

**DRAFT to be approved at the Monday, June 6th BOS Meeting**

A Public Budget Hearing of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, May 23, 2011 at the Town Office Building.

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

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

**Call to order:** First Selectman Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

First Selectman Donnelly invited the public to contribute.

Barbara Anderson spoke regarding town employee proposed raises.

Bob Grindle also spoke regarding town employees and clarified who proposed what.

Pheobe Huang spoke on town employee raises and health insurance benefits.

Angelica Hansen spoke regarding health insurance and presented her research with other area towns.

John Gorman also spoke regarding his research regarding health insurance with other towns.

Margaret Haraghey asked if people that were covered by Hampton's health insurance, have other coverage available.

Laura Petix spoke regarding health insurance as well.

Kathi Newcombe spoke regarding the undesignated general fund balance and presented her research done with various Connecticut towns and their percentage of the budget that is designated to the general fund.

Maryellen Donnelly spoke regarding health insurance, and purchasing health insurance through a group.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola spoke regarding elected official's salaries and health insurance as well as the road crew's salaries and benefits.

Tom Gaines spoke regarding the open space fund and where that money was delegated in the budget.

Gay Wagner asked if money was taken out of the open space fund; First Selectman Donnelly indicated that the Board of Selectmen proposed a budget that did not include \$10,000 for land acquisition, and that included an additional \$10,000 for the building maintenance.

Renee Cahill proposed that the Board of Selectman consider funding the Recreation Commission.

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Tony Romano spoke regarding the number of hours that the town hall is open versus other area towns.

Troy Lake spoke regarding the Recreation Commission's budget.

Gary DeCesare asked the Board why the BOS thought the budget did not pass, followed up with a question regarding tax revenue vs. costs for the Town also commented on health insurance coverage for Town Employees.

Jeanne Romano thanked the Board for having this session.

Ed Burchfield spoke regarding health insurance for town employees. Also spoke regarding the general fund, and that the percentage suggested by the auditor is "paid" for advice.

Juan Arriola spoke regarding elected officials and their health insurance benefits.

Dan Meade spoke regarding the committee that met to discuss the selectmen's salaries, and suggested that committee look at all the elected officials' salaries in the future. Additionally, Mr. Meade suggested that raises for elected officials take effect at the beginning of the new term, instead of at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Dianne Meade asked that it be publicized when contracts were being negotiated; First Selectman Donnelly clarified that contract negotiations were publicized.

John Gorman spoke regarding fair compensation and health insurance for town employees. Also, spoke regarding the Fletcher Memorial Library and the interlibrary loan program.

Melanie Johnston spoke regarding the town employees' salaries and health insurance. Also spoke regarding salaries and benefits taking affect at the start of the next term (after the election).

Dayna McDermott Arriola suggested an ordinance be proposed regarding when raises take affect for elected officials if it doesn't already exist.

Pheobe Huang asked what the next step is the budget process and commented on the salary increases based on performance.

Linda Gorman spoke regarding the Youth Sports budget and financial hardships citizens of Hampton are facing.

Maryellen Donnelly spoke regarding town employees salaries.

Laura Petix spoke regarding the Fletcher Memorial Library librarian's salary and benefits.

Irene Brown spoke regarding voter turnout, the history of the Library arrangement with the Town and how to plan for the future.

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Gay Wagner is submitting an ordinance to form a Board of Finance.

Gary DeCesare expressed concern regarding town employees working more hours that they're being paid for. First Selectman Donnelly clarified that the elected officials do not report to the Board of Selectmen; they are independently responsible for their positions.

Margaret Haraghey added that if elected officials do not work at all, there are no repercussions.

John Gorman spoke regarding fair and equitable compensation for town employees.

Linda Gorman would welcome an independent group to evaluate the library.

**Adjournment**

Selectman Chapel made a motion to adjourn, Selectman Dionne seconded. All in Favor; Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liz Stillman  
Recording Secretary