

Budget Committee Meeting
Minutes of January 10, 2008
North Hampton School Auditorium



Attending Committee Members: Robert Copp, Michael Golden, Emily Creighton (Board of Selectmen), Robert Hamilton (Little Boar's Head), Jim Maggiore, Larry Miller, David Peck (Chair), Kari Schmitz (North Hampton School Board)
Others in Attendance: Town Business Manager Steve Fournier, Police Chief Brian Page
Not Attending Committee Members: none

David Peck, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 P.M.

Meeting Agenda and Discussion Points

1. The minutes for the November 29, 2007 Budget Committee meeting, as amended, were unanimously approved.
2. The minutes for the December 10, 2007 Budget Committee meeting, as amended, were unanimously approved.
3. Steve Fournier assured the Budget Committee that \$7,153 for Police Chief Page and Police Lieutenant Scippa's retirement was still in the budget.
4. The Budget Committee unanimously approved its 2008-2009 recommended budget of \$5,408,201 for the Town of North Hampton. This amount includes debt service, but does not include special warrant articles.
5. Special Warrant Article #5 for Contribution to the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund for \$75,000 was unanimously recommended.
6. Special Warrant Article #6 for Road Construction for \$85,000 was unanimously recommended. The \$85,000 will be taken from the Road Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund.
7. Steve Fournier will email Budget Committee members when they may sign the State of NH M-70 form at the Town office.
8. The Committee debated at length as to how much money should be allotted to the School Health Insurance line item. In 2007-2008, \$738,337 was budgeted, but due to lower insurance costs, \$59,000 was not used. The Budget Committee acknowledges that the school board has the legal right to transfer surplus monies from any line item to any other line item. Some Board members, however, feel that due to the large sum involved, the \$59,000 should have been returned to the Town, or at the very least, the Budget Committee should have been consulted as to how the \$59,000 would be spent. The problem is that the School must budget health insurance almost 9 months before a policy is actually purchased. At this point, the insurance broker can only guarantee that the policy will not go over a certain limit, but may cost less when it is actually purchased. The Budget Committee intent is to fully fund school health insurance, but does not want to leave as much as \$60,000 in the line item to be discretionary school spending. In order to address this problem, and after much discussion, the Budget Committee voted to reduce the School Board's requested \$746,387 by \$25,000 to \$721,387. The motion stipulated, however, that if the North Hampton School Board agreed at its January 17, 2008 meeting to initiate a Special Warrant, which would establish a non-lapsing, non-transferable fund for the Health Insurance, line item 4290000-211, the

\$25,000 would be reinstated. The motion passed with 4 in favor (Peck, Miller, Golden and Maggiore), 2 against (Copp and Hamilton) and 2 abstentions (Creighton and Schwartz). The intent of the motion is that the non-lapsing, non-transferable fund would serve as a kind of shock absorber to insure that school health insurance would be fully funded in the future.

9. The Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend North Hampton School District Warrant Article #2, i.e., "To see if the School District will vote to approve the cost items included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the North Hampton School Board and the Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association which calls for the following increase in salaries and benefits at the current staffing levels: Year: 2008-2009, Estimated Increase: \$23,505, and further, raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,505 for the 2008-09 school year, such sum representing the additional costs attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the prior fiscal year."
10. The Budget Committee voted 5 to 3 to recommend North Hampton School District Warrant Article #3, i.e., "To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,955 for deferred maintenance projects to the North Hampton School. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 and will not lapse until these projects are completed on June 30, 2010, whichever is earlier."
11. The Budget Committee voted 4 to 4 on North Hampton School District Warrant Article #4, i.e., "To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$106,671 for the purchase and installation of a centralized interior door locking and keyless password-based entry system for all internal doors (\$80,000) and for the installation of security shades and blinds (\$26,671). This new equipment will continue to improve security for the North Hampton School."
12. Kari Schmitz confirmed that "Mrs. Whittier moved to accept the recommendation of Mr. Sweet after discussion with Mr. Berry and allocated no more than \$120,000 to address the immediate safety issues of the playground" as recorded in the North Hampton School Board Minutes of June 5, 2007, #2, section d.
13. The Budget Committee agreed to meet Tuesday, January 22, 2008 in the Mary Herbert Room at 7:00 P.M. to sign the State of New Hampshire MS-7 and MS-27 forms.
14. The Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.