

MINUTES
NORTH HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

Attendance

BudCom Attendees: (1) Terence Conklin - chair; (2) Emily Creighton (BOS); (3) Henry Marsh (SB); (4) Andrew Hart; (5) David Peck; (6) Sue Spencer; (7) Peter Simmons; (8) Larry Miller.

Absent: Paul Marston

Mr. Conklin called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Minutes:

Minutes for December 7th were reviewed, motion by Marsh and seconded by Hart to accept, approved 7-0-1. Minutes for December 5th were reviewed, motion by Marsh and seconded by Creighton, approved 8-0.

Town Department Budget Setting:

BudCom members reviewed the latest BOS proposed budget as presented by Ms. Creighton (Board of Selectmen). Discussion followed a review of each department. Various motions were made by BudCom members to adjust line items as proposed, and if seconded, were voted on. See **Exhibit A** for summary of motions, votes and adjustments.

Ms. Creighton will report back to BudCom on alternative insurance quotes based on \$5K and \$10K deductibles.

Mr. Conklin inquired whether the Rec. Dept. budget should be presented as gross appropriations as opposed to including a net number based on possible funding from the Recreation Revolving Fund. The amounts not shown in the budget total roughly \$35,000. This treatment was questioned at the November 6th meeting (see minutes from meeting). Mr. Pardue will research and advise. It was agreed that any motions to adjust the budget would be deferred until such information on presentation was clarified.

School Budget Setting:

BudCom members reviewed the latest School Board proposed budget as presented by Mr. Marsh (School Board Member). Discussion followed a review of each department. Various motions were made by BudCom members to adjust line items as proposed, and

if seconded, were voted on. See **Exhibit B** for summary of motions, votes and adjustments.

Questions were raised regarding the proposed increase in Administrative Salaries which were represented to be at 3% over last year. Specifically, it appears as though certain Administrative personnel were paid at a higher salary in 2006/2007 than proposed by the School Board and approved by the BudCom in last years budget. Mr. Mash will research the issue and get back to the BudCom as soon as possible. It was agreed that no adjustments would be proposed for these line items until Mr. Marsh could confirm the facts and confirm the School Board's position.

Mr. Miller inquired about the treatment of Medical Benefits for certain school employees. Mr. Marsh explained that the SB had agreed to allow select employees the option to decline participation in the School sponsored health benefit plan – and instead receive cash as additional compensation. Much discussion followed as to the appropriateness of this policy, transparency and tax treatment. Mr. Marsh agreed to quantify the dollar effect of these arrangements, what employees were eligible to elect this option, whether such additional cash payments were included in the employees W-2 and the relevant terms of any written or unwritten agreements the SB had with such employees. . It was agreed that no adjustments would be proposed for these line items until Mr. Marsh could confirm the facts and communicate the School Board's position.

Other Items

Next scheduled meeting is a Town Meeting for January 2nd in the School Auditorium at 7PM (or following the BOS's Town Meeting).

Motion by Mr. Hart to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 PM , seconded by Mr. Conklin. Vote was unanimous.