

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Public Hearing 2012 Budget
January 11, 2012**

PRESENT: SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD H. HARTUNG, SELECTMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Budget Committee Members: B. Vass, B. O'Brien, C. Hastings, M. Murphy, P. Wentworth
Guests: P. Bracken, R. Nugent, C. Kowoloski, E. Reschberger, J. Skidmore, J. Mesa-Tejada, P. Williams, J. Worthen, M. Carrier, J. Beaudoin

The public hearing was opened at 7:00 pm.

The Hampstead Board of Selectmen will hold a public budget hearing on Wednesday, January 11th 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.

Chairman Murphy noted that the total for the 2011 budget was \$5,262,391.49, the 2012 proposed budget is at \$5,175,176.22 and the 2012 default number is at \$5,247,502.46.

He noted before the public hearing was to continue that the Selectmen need to decide two items that could affect the budget. It was discussed at the last BOS meeting that in order to receive a grant for the generator, there would need to be a matching amount in the budget. The Selectmen agreed to not increase the 2012 proposed budget but would find the money in the budget if needed.

The second item was regarding the Town Forest Fund. In order to spend money for the Town Forest there needs to be a warrant article to allow money to be spent from the Town Forest Fund or to put money in the budget and any money received to go into the General Fund to offset it. Selectman Lindquist stated that she understood that once it became a Conservation Fund by Town Meeting, the Commission had authority to spend. Mrs. Theriault stated that these are the two options given to her by Town Counsel.

The Selectmen agreed to not increase the budget and to move it to a warrant article.

With that the public hearing was open for discussion.

There were no comments. The public hearing on the budget itself was closed at 7:07 pm.

It was noted that there would be a public hearing held on Friday, January 13th at 7:00 pm for a bond hearing reference to article 7.

ARTICLE 7

To see if the voters of the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Million Five Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and no Cents (\$1,538,300.) for the purpose of financing the construction of a new Police Station and driveway on Town owned land (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 Five Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Dollars and no Cents (\$1,538,300.) 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.

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Five Million One Hundred Seventy Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six and Twenty Two Cents. (\$5,175,176.22) Should this article be

defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Two Hundred Forty Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Forty Six Cents (\$5,247,602.46), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13 X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

ARTICLE 9

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate Two Hundred Seventy Five Thousand (\$275,000) for the purpose of acquiring a Fire Department Tanker to be funded with a grant from FEMA in the amount of Two Hundred Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$261,250); and to authorize the use of Capital Reserve Funds in the amount of Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$13,750) for this purpose. If additional funds up to Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) are necessary, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to act as agents of the fund, which will allow an additional withdrawal if necessary to fully fund the vehicle.

(If passed, this article will have a zero tax impact)

There was a question by Selectman Lindquist as to the legality of allowing the Selectmen to take more Capital Reserve Funds. This will be checked with Town Counsel.

ARTICLE 10

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate Thirty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$39,000) to purchase and upgrade the fire department's communications equipment; and Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to replace the fire department's cardiac monitor/defibrillator; and to authorize the use of Capital Reserve Funds in the amount of Sixty Four Thousand Dollars (\$64,000) for this purpose.

(If passed, this article will have a zero tax impact)

Budget Committee member Murphy asked what the balance would be on the Capital Reserve Fund if both of these articles passed. Mrs. Harrington stated that it would be about \$180,000-\$190,000 left. Mr. Mesa-Tejada questioned the ability to use the Capital Reserve Fund for items other than vehicles. Chief Carrier stated that the RSA states and major equipment is one that has a life expectancy of more than 5 years. The original article states the CRF was to be used for equipment.

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to finish the drainage system for the Town Beach, parking lot and roadways to reduce pollution and erosion of the Town Beach and Wash Pond. This article shall be non-lapsing until the completion of the project or until December 31, 2016, whichever comes first.

ARTICLE 12

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the existing Hampstead Public Library Building Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Murphy asked what the current balance is for the fund. Mrs. Harrington explained that the balance at 12/31/11 is \$30,170.03. Mr. Kowoloski asked if the original intent of the fund was for a roof. Mrs. Reschberger explained that the purpose was for building repairs and they had an estimate of \$50,000 to do the roof. They are hoping that later this year they can get a current estimate to make sure they are on track to be able to do it soon. She noted that whereas they are responsible for the building, they need to be able to fund for major expenditures. They believe that down the road they will be looking at the furnaces. There was a question from Mr. Murphy and Mr. Hastings as to why it is not broken out like the other departments and part of the town budget. They asked Mrs. Reschberger for a breakdown of the Trustee line item and emphasized that it should be have been available tonight as part of the budget. Mr. Vass stated that he had received information regarding their budget after attending Trustee meetings and would forward it to the other members. Chairman Murphy explained that the discussion could only be on the warrant article under discussion. The discussion on the budget itself is now closed.

ARTICLE 13

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) from the Town Forest Account for the purpose of forest management, maintenance and other costs associated with the care of Town Forest land. Funds requested come from the revenues produced by timber harvest.

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Selectman Lindquist questioned who wrote the article. Mrs. Theriault stated that she had and that none of the articles had yet gone to Town Counsel or DRA for approval. Selectman Lindquist felt it was misleading to state "raising and appropriating". Selectman Hartung asked that the words be added at the end "if passed this article has a zero tax impact."

Chief Beaudoin stated that he understood that he would have two articles, one for the police station and bond and the second for the cost of the engineering fees if the police station itself failed. It was agreed that at previous meetings of the Selectmen it was noted that the two articles would be on the warrant. Mrs. Theriault will make the correction to the warrant.

Mr. Vass asked if article 9 should have a limit on it, maybe an up to amount. Chief Carrier explained his reasoning for it. He noted that when they got the quint, he had requested about \$675,000 but didn't receive the whole amount and didn't want to lose the truck, so he needed to find the money within his budget to make up the difference. He felt that if the article allowed the selectmen to authorize more if needed, only for this purpose, would work. There were concerns amongst the Selectmen in taking that authority. Mrs. Theriault will see what Town Counsel has to say about the way article 9 is written,

Mr. Murphy asked the Selectmen if they would put a warrant article on the warrant asking that current use revenue go into a capital trust fund instead of to Conservation. There were concerns as to whether or not that could be done. Selectman Lindquist thought the statute allows current use revenue to go to the general fund or conservation only. Mr. Murphy asked if the Selectmen would look into it. Selectman Lindquist stated she had no interest in doing so. Chairman Murphy asked Mr. M. Murphy to put the request in writing and get it to the Selectmen's office. Mrs. Theriault noted that the Conservation Commission should have the ability to speak to such an article. Mr. Vass suggested that the Attorney General's office be contacted to see if this could be done. The Selectmen were asked if they would be making their recommendations this evening. Chairman Murphy responded that they would take their votes on January 23rd. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Budget Committee is meeting on January 19th and will be making their recommendations.

Selectman Lindquist made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

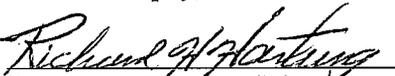
A True Record.



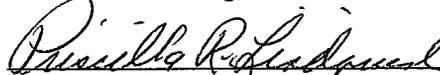
Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:

Sean P. Murphy, Chairman



Richard H. Hartung, Selectman



Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman