

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 12 and January 14, 2011**

PRESENT: RICHARD H. HARTUNG, CHAIRMAN; JAMES L. STEWART, SELECTMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Chairman Hartung and Selectman Stewart called the public hearing on the bond for the police station at 6:15 pm.

There was a motion to continue the public hearing on the police station bond scheduled for 6:15 pm and the public hearing on the town's 2011 budget scheduled for 7:00 pm to Friday, January 14, 2011 at 6:15 pm and 7:00 pm respectively. The reason for the continuation is the weather. The motion passed with two in favor.

Chairman Hartung called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm January 14th.

Budget Committee: B. O'Brien, B. Vass, P. Wentworth, (after bond public hearing)
Guests: Penny Williams from Tri-Towne news, J. Worthen, S. Murphy, J. Mesa-Tejada, H. Williams, Chief Carrier, J. Crowley, N. Gallo, L. Rockwell, M. Thrasher, E. Labreque?, arrived for the second public hearing R. Chambers, B. Kelly, E. Reschberger, Chief Beaudoin, P. Bracken.

Chairman Hartung opened the hearing at 6:15 pm by reading the public announcement. The Hampstead Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public testimony on a proposed bond or note warrant article in excess of \$100,000.

Actual Article as of January 14, 2011:

To see if the voters of the Town of Hampstead will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Dollars and no Cents (\$1,996,721) for the purpose of financing the construction of a new police station on land owned by the Town (Map 7, lot 10) and equipping same, which building will house the Town's Police Department, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes of not more than One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty One Dollars and no Cents (\$1,996,721) under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq., as amended, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to 1) apply for, obtain and accept federal, state and other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; 2) issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes; 3) determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof, 4) take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto.

Selectman Stewart spoke on behalf of the proposed station by saying that he has been around town and talked with people about the station. He has not met anyone yet that didn't agree that a new police station is needed. The current building was built in 1941 and it is starting to have serious decay. He announced that anyone that would like to can call the police department and take a tour of the building. He explained that the current police station is out of compliance in a couple of areas one being that prisoners are chained to the wall while they are being processed. Another area of concern is a separation area for juveniles.

He noted that a lot of the previous questions have been addressed. The committee reduced the size of the proposed station, which reduced the cost of the project. One of the questions in the past was why not have a public safety complex? Selectman Stewart explained that the reason that can't be is that there is only one entrance into the current fire station and that if there were an incident, both police and fire could be blocked from responding without a second egress.

Another question in the past is why they don't expand at the current location. The land behind the police station is held in a public park trust and can't be used for any addition. One of the concerns with the new station that he has heard is why on a side road where there is no visibility to the station. He responded that once the station is built it will be visible. It is being built on town land to save the cost of having to purchase land. He believes that all the issues have been addressed. The town currently has no debt and this is the time to move forward with the new station. He noted that it actually had the majority of votes the previous times it was on the ballot, but it did not meet the 60% majority that is required by law for a bond item in an SB-2 town.

Mr. Mesa- Tejada agreed with what Selectman Stewart presented. He asked to be able to clarify a statement that was in the Tri-Town News this week regarding a comparison being made to this proposal and one that Sandown had for \$800,000. He clarified that Sandown did not build a station for \$800,000 but are putting money away annually, if approved by town meeting. The cost of this station at \$1,996,721 is the total cost. When the station is complete, they will be able to walk in and begin operations. Of the amount being bonded, the amount of \$1,719,288 is for the construction. The balance is for the equipment and then \$567 for liability insurance. Mr. Mesa-Tejada explained that the labor costs for building is down, but material costs have risen due to price of oil.

The bond information presented has a five year, ten year and fifteen year rate. The preference is a ten year bond, with an estimated rate of 3.99% or 4%. On the first year of the bond the cost would be about .12 cents per \$1,000 of R/E tax valuation. The first payment on the bond would be due in 2012. Mr. Mesa-Tejada expects that if the proposed station passed, then it would be completed by the end of 2011. The station will not cost any more than the bond request. If the construction goes over, it is up to the contractor to eat the cost. If it comes in under the cost, then the contractor shares the difference with the town.

