

North Hampton Budget Committee  
MINUTES  
November 20, 2003

Chairman Robbie Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

**1) Presentation of proposed municipal budget**

Selectman Lloyd Sullivan presented a revised budget report and clarified several questions and changes from previous meetings: the GB water line item was increased from \$500 to \$1500 and includes bandstand area irrigation; the \$3000 for the community newsletter was moved to its own EX account from EX Misc., which now holds \$1000; the moderator salary has been moved to the elections/supervisor account from town clerk; the assessor's salary was adjusted to \$22,000 and \$15,000 removed from Update Assessment Cards; \$1250 budgeted for vehicle maintenance of the town car appears in the Code Enforcement account; the amount budgeted for patriotic purposes has increased from \$600 to \$1200.

Fire Chief Thomas Lambert assisted in presenting the proposed budget for the Fire Department. Committee member Peter Simmons noted that he was related to the chief and said he would step down from deliberations if requested. Salary and benefits that passed as a warrant article last March do not appear in the 2003-04 budget but are being paid by the town. Chief Lambert would like to increase staffing from 10 to 14 but the proposal will be delayed for a year and a presentation prepared.

Highlights of the dept. budget include: pay increases for the chief and deputy based on the NHMA wage study of public employees; there are 6 callmen and another will be hired; calls have increased from 800 total last year to over 1000 so far this year; health expenses are expected to increase 15%; the alarm system continues to serve 29 locations and there was discussion about the rationale and future for this service; with DRA approval, a capital reserve account may be created for ambulance billing.

Review of the municipal budget concluded with conservation and North Hampton Forever. Selectwoman Jenifer Landman reported abutter reactions to the proposed land purchase adjacent to the library was generally favorable, with concerns for parking and buffers. The pay increase for the town administrative assistant will bring that position in line with the NHMA study recommendations.

**2) Consideration of minutes Nov. 18**

Motion to consider the Nov. 18 minutes by Paul Fitzgibbons, seconded by Homer Johnson; corrections were noted; minutes approved 6-0 with Susan Smith abstaining.

The chairman noted he would be meeting with the DRA on Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. and invited interested members to join him.

Motion to adjourn by Lloyd Sullivan, seconded by Homer Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. The November 25 meeting has been canceled.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Kane, Recording Secretary