

North Hampton Budget Committee
MINUTES
November 13, 2003

Chairman Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Paul Fitzgibbon, Homer Johnson, Larry Miller, Robbie Robinson, Susan Smith, Peter Simmons, Lloyd Sullivan and Cynthia Swank
Absent: Sharon Halle

1) Presentation of proposed town budget

Selectman Lloyd Sullivan presented the recreation, treasurer, tax collector and town clerk accounts from the proposed town budget for 2003-2004.

Recreation director Brenda McKenna reviewed the recreation account. She now shares her position with program supervisor Mike Hastings so all salaries appear in the part-time account. Discussed highlights include: an increase in part-time summer staff and supplies for increasing participation and hours of operation of summer rec camp; an increase in the rec training and education account to certify two rec professionals rather than one; an increase in dues and subscriptions; an increase in the general maintenance account to mow Dearborn Park and around the welcome sign.

There was discussion of the need for more athletic fields and possible locations. It was suggested that a capital account or fund similar to the police special detail fund be created to capture rec income and apply to rec programs and field development. Income from sale of beach stickers currently appears in the rec dept budget. There was question whether the town should be profiting from sale of the stickers.

Lloyd Sullivan described the treasurer budget as essentially the same as the previous year. There is an increase in election costs in the town clerk budget due to an increase in elections next year and purchase of a new voting machine which will allow rental of others and increase speed and efficiency of vote tallying. The 6% increase in town clerk and asst salary was explained as a function of traffic increase in the office.

The tax collector's salary has been level funded as a deputy position has been added. The town will consider in the future combining the tax collector and town clerk positions, retaining the two deputies to assist. The committee felt this should be discussed with the town clerk and tax collector before being made public. There was a discussion of the property reassessments currently underway.

The chairman asked the committee to consider how discussion and recommendations for changes in town and school budgets should be handled this year, and whether it should take place before or after the public hearings on Jan. 15 (school) and Jan. 17 (town). Members favored earlier recommendations. The chairman would also like members to consider ways to increase attendance at the school (Feb. 3) and town (Feb. 7) deliberative sessions.

Town budget review will continue November 18 at 7 p.m. in the Mary Herbert conference room. Motion to adjourn by Lloyd Sullivan, seconded by Homer Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane
Recorder

(Minutes approved 11/18/03.)