

DRAFT to be approved at the Monday, May 2nd BOS Meeting

A Public Budget Hearing of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, April 18, 2011 at the Town Office Building.

Present for the Board: First Selectman Kate Donnelly, Selectman Roger Dionne, Selectman Mike Chapel

Staff Present: Ellen Rodriguez, Treasurer; Liz Stillman, Recording Secretary

Call to order: First Selectman Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

Budget Workshop Session:

First Selectman Donnelly indicated that the Selectman would be going over the budget by series and address questions or comments as the meeting progressed.

Regarding the Selectmen's budget (6000 series), Gay Wagner spoke against salary increases for the selectmen.

6001 Series (Tax Collector)- First Selectman Donnelly mentioned that Tax Collector Baum agreed to a 1% salary increase, and also to reduce the tax assistant's budget line item in order to raise the town clerk assistant position line item, with the intention to have more of a floating assistant position.

6004 Series (Treasurer)- First Selectman Donnelly pointed out that the salary for the Treasurer has a proposed increase of 20% (\$3,323) to help bring the salary in line with the salaries of other elected officials in Hampton.

Gay Wagner spoke regarding the Treasurer's salary and the weekly schedule for that position, and asked if the Treasurer's schedule would be the same as other Town Hall employees.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked if there was a range of hours the Treasurer worked, in order to determine the equivalent of an hourly rate for comparison.

6009 series (Elections)- Registrar office hours have been reduced from four hours to two hours. Dayna McDermott- Arriola discussed registrar salaries and responsibilities.

6013 series (Town Hall / Garage/ Community Center Utilities)- Treasurer Rodriguez explained the decrease for the Town Hall Telephone line item.

6015 series (Insurance)- Kathi Newcombe asked if the health insurance budget covered the school as well. First Selectman Donnelly indicated that it covers Town Employees; the school has a separate budget.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked what town employees were eligible for health insurance.

First Selectman Donnelly asked if there were any questions regarding the budget so far.

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Dayna McDermott- Arriola inquired if there was a policy written as to who is eligible for health insurance.

Bob Burgoyne inquired if the Green Energy training budget line item was grant money, and why it was budgeted higher than Planning & Zoning or Inland Wetlands training line items. Mr. Burgoyne also inquired about the 1601- Solar Energy system budget line item, and Treasurer Rodriguez explained that it was used as part of a matching grant, and that the money had to be spent, but there was income to offset that.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked if the proposal put forth by Selectman Dionne regarding the selectmen's salaries would be looked into further. Selectman Dionne indicated that Selectman Chapel had not had a chance to look at it as of yet.

6500 series (Recreation Commission/ Youth Sports)- Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked why after the offsets from Youth Sports revenue, the town would still be responsible for \$4000.

Brian Murphy explained how the Youth Sports budget was derived from the Recreation budget.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked for clarification regarding Youth Sports and the Recreation department budget.

Treasurer Rodriguez indicated that there are be several additional programs anticipated this year.

Chris Ayotte further explained budgeted line items for Youth Sports.

Ed Burchfield spoke on the Recreation/ Youth Sports budget, and how there was not a financial history available, and suggested going to the Recreation Commission for further clarification.

Gay Wagner indicated there were financial statements going back to 2008 for the Recreation Commission available.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola indicated that funds gone unspent by commissions should have gone back to the General Fund.

John Darrigan spoke on the equipment and facilities available to Youth Sports and in favor of funding Youth Sports.

Bob Grindle spoke in favor of funding Youth Sports.

Chris Ayotte clarified that the coaches are all volunteers.

Brian Murphy also spoke in favor of funding Youth Sports.

Gay Wagner thanked the Town for finding funding for Youth Sports this year.

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6600 series (Education)- The proposed budget has not be finalized. The budget will be voted on May 2nd at the tri-town meeting, a referendum will be held on May 3rd.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked if there was a decrease in student population.

7000 series (Contingency)- Selectman Chapel asked what the contingency fund was used for. Treasurer Rodriguez explained what the funds would be used for.

7100 series (Miscellaneous)- Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked why the distribution cost of the Hampton Gazette was eliminated from the proposed budget.

7500 series (Capital & Non- Recurring)- Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked if the Fire Truck was something the town was paying for.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola spoke supporting a hiatus on adding funds to savings accounts for land acquisition, open space acquisition, and others that are “slush funds” while interest rates are so low, until the economy recovers.

Ed Burchfield also spoke supporting a hiatus for open space money; making diverting money to where it is truly needed a priority at this time.

Gay Wagner suggested the town look at the property available on Kimball Hill, for creating a unified Recreation Complex.

Dayna McDermott- Arriola asked if the Board of Education budget was complete, and when it was going to be discussed by the Board of Selectman. First Selectman Donnelly indicated that the two budgets were separate.

Audience Comments/Questions:

Gay Wagner requested more information about revenue overages and spoke supporting planning for less of an overage.

First Selectman Donnelly indicated that the Town’s auditor encouraged the town to create an overage of 12-15% and that a small town like Hampton is encouraged to have a larger overage because smaller towns have less of a cushion.

Ed Burchfield also spoke regarding revenue overages and the difficulty of predicting the overage for the year.

Kathi Newcombe asked if the salary requested for the poll workers was incorporated in the draft of the 2011-2012 budget dated 4/18/11.

Sue Hochstetter asked for clarification if Youth Sports were supposed to be self-sustaining down the road and if the Recreation Commission was expected to be self-sustaining as well.

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First Selectman Donnelly indicated that the budget was written based on what was requested and that it would be expected to be a recurring budget item for Youth Sports and that the Recreation Commission and they were not expected to be self- sustaining.

Gay Wagner spoke on the Recreation Commission budget, and indicated that the budget requested was very specific in regards to its goals.

Sue Hochstetter asked if it was be prudent to ask both Youth Sports and Recreation Commission to be self sustaining.

Maryellen Donnelly spoke supporting funding Youth Sports.

Sue Hochstetter spoke supporting asking the children participating in Youth Sports raise funds for their activities/ sports.

Chris Ayotte spoke supporting funding Youth Sports.

Treasurer Rodriguez indicated that Chaplin and Scotland contribute funds to Youth Sports.

Chris Ayotte indicated that several sports have sponsors and have fees for participation.

John Darrigan spoke supporting funding Youth Sports.

Ed Burchfield suggested that people who have ideas, come to the Youth Sports and Recreation Commission meetings and present them to those the respective commissions.

Marlene Aulten spoke in support of the budget.

Adjournment:

Selectman Dionne made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Chapel seconded. All in Favor; Meeting adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Stillman
Recording Secretary