

**MINUTES  
NORTH HAMPTON BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2007**

**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) Paul Marston; (8) Larry Miller. Absent: Peter Simmons

Also in Attendance: NH Board of Selectmen (Don Gould); NHS School Board (Janet Gorman, Jen King, Dave Sarazen)

Mr. Conklin called the hearing to order at 7:06 PM

**Opening Comments:**

Mr. Conklin provided opening comments on the purpose of the hearing and the process in which the budgets were developed over a 4-5 month period. He indicated that the BudCom was still working on several budget issues with the Town (FD and PD > FICA and retirement) and the School (administrative medical benefits and compensation), and that the final budgets to be submitted to the governing body in connection with the first Town Meeting (Deliberative Sessions) would most likely reflect increases to the budgets presented this evening – however, these changes would not be material.

**Town Budget Presentation:**

Mr. Peck presented the Town Budget and reviewed the significant changes over last year's budget. After the presentation, the BudCom and BOS responded to questions from the audience. Topics of discussion included (i) BOS stipend increases; (ii) closing of the recycling center; and (iii) BOS plans to fill the Town Administrator position.

**School Budget Presentation:**

Mr. Conklin presented the School Budget and reviewed the significant changes over last year as well as significant components of this year's budget. After the presentation, the BudCom and School Board responded to questions from the audience. Topics of discussion included (i) withdrawal of NHS from the SAU and financial and service ramifications; and (ii) recently negotiated teacher's contract.

**Adjournment:**

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:55 PM and the Budget Committee moved to a committee meeting.

**General:**

Mr. Conklin laid out the timetables and work to be completed by the BudCom prior to the Town Meeting (Deliberative Sessions – Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>). Specifically, the committee will meet again to (a) finalize the budgets for the school and town; (b) review final warrant articles; (c) formally vote to recommend or not recommend the budgets and individual warrant articles. Mr. Conklin, as chair, will coordinate the providing of this information and filing of MS-7 with town officials.

Mr. Creighton will coordinate a request list of any changes (and necessary back up / supporting documentation) recommended by the BOS to the BudCom's current budget (as presented at this hearing) for discussion and vote at the BudCom's next meeting.

**Follow up with School Board:**

The members of the School Board joined the meeting to review certain information provided by the SB, and respond to questions, regarding compensation issues surrounding the administration. Specifically, the issues discussed centered around (a) the disclosure and communication gaps in connection to mid year raises not reflected in the budget process; (b) adequate disclosure of the budgeted and actual wage compensation being paid to the administration; (c) methodology of compensating employees including W-2 wages, required FICA and retirement benefits; and (d) evaluation of the total compensation being paid to administrative employees with SAU comparable positions.

The School Board agreed to take the discussion into consideration at its upcoming Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> scheduled meeting and alert the BudCom of any changes it may make to the 2007/2008 School Board proposed budget. It was agreed that the BudCom schedule its final meeting after this date to incorporate any such changes.

**Other Items**

Next scheduled meeting is on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Mary Herbert room.

Mr. Conklin adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.