Mr. Williams spoke to the information on the bond. He contacted the Municipal Bond Bank to get the rates. He explained that they are a AA rated Bond Bank and that there are no AAA rated banks anymore. There are some present issues in the municipal bond market that makes it a little volatile; but that this rate was the best conservative estimate the Municipal Bond Bank could give him.

Selectman Lindquist asked how the payments are made. He responded that they would be paid semi-annually.

Judy Graham, a member of the committee that put the information together, stated that there are so many chances for a liability issue by staying in the current police station, especially with crime increasing. Selectman Hartung read some of the crime statistics for 2010. There were 23 felony cases, a bank robbery, child pornography cases, one negligent homicide, about 60 assaults 206 accidents and about 133 arrests. Mr. Mesa-Tejada noted that these are just the ones that were prosecuted. There were actually 12,000 calls.

Mrs. Graham stated that she heard on one instance of a liability suit filed and won, where someone was chained to a chair and the prisoner was able to reach a gun and shot someone. The suit was for \$14,000,000. She will see if she can find the actual case and put it up on the website that was created for the proposed station.

There were no further public comments.
The Public Hearing was closed at 6:38 pm.

The Selectmen took a recess until the posted public hearing at 7:00 pm

The Hampstead Board of Selectmen will hold a public budget hearing on Wednesday, January 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hampstead Town Office Building, 11 Main Street, Hampstead, NH, for the purpose of hearing public testimony and gathering information on the budget.

The hearing was opened at 7:00 pm with Chairman Hartung noting that some of the warrant articles being discussed tonight have had some minor changes from Town Counsel that the copy the public is viewing doesn't have. He noted that they were not material changes, but content changes.

The budget as presented tonight is at \$5,179,261.75 with the 2010 budget at \$5,244,912.44 and a net decrease of (\$66,450.69) for 2011.

The Chairman went by each grouping and read the 2010 budget, the 2011 proposed budget and the 2011 default budget.

Dept.	2010	2011	Default
Administration	\$164,846.62	\$157,764.56	\$164,546.36
Town Clerk	\$129,218.10	\$129,104.28	\$130,499.64
Election Adm.	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 9,330.00	\$ 9,450.00
Financial Adm.	\$ 8,975.00	\$ 10,400.00	\$ 10,400.00
Tax Collector	\$ 42,512.33	\$ 45,205.18	\$ 45,048.13
Treasurer	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 14,900.00	\$ 15,600.00
Assessing	\$ 66,598.82	\$106,825.00	\$106,525.00

The Selectmen reduced this budget by \$12,000. That amount was encumbered in 2010 for the work to be done on the utility assessment and updates. The new amount for 2011 is \$94,825.00 and the default to \$94,256.00. Chairman Hartung asked for this to get started soon. There is talk in Concord about the State Legislature taking the subject back up again.

Legal Expenses	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Personnel Adm.	\$303,329.48	\$297,512.41	\$295,768.53
Planning	\$ 76,031.36	\$ 49,200.00	\$ 57,401.00
Zoning	\$161,757.01	\$136,458.16	\$140,488.72
Board of Adj.	\$ 9,575.53	\$ 9,575.53	\$ 9,575.53
Buildings & Gr.	\$256,749.65	\$258,401.36	\$248,434.20

There was some discussion on a generator for the town office. Mrs. Theriault is submitting a request for two grants. The first one is for 100% reimbursement. The second one is a 50/50 grant. The town would need to have the money in the budget to pay their portion in order to accept the grant, if awarded. It was agreed that with the reduction in the assessing budget, the money could be placed into the Government Buildings account 41942-43000 for at least 1/2 the estimated cost of \$12,000. Chairman Hartung stated that if half the money was in the budget, they would be able to find the rest if needed.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to increase the 2011 budget for line 1001-41942-43000 by \$12,000. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed. If there is no grant money, then the money would not be spent. Chief Carrier spoke to the need for the generator at the town office so that there could be an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) when needed. He felt the full amount of the \$25,000 should be in the budget. It is part of the EOP plan that the EOC be located there as well. Chief Beaudoin stated that if the new police station passes, then the town office could have the generator that they had installed in the current station. The new budget for 2011 is now \$270,401.36 with no change in the default.

Cemeteries	\$ 57,805.00	\$ 59,305.00	\$ 52,805.00
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There was a question about the cost of the mower and whether or not a cheaper one could be purchased. Chairman Hartung noted that they will always look for the better deal.

