

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
Public Hearing 2014 Budget  
January 8, 2014**

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

Budget Committee Members: M. Murphy, P. Wentworth, A Howe, and S. Londrigan  
Guests: Chief Carrier, Chief Beaudoin, J. Worthen, S. Johanneson, S. Koleque-Spalaris, T. Curran, K. Emerson, D. Hiett, E. Reschberger

The public hearing was opened at 7:00 pm.

The Hampstead Board of Selectmen will hold a public budget hearing on Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 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 read the warrant up to Article 1 (election of officers). Article 2 through 4 were listed as zoning articles.

Article 5- Town Operating Budget \$5,456,149.65 with a default budget of \$5,500,884.68.

<b>Department</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>	<b>Dif</b>	<b>Default</b>
Executive/Admin	\$157,567.80	\$165,061.45	\$7,493.65	\$163,794.51
Town Clerk	\$132,553.00	\$136,935.82	\$4,382.82	\$135,212.99
Election	\$5,746.00	\$8,999.00	\$3,253.00	\$6,896.00
Auditing	\$9,100.00	\$9,375.00	\$275.00	\$9,375.00
Tax Collector	\$44,961.00	\$46,619.15	\$1,658.15	\$45,833.67
Treasurer	\$14,600.00	\$14,700.00	\$100.00	\$14,700.00
Assessing	\$100,475.00	\$142,301.00	\$41,826.00	\$140,575.00
Legal	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00
Personnel Adm	\$318,866.27	\$304,257.29	(\$14,608.98)	\$304,257.29
Planning	\$55,701.00	\$50,500.00	(\$5,201.00)	\$55,701.00
Building	\$128,994.00	\$125,874.00	(\$3,120.00)	\$130,885.77
Board of Adjustment	\$9,222.86	\$9,181.86	(\$41.00)	\$9,323.86
Government Bldgs	\$258,406.73	\$253,337.85	(\$5,068.88)	\$267,116.50
Cemeteries	\$57,005.00	\$51,505.00	(\$5,500.00)	\$57,005.00
Insurance	\$113,502.00	\$113,742.00	\$240.00	\$113,742.00
Regional Planning	\$7,921.00	\$8,220.00	\$299.00	\$8,220.00
Police	\$1,027,252.00	\$1,095,968.60	\$68,716.60	\$1,102,818.80
Fire	\$721,725.32	\$732,144.11	\$10,418.79	\$732,333.11
EMD	\$11,176.00	\$11,176.00	\$0.00	\$11,176.00
Highway	\$867,046.00	\$793,931.55	(\$73,114.45)	\$804,294.10
Street Lighting	\$32,500.00	\$35,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$35,000.00
Recycling and Waste	\$582,374.14	\$581,469.47	(\$904.67)	\$581,994.47
Animal Control	\$24,745.00	\$23,245.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$24,745.00
Pest Control	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2014

Page 2 of 5

Health Agencies	\$74,871.00	\$68,562.00	(\$6,309.00)	\$68,562.00
Welfare	\$35,326.00	\$28,353.00	(\$6,973.00)	\$37,426.00
Recreation	\$83,027.00	\$83,750.00	\$723.00	\$84,089.70
Cable	\$7,500.00	\$60,500.00	\$53,000.00	\$60,500.00
Library Trustees	\$85,426.05	\$89,160.98	\$3,734.93	\$86,426.05
Library	\$350,173.33	\$359,462.52	\$9,289.19	\$358,063.86
Patriotic Purposes	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Conservation	\$2,817.00	\$2,817.00	\$0.00	\$2,817.00
Total Budget	\$5,368,580.50	\$5,456,149.65	\$87,569.15	\$5,500,884.68

Matt Murphy asked why the default budget was higher than the proposed 2014 budget. Mrs. Theriault read RSA 40:13 IX: b (the definition of a default budget). She explained that in making reductions in the budget for the current year the prior year's budget amount is allowable under the definition of the default budget. She gave an example of the police cruiser. There was money in the 2013 budget for partial payment of a cruiser and in 2014 there is no money budgeted. The default budget can have the 2013 amount in it. It is not a one time expense, but a recurring cost. Budget Committee member S. Londrigan asked why the Cable Committee budget was up so high. Selectman Lindquist explained that whatever is spent in that line is reimbursed to the town at year end by the Cable Committee from the funds they receive from Comcast. Budget Committee member M. Murphy asked about the Recreation Director and why she was on salary not paid hourly. Mrs. Harrington explained that the current Recreation Director submits a timesheet every pay period and over a year, she averages about 20 hours per pay period. Whereas her job duties have peak seasons, the pay is based on the average to create her salary. She would be due for a 2% increase and when she works more than 40 hours in a pay period, she would be entitled to overtime pay. There was a question as to why the health insurance line under Personnel Administration was done. Chairman Murphy explained that there was a policy change this year that the highest cost plan was eliminated and the employees moved to lower cost plans. Budget Committee member M. Murphy asked how many full time employees there are. Mrs. Harrington responded that there were 22.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 5. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 6-Police Union Contract

The first year cost of the proposed contract is at \$15,992, the second year at \$17,430 and the third year at \$5,464.

The Budget Committee members asked what the percentage on the increases were and what Article 7 was.

