



Town of North Hampton
Budget Committee
Robert Copp
Michael Golden
Don Gould
Robert Hamilton
Jim Maggiore
Larry Miller
David Peck
Kari Schmitz

Budget Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 22, 2008
North Hampton Town Office Conference Room
Recorded by Jim Maggiore

Members attending: David Peck, Jim Maggiore, Robert Copp, Robert Hamilton, Larry Miller, Michael Golden, Kari Schmitz (left at 8:24 pm), Don Gould (arrived at 8:32pm)

Others in attendance: Bob Berry – Business Administrator SAU #21. Mike Coutu

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 by Chairman David Peck

Chris Ganotis, Town of North Hampton's representative to the solid waste district #53, proposed increasing funds for solid waste disposal in the FY09 budget from the budget committee's proposed \$101,500 to somewhere between \$109,000 and \$110,000 (line 01-4324-10-581 in section 4324 Solid Waste Disposal) due to a higher trash volume than anticipated and increasing tipping fees. He also surmised the solid waste disposal district fee (line 01-4324-10-201 in section 4324 Solid Waste Disposal) would exceed the proposed \$7,000 and fall somewhere between \$9,000 and \$10,000.

North Hampton's solid waste disposal fees are expected to rise 5% but are adjusted based upon the CPI in Boston which is calculated in July. The town's trash volume, in tons, is expected to rise by 5%. Historical data provided by Mr. Ganotis show the town's trash volume, in tons, were 1669 in FY 2005, 1532 in FY 2006, and 1402 in FY 2007. While these statistics reflect an overall decrease in volume over the last three years, Mr. Ganotis suggested this trend to be an anomaly as trash volume typically increases at the same rate as the rate of inflation. The cost of solid waste disposal in North Hampton in FY 2008 is expected to be approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Ganotis estimates the FY 2008 solid waste disposal cost, plus dumpster fees, plus bulky waste fees (across several line items in the budget) to approach \$140,000. He offered several suggestions to offset these cost in the future, including: increasing glass recycling in North Hampton and adding the excess to asphalt (a common practice to reduce the volume of asphalt required for paving), increasing the number of volunteers at the recycling center, and reducing the number of paid hours at the recycling center.

The FY 07/08 budget did have a surplus in the solid waste disposal line; however, the allocation of the surplus could not be verified at this meeting.

Bob Hamilton made a motion to raise the budget line for solid waste disposal from the budget committee's proposed \$101,500 to \$105,000, an increase of \$3,500. Larry Miller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed 5-2, 1 abstaining (Peck, Maggiore, Hamilton, Miller, Golden – Copp – Schmitz abstain).

Kari Schmitz apologized to the committee for any angst suffered by the budget committee surrounding her presentation of the security warrant article at the last meeting. She incorrectly assumed the Budget Committee was presented with the article during the budget process in December detailing the history, etc.. Ms. Schmitz thought she was just adjusting a figure. The North Hampton School security warrant article seeks \$80,000 for installation of centralized interior door locking and keyless password-based entry system, and \$26,671 for installation of security shades and blinds. Ms. Schmitz thought this warrant had been discussed in detail at prior meetings.

The original vote on this warrant article was 4-4. Bob Berry explained the DRA's interest in the March ballot showing either a "recommend" or "not recommend" by the budget committee for this warrant article.

Ms. Schmitz offered the following quote from Police Chief Brian Paige taken from his discussion of this matter with NHS principal Peter Sweet earlier that day, "This is the best option for the school."

Ms. Schmitz offered a motion to reconsider the original vote on the NHS security warrant article. Seconded by Michael Golden. The vote to revote was 6-1 (Peck, Maggiore, Copp, Hamilton, Golden, Schmitz – Miller).

During discussion Ms. Schmitz stated that without the addition of the security measures in this warrant article there will not be a master lockdown button available in the school as North Hampton residents have been led to expect.

Bob Hamilton voiced his concern that this warrant increases "creepage" in the budget – creepage that has already accounted for significant increases in taxes and spending.

David Peck quoted Chief Paige in an email date January 16th as saying, " I also need to state that there is not anywhere in the plan that Mike Oliveira and I wrote that says the classrooms must have these electronic locks. It is also not a law that these interior doors must have the electronic locks. Last year I did support the school in the installation of these types of locks for the outside perimeter doors, because of the need to very quickly lock down the perimeter without having Aides or Staff running around in possibly dangerous hallways to do so. Those locks were installed last year and were tested during the last lockdown and they worked very well."

Mr. Peck apologized for highlighting language within Chief Paige's January 16th email when he offered that email to the budget committee, BOS, and school board.

Kari Schmitz made a motion to revote the school security warrant as cast. Seconded by Bob Copp. The vote was 5-2 **not to recommend** (Peck, Hamilton, Miller, Golden, Maggiore - Schmitz, Copp).

It was noted by Ms. Schmitz that the citizen petition warrant articles submitted by David Peck requesting all purchases from both the school and town in excess of \$10,000 to be submitted to the budget committee from review cannot be withdrawn from the ballot. She also noted that the DRA states these warrants, if passed, are advisory only.

The school board also agreed to consider a non-lapsing trust account for any surplus in the healthcare line item of the school budget for FY 2010 and beyond. Ms. Schmitz read from the draft North Hampton school board minutes.

Bob Berry gave the committee the MS-27 forms for our signatures. He also thanked the committee for all our help and assistance during the budget process.

Bob Hamilton asked Bob Berry to investigate the reason why North Hampton school is not listed in the books compiled by the LGC. Mr. Berry promised to follow-up via email.

David Peck gave the committee the MS-7 forms for our signatures.

David Peck made the motion to accept the meeting minutes from the January 10th public hearing and budget meeting. Seconded by Schmitz.

Kari Schmitz made a motion to accept the minutes January 10th public hearing and budget meeting as amended. Seconded by Bob Copp. The vote was 7-0.

Mike Golden and Bob Hamilton will visit the Portsmouth budget committee on January 31st to learn about their best practices.

David Peck explained the format of the deliberative session.

The remainder of the meeting was spent tabulating the results of the budget committee survey.

The meeting ended at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Maggiore