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Insurance	\$126,237.00	\$117,403.00	\$117,403.00
Reg. Planning	\$ 8,129.00	\$ 8,129.00	\$ 8,129.00
Police	\$879,727.48	\$916,327.48	\$915,744.53
Fire	\$705,184.10	\$699,980.74	\$704,277.74

Chief Carrier asked if the line for heat and fuel 1001-42208-41000 could be increased by \$2,800.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to increase the line by \$2,800. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The new amount is now at \$702,780.74 with no change to the default.

EMD	\$ 11,876.00	\$ 11,876.00	\$ 11,176.00
Highway Dept.	\$797,830.00	\$798,698.00	\$800,038.00

Mr. Worthen asked that the line for highway labor be increased. When he prepared the budget, his help was listed as seasonal part time. His one employee is now part time and works up to 35 hours per week. He requested that the line go from \$28,438.00 to \$33,438.00 (and the default to the same as 2010 to \$30,000.00).

Selectman Lindquist asked about the default budget and why the salary lines were different.

Mrs. Theriault explained that the salaries do not include any COLA. She also makes any changes to the default that she knows was made to the budget, such as reductions compared to the prior years.

Selectman Stewart motioned to accept the recommendation of the Road Agent and increase the highway labor line 43120-12000 to \$33,438.00. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The new amount for 2011 is \$803,698.00 and the default to \$801,600.00.

Selectman Stewart spoke about the leased equipment line which includes the cost of leasing a chipper for the first of five years. The lease would be a cost savings to the town compared to renting it.

Street Lighting	\$ 32,350.00	\$ 32,350.00	\$ 32,350.00
Recycling & WD	\$703,802.34	\$643,155.01	\$684,338.61

The Selectmen thanked the Mr. Bracken and the committee for all their hard work in getting that budget reduced by \$60,000. The new one- year contracts offer the town a great savings. The committee will work on getting the RFP's out for the contracts that expire at the end of 2011. Mr. Bracken explained that under the misc account is funding for new recycling bins as well as an educational aspect for the recycling push they are doing. It was difficult to come up with a number for that.

ACO	\$ 26,744.91	\$ 26,744.91	\$ 26,605.30
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Mr. Vass asked about the assistant ACO salary where only ½ of the 2010 budget was spent.

Chairman Hartung stated that any money not spent is returned to the general fund. It is difficult to know how much would be needed, whereas it is based on calls.

Mosquito Control	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 30,600.00
Health Agencies	\$ 63,755.00	\$ 53,835.00	\$ 51,785.00

There are three agencies that were in the 2010 budget but have been placed on the warrant for 2010.

Welfare Adm.	\$ 36,293.75	\$ 37,175.84	\$ 37,050.00
Recreation	\$ 89,206.55	\$ 85,756.55	\$ 85,719.38
Cable	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Library	\$401,524.41	\$398,845.74	\$408,581.52

Mrs. Reschberger asked if there were any questions. There was not. She reminded people of all the things that they are able to do now with their library card.

Patriotic Purposes	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Conservation	\$ 4,403.00	\$ 4,403.00	\$ 4,403.00

The amended bottom line is \$5,187,445.25 with a default budget of \$5,219,306.19 which is a decrease from 2010 of 1.12%.

There was about \$60,000 of 2010 general fund balance that was encumbered for 2011.

Selectman Lindquist thanked all the department heads for their hard work.

Warrant Articles:

The articles are not yet numbered whereas the Planning Board has not yet met to confirm their articles. They will be noted as what the article itself is.

Proposed Police Station Bond

Selectman Lindquist motioned to move the article to the warrant. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

2011 Proposed Budget

Selectman Lindquist motioned to move the article to the warrant with the new numbers of \$5,187,445.25 and a default budget of \$5,219,306.19. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

Police Union Contract

The first year of the contract is to be \$23,916.00 for a nine month period. The second year is at \$18,558.00 with the third year at \$19,006.00 and the fourth year of the contract (3 months) at \$5,296.00.

