton's SPED costs, regular instruction costs and state assessment scores with two other seacoast towns, and bulk mailing. Fred Engelbach, Assistant Superintendent for SAU 21 answered the question relating to GASB 34 accounting.

Kisner presented the School's proposed warrant articles, including the

collective bargaining agreements with the Seacoast Education Association (SEA) and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association (SESPA). Other warrant articles include:

- < Establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund out of any surplus at the end of the fiscal year but not to exceed \$50,000. The monies will be used to enlarge the playing fields and/or to make other improvements to the grounds. Members of the Committee suggested some wording changes.

- < \$48,300 to replace technology equipment, computers, a server, and contractor fees for summer work on the building -wide infrastructure.

- < \$8,700 to purchase a portable projection system and miniDV camcorder. The projection system will be available for large group meetings and community meetings.

- < There also is a pending warrant article for land acquisition.

4) Lloyd Sullivan, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, described the Town's warrant articles that were included in a revised budget packet. They are:

- < Adding \$25,000 to the existing Accrued Benefits Liability Expendable Trust Fund.

- < \$23,000 for the purchase of a police cruiser (done annually).

- < Adding \$27,300 to the existing Mosquito Control Expendable Trust Fund.

- < Creating and appropriating \$35,000 for a Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

- < Adding \$27,000 to the Tennis Courts Capital Reserve Fund and using the total of \$116,518 to reconstruct the tennis courts, install new fencing and a water fountain.

- < \$45,000 to purchase a one ton pickup truck with plow for the Highway Department to replace the 3/4 ton pickup.

- < \$16,200 to pay part of the cost for digital radio equipment for the Police Department needed as the County's Sheriff's Department changes to digital.

- < \$4,000 to purchase new voting booths.

- < \$34,000 to purchase and install a vehicle exhaust system for the Fire Department trucks.

- < \$47,000 to purchase Windows-based municipal software to integrate all business functions.

- < \$140,000 to renovate the existing Town Offices and to install an elevator to the 2nd floor of the Police Station.

All of the above warrants, except for the tennis courts, are to be funded from the fund balance as of June 30, 2002.

An additional warrant article covering costs associated with a collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Professional Firefighters of North Hampton, IAFF Local Nol 3211 is anticipated.

A Pay As You Throw warrant article was discussed and members of the Committee recommended that George Lagassa, a member of the North Hampton Solid Waste Advisory Committee, do a presentation about establishing and implementing a Pay As You Throw (PAYT) system, including curbside recycling, prior to the Budget Committee's Public Hearing.

Cynthia Swank
Recorder