Chairman Murphy explained that there is a 3% step increase for the officers each year, which is in line with what the nonunion employees have been receiving. There was a question regarding what the officers pay towards their health insurance. Chairman Murphy stated that it was a 90/10 split. There were some questions regarding the accuracy of the numbers for the second year of the contract. It was agreed that Mrs. Theriault would go back and look at the numbers again.

With the understanding that the first year numbers are good, the Selectmen decided to move forward with a recommendation.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 6. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 7- Request for a special meeting if Article 6 was to not pass.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 7. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 8- Request from Recreation Commission for \$24,500 to build a basketball court. There was no one present from the Recreation Commission to answer any questions, but at a previous meeting it was noted that they explained they were looking for \$24,500 to build a basketball court at the fields on Veterans' Way. There had a couple of estimates that were higher than that amount, but were looking to get some of the groups in town to help make up the difference. This was reported by Selectman Lindquist, liaison to the Recreation Commission.

Budget Committee member Matt Murphy stated that there were no plans and no cost estimates presented to anyone, just a request for the money and that was the wrong way to go through the budget process or the way that taxpayer money should be spent.

**Selectman Hartung recommended that the article be tabled until the next meeting scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Murphy seconded the motion. The article was tabled.**

Article 9-Request for \$10,000 for existing Town Building Repairs and Maintenance Fund

There was some confusion with this article and the next one (Article 10) whereas they were both asking for \$10,000 to be placed into a building maintenance fund, but this article was for the Town Offices.

Budget Committee member Ann Howe asked why any work expected was not in the budget. It was explained that this was to put aside so that when a big ticket item came up there were funds available and to help keep the tax rate from spiking when the big ticket item would normally have been in the budget. There is currently a committee looking into the various town buildings, except the library, to look at what may need to be done and when. She asked when would there be enough money in the fund if there were no specific projects. Selectman Hartung or Chairman Murphy said that around \$40,000 would be a good place to get to. Budget Committee member Proc Wentworth said it took 4 years for the Library Trustees to raise the money needed to replace the roof and it saved it being a tax impact when the work actually needed to get done.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 9. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 10-Request for \$10,000 for existing Library Building Maintenance Non Capital Fund

Library Trustee, Emily Reschberger addressed the article. She explained that the Trustees are looking into replacing the carpets on the first floor that are turning 20 years old this year. They have been looking at a few options and have one estimate from a company that handles doing flooring for libraries. The cost estimate was at \$18,000 for industrial tile and carpeting with the underlayment. There is also a \$2,000-\$3,000 cost for moving the bookshelves. The project will go out to bid when the time comes.

Budget Committee member Steve Londrigan asked about putting it into the budget

when they need to do the work. Mrs. Reschberger said that it didn't need to be done this year and they felt more comfortable putting the money away each year than asking for it all at once. Matt Murphy asked if they looked at tile instead of carpet. Mrs. Reschberger stated that when they look at the floors the Trustees also need to consider noise and the carpets would help more but that they are looking at some areas having the tile instead of the carpet.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 10. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 11-Request for \$3,951 for Meals on Wheels

Mrs. Theriault explained that there will be representative of Meals on Wheels at the Selectmen's meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation on what they provide. The Selectmen explained that the Agency has been in the budget but every so many years they take an agency out to see if the residents still want to support it and this is one of the agencies this year. Mrs. Theriault did read from the letter that requested the funding and it stated that they have served 108 residents with 9475 meals and around 4268 safety focused services (checking on the residents). The request noted that they were no increases in the federal or state funding this year. The Town donation makes up the 30% cost of the meal not covered by funding. What they are asking for amounts to less than \$1.00 per meal.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 11. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 12- Request for \$1,000 to continue to support Greater Derry Adult Tutorial.

Mrs. Theriault stated that they would also be attending the meeting on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and that they were in the same situation as Article 11 and Article 13. Matt Murphy explained that he has an issue with forced charity and that a lot of them are funded with federal and state tax money.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 12. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 13- Request for \$1,000 to continue support to the American Red Cross

Mrs. Theriault stated that they would also be present at the meeting on Monday night.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 13. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 14- To raise and appropriate \$5,000 from Town Forest Maintenance Fund.

**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 14. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

Article 15- To create a Recycling Revolving Fund and to use the \$15,000 donation.

Selectman Lindquist explained that the purpose is to create a Revolving Fund so that the donation from SC Johnson to further recycling efforts can be deposited and the money used by the committee. They felt it would be more difficult to use the funds if left in the general fund. Matt Murphy stated his concern that this would lead to future fees and those would be put into this fund. Mrs. Harrington explained that the committee has no intention at this time of doing anything with this fund other than use the \$15,000. Matt Murphy also asked if some of the funds could be used to reduce the budget. Chairman

Murphy explained that they were restricted in the use of the funds by the donator.  
**Selectman Hartung motioned to recommend Article 15. The motion was seconded by Selectman Lindquist. The motion passed unanimously.**

*Article 16-* Petition Article addressed to NH State Legislators and State Senators regarding a constitutional amendment. There was some discussion about this being an abuse of the purpose of petition articles and that they use town resources. Mrs. Curran explained that once the vote is done, a record of the vote is forwarded and that is the end of the town's involvement.

***The public hearing was closed at 8:51 pm with a motion by Selectman Lindquist and a second my Selectman Hartung. The motion passed unanimously.***

A True Record.

Approved By:

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Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

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Sean P. Murphy, Chairman

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Richard H. Hartung, Selectman

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Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman

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