Selectman Stewart stated that the contract went very smoothly. They thanked Lt. Frazier for all his help. Both Selectman Lindquist, Selectman Stewart and Lt. Frazier represented the town and Local President, Bob Kelly and Vice President, Rick Chambers represented the union members. Selectman Stewart stated that all the meetings were held in an open and candid format. Everyone recognized the state of the economy and environment. There was give and take on both sides. He stated that the increases were modest in comparison to other towns. The first contract was for \$19,662 for the first year, with the first year of this contract at \$23,916.00. Since that time two more officers have been added to the contract.

Detective Kelly thanked the Selectmen for the kind words. He explained that the first round of discussions were an unknown. In the two years since the contract took effect, there has not been a single grievance. If any issues arose, they were able to discuss them with the Chief and the administration and work them out. Selectman Stewart noted that the union is now taking on a larger share of the health insurance, even more than the town employees are. They are helping to reduce the overtime costs, by not requiring an opening in the Detective's shift to be filled. There are about 12 employees in the union for the \$23,000 cost.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move the police union contract article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

The next article is the ability to hold one more meeting to vote on cost items if the above article fails.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

Beach Work

There are two articles addressing work to be done at the Town Beach. The first article is asking for \$124,642.00 with \$31,160.50 raised from taxation and the balance, \$93,481.50 to come from a grant that has been applied for. If this budget passes, the work will move forward if the grant is approved. If the grant is not approved, and the article is, then only the \$31,160.50 will be spent.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

The work that would be done with the \$31,160.50 would be the catch basin work.

The next article on the beach is valid only if the above article is defeated. It asks for \$11,500 to be raised to some work on the drainage system. It is more like a band-aid to the problem. Mr. Worthen explained that this amount would allow a large single pipe on one side of the road to the lake. If the above article passes for the \$31,160.50 there would be 2 pipes and a treatment swale.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

Library Non Capital Reserve Fund

The Library is asking for \$10,000 to be added to the fund for the eventual roof replacement they are expecting to do around 2012. This is the third year of the request. The two previous ones have passed.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

CART- Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation

This health agency was in the budget for 2010. This year they are asking for \$17,800.00.

Selectman Stewart emphasized that CART is available for all residents to use not just the elderly.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

RSVP- Retired Senior Volunteer Program

This agency was also in 2010 budget. They are looking for \$700.00, the same as in 2010.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

SASS- Sexual Assault Support Services

This agency was in the 2010 budget for \$1,070. The same amount is requested for 2011.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

Child and Family Services

This agency is a new request for 2011. They are asking for \$1,000 and are coming with a recommendation from Danielle Forsyth, the Human Services Coordinator.

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

Code of Ethics

Selectman Stewart motioned to move this article to the warrant. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The vote carries 3 in favor and 0 against. The motion was made to recommend the article and the recommendation passed 3 in favor and 0 against.

There were no further questions or comments.

The Selectmen thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to close the Public Hearing on the 2011 budget at 8:40 pm. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Town Counsel has reviewed the warrant and it will now be sent to DRA for their review.

Chief Beaudoin asked for the Selectmen to sign off on a grant application for a repeater that will be placed in Hampstead. The Special Operations Unit is applying for the grant, but if approved, they need the permission of the Selectmen to allow the repeater in town. They are applying as a region. It is similar to a commitment letter.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the application. Selectman Stewart seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Theriault mentioned to the Selectmen that the Town received a letter from the EPA asking for the Stormwater permit for years 6 (2008) and 7 (2009). She explained that the Town did the permit for five years and when she went to look in 2008, there was something on the website that led her to believe that it was no longer required. Chairman Hartung has put a call into the EPA and is waiting for a response. Chairman Hartung asked that the two missing years be submitted as soon as possible with a letter of explanation as to why those two years weren't sent. The Selectmen will sign the letter of explanation. Mrs. Theriault noted that there usually was a post card reminder and that nothing has been received. The year 2010 will also be due soon (April). The reports are extensive and the EPA does ask for proof of the Town sending the reports for those missing years, so future reports should be sent certified.

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Roadside Memorials Policy- The changes that were sent to Town Council was not the most updated copy. Chairman Hartung suggested taking the changes from Town Council and incorporating them into the most updated version.

Selectman Stewart made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A True Record.

Approved By:

Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Richard H. Hartung, Chairman

James L. Stewart, Selectman

Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman