

North Hampton Budget Committee Meeting
Wednesday July 29th, 2009
Mary Herbert Conference Room

Call to order: Chairman Jim Maggiore called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Budget committee members in attendance: Robert Copp (North Hampton School Board representative), Michael Golden, Robert Hamilton (Little Boar's Head representative), Jim Maggiore, Paul Martino, Larry Miller, David Peck, Jon Rineman (Select Board representative), Jennifer Simmons

Also in attendance: Town Administrator Steve Fournier, NHCATV videographer John Savastano, Chief of Police Brian Page, Tom McCormick

Jim Maggiore opened the meeting by recognizing and thanking retiring Fire Department Chief Thomas Lambert for his years of service and dedication to the town and his department.

Meeting minutes from April 20th, 2009 were amended and accepted as amended.

Motion to accept minutes as amended Bob Copp, seconded Paul Martino. Vote 8-0

Bob Hamilton gave an update on his project to develop a "white sheet" of guidelines and expectations that the budget committee, town departments, and school can use as during the budget season. These guidelines and expectations should make the transfer of information more transparent for each department, the school, and the budget committee. Mr. Hamilton will meet TA Steve Fournier as well as members of the budget committee during the next several weeks to draft these guidelines. The guidelines will be presented to the budget committee in the beginning of October, 2009.

Town Administrator, Steve Fournier gave an update and review of the year-to-date Town financials. In addition to the attached report, Mr. Fournier offered the following impact from the NH State \$110 million budget cut:

- *North Hampton could stand to lose \$50,000 in revenue sharing.*
- *The State will cut funding to the police and fire department retirement accounts by 5% each of the next two (2) years. Funding to these accounts is mandatory; therefore, the town is formalizing a law suit against the state on the grounds that this constitutes an unfunded mandate. This reduction forced Mr. Fournier to inform the police department that it would need to cut its budget by \$6,000 and the fire department reduce its budget by \$10,000.*

Mr. Fournier also reported that \$236.08 would be returned to the General Fund from warrant article 17. WA 17 appropriated \$9,000 to repair, resurface, and repaint the tennis courts at Dearborn Park – the actual cost was \$8,763.92.

Similarly, \$123.78 would be returned to the General Fund from WA 19. WA 19 appropriated \$60,000 to demolish a town owned property at 239 Atlantic Ave – the actual cost was \$59,876.22.

\$721.90 needed over and above the \$10,000 appropriated from WA 24, a warrant passed to purchase a mechanical stretcher for the fire department, is being subsidized by the North Hampton Fire Fighter Association.

Mr. Peck noted that solid waste tipping fees are decreasing. He asked Mr. Fournier about the length of the solid waste company contract. Mr. Fournier thought the contract extended through 2011.

Mr. Golden and Mr. Peck commended the fire department and police department on their efforts to reduce their budgets.

Mr. Peck also commented on the favorable fire water capacity charge. Mr. Fournier said the charge is typically an estimate and the estimate came in very favorable.

Mr. Copp gave an overview of the North Hampton School Budget (see attached). He first noted that the NHS school board is currently working with the joint board on finding a new SAU #21 superintendent. The NHS school board is also currently evaluating the need for a new vice principal. Tara Rossi has left the position. This will free up some budget money. Stipends will be paid to NHS employees who contribute to the former vice principal's responsibilities.

The acid wash and brick and mortar repairs are on schedule.

Unspent budgeted appropriations totaled \$76,694.

Mr. Golden asked if the reported budget of \$7,282,832 included approved warrant articles. Mr. Copp said the budget does include warrant article appropriation. The budget committee asked Mr. Copp to return with a budget that separated operating expenses from approved warrant article appropriations. The line item for teacher salaries was favorable due to attrition. Fuel costs were higher due to a high lock-in rate.

Mr. Rineman asked if there was an update on the talk and financial impact to North Hampton if the town of Hampton withdraws from SAU #21.

Liasion meetings were discussed.

The upcoming budget season calendar was discussed.

Mr. Maggiore apologized for posting the public hearing for the Little Boar's Head District budget too late. That public hearing will take place August 6th, 2009.

Motion to adjourn by David Peck, seconded by Paul Martino. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Maggiore