

Vice Chairman Michael Golden called the public hearing to order at 7:07 PM.

Members present: Mike Coutu, Select Board representative, Bob Copp, Jennifer Simmons, Jim Maggiore, Bob Hamilton, Little Boar's Head representative, Mary Pat Dolan, North Hampton School Board, Kari Schmitz, Budget Committee and North Hampton School Board, Stacey Whittier, North Hampton School Board and David Sarazen, North Hampton School Board.

Members Absent: David Peck

Vice Chairman Michael Golden told those in attendance that David Peck had videotaped a 45 minutes presentation that would be shown. Mr. Golden stated that Mr. Peck was currently out of the country, and prepared this video to be shown at the public hearing.

Topics covered by Mr. Peck included a review of the role of the budget committee, the results of a budget survey, numerous charts and graphs showing tax rate comparisons, the tax rate trend, the spending trend, operating budget comparisons and major budget impacts as well as warrant articles proposed for fiscal year 2009/2010.

Town Administrator Steve Fournier stated that there would be an additional warrant article for the contract between the Town of North Hampton and the Local Teamsters 633.

Terry Conklin of 3 Cotton Farm Lane thanked the budget committee and the school board for the numerous hours that they spent preparing the budgets. Mr. Conklin asked the budget committee if going forward to next year there would be any effect on retirement. Selectman Coutu stated that the New Hampshire Retirement System is currently underfunded and the costs are being pushed back onto the employers. Selectman Coutu also stated that the impact in future years would be much more severe.

School Board member David Sarazen asked the budget committee where the numeric figure of up to \$200,000 had come from. Mr. Sarazen stated that the School Board had prepared a 0% increase in their budget as asked and that they were given no direction as to where the budget committee thought cuts should be made.

Margaret Allen of Squier Drive expressed her disappointment in the behavior of the budget committee members during the televised budget committee meetings held in December.

Budget committee member Larry Miller stated that he appreciated Mrs. Allen's opinion but disagreed with it. Mr. Miller stated that next year's budgets would be a lot less due to the current economy.

Selectman Mike Coutu explained that the current economy begged the question as to where a cut of \$100,000 could be made.

David Allen of Squier Drive asked Fire Chief Tom Lambert if after having to make a \$49,000 cut to his overtime budget as requested by the budget committee if he could live and work with this figure. Chief Lambert stated that the budget was not optimum, and was unsure of the effect of compromised staffing levels would be.

Motion to adjourn by Michael Golden at 8:40 PM. Seconded by _____ Motion carries 8-0.