



*Budget Committee Approved Minutes
December 21, 2015*

1. Call to Order

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Those in attendance were Jonathan Pinette, Terrence Belluche, Kari Schmitz, Casey O'Kane, James Sununu, John Anthony Simmons. Absent: Dickie Garnett and Rick Stanton.

Chair Hamilton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hamilton stated before beginning with the town budget, Bill Hickey and Richard Boardman from North Hampton School were in attendance to present their warrant articles. He stated the school would be given from 7:00 PM until 7:30 PM to present.

Mr. Boardman gave an update of the school's operating budget, stating the equipment line would have \$48,681 added for an upgrade and replacement of the phone system. The operating budget will now be \$8,438,725.

Motion by Mr. Simmons to approve the expenditure as stated on page 117 of the proposed operating budget. Seconded by Mr. Belluche. Motion carries 6-0-1.

Mr. Hickey began presentation of the warrant articles.

Warrant Article 1 Teacher's Contract \$159,733

Mr. Hickey stated all school board's in the district had unanimously approved.

Motion by Mrs. Schmitz to vote on the article . Seconded by Mr. Sununu.

After much discussion, it was decided more clarity was needed for some members and Mrs. Schmitz withdrew her motion, and Mr. Sununu withdrew his second.

Town Administrator Apple addressed the chair and asked to have the town's portion of the meeting rescheduled as they were not informed they would not be first on the agenda at 7:00 PM. He further stated he was not aware the town would have to sit and wait until approximately 9:00 PM to discuss their budget.

Chair Hamilton stated he would only spend 15 more minutes with the school and thanked Town Administrator Apple for his patience.

Warrant Article 2

Warrant Article 3 Long time Maintenance \$78,000

Warrant Article 4

Motion by Mr. Simmons to approve. Seconded by Mrs. Schmitz. Motion carries 7-0.

Warrant Article 5 Special Education Fund \$75,000

Motion by Mrs. Schmitz to approve. Seconded by Mr. Simmons. Motion carries 7-0.

Warrant Article 6 Health Insurance Fund

Motion by Mr. Sununu to approve. Seconded by Mr. Simmons. Motion carries 6-0-1.

Warrant Article 7 Building Maintenance Fund

Motion by Mr. Simmons to approve. Seconded by Mr. Belluche. Motion carries 7-0.

All warrant articles were approved by the Budget Committee except the teacher's contract.

2. Second Review of Town Proposed 2016-2017 Budget
The Town portion of the meeting started at 8:00 PM.

Chair Maggiore opened the Select Board meeting at 8:00 PM. Those in attendance were Selectman Miller and Town Administrator Apple. Absent: Selectman Stanton.

Town Administrator Apple reviewed changes to the proposed budget included an addition of a Deputy Police Chief and a change to the health care lines to take 11% from the Health Care Stabilization Fund to help offset increases.

Town Administrator Apple explained if the deputy's position were to come from the proposed operating budget, cuts will have to be made. Those items earmarked would be a removal of the Recreation Budget and to fund it completely from the Recreation Revolving Fund; Mosquitoes; and all Social Services.

Mrs. Schmitz asked why there wasn't a request for a deputy in the fire department.

Town Administrator Apple stated after discussion with the fire and police chiefs, Chief Tully recognized the urgency in the police department and agreed he would wait another year. He further stated in order to have the budget pass, only one position would be tolerated.

Mrs. Schmitz asked if the two deputy positions were proposed, would it eliminate the Public Safety Director's position to which Town Administrator Apple replied no.

Mr. Simmons stated he opposed having two deputies and a Director of Public Safety.

Mr. Sununu expressed his concern as to why overtime had not been reduced if a deputy had been added.

Town Administrator Apple stated the police department is still considerably understaffed and it will be until all police officers finish training at the Police Academy and Field Training which takes approximately two years.

Discussion continued for an hour on the deputy positions.

Discussions amongst the Select Board and Budget Committee continued regarding the cost of the police contract, mosquitoes and solid waste reductions.

Town Administrator Apple asked the Budget Committee where they would like to see reductions in the budget. Mrs. Schmitz stated she could not support an overall budget that was now 2.6% over the default.

Mr. Sununu expressed his frustration at having the mosquito control funding at \$85,000 when spending has shown over the past three years to come in at approximately \$70,000.

Mrs. Schmitz expressed her concern that non union salaries were too high, and she would not support them. She further stated if someone did not like their salary they could go somewhere else.

Motion by Selectman Maggiore to reduce the town's operating budget by \$21,500 with \$10,000 reduction in account 4324 Solid Waste; a reduction of \$1,500 in account 4329 Recycling; and a reduction of \$10,000 in account 4414 Mosquitoes. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

Chair Maggiore stated the bottom line operating budget proposal would now be \$6,696,066.

Mr. Sununu stated he is not accepting a COLA and a merit pool in which an employee could essentially receive a 4.7% increase.

Town Administrator Apple stated the Select Board would not be giving an employee that for an increase however they are not will to change their policy.

Mrs. Schmitz stated she understood the Select Board's thinking but it cannot happen all at one time. She also stated she felt the Fire Department's budget was too high.

Selectman Miller stated the operating budget has been under the inflation for over ten years now and things must change.

Mr. Simmons stated Legal Expenses was too high, and a less aggressive and more congenial approach should be taken in Code Enforcement.

3. Any new business that comes before the committee
4. Approve minutes for November 30 and December 7, 2015
5. Adjourn

Next meeting: If needed, Tuesday, December 29, 2015.
Definitely, Thursday, January 7, 2016.