

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Public Hearing 2017 Budget
January 11, 2017**

PRESENT: SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; CHAD R. BENNETT, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Budget Committee Members: J. Mesa-Tejada, J. Skidmore, S. Londrigan, and E. Reschberger
Guests: Chief Beaudoin, J. Worthen, H. Steadman, R. Hartung, J. Tabbi, N. Lynch, E. Cabral, C. Kowalski, N. Gallo, and P. Williams (along with three unknown people)

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 read the warrant up to Article 1 (election of officers).
Articles 2, 3 and 4 are zoning articles. Chairman Murphy read them to the public

Article 5- Town Operating Budget- \$6,359,747.19 with a default budget of \$6,331,491.08.

Department	2016 Budget	2017 Budget	Dif.	Default
Executive/Admin	\$175,003.00	\$180,510.00	\$5,507.00	\$178,810.00
Town Clerk	\$139,050.00	\$140,928.00	\$1,878.00	\$139,223.00
Election	\$13,550.00	\$6,550.00	(\$7,000.00)	\$ 7,250.00
Auditing	\$10,500.00	\$10,750.00	\$250.00	\$ 10,750.00
Tax Collector	\$48,498.00	\$48,577.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 49,152.00
Treasurer	\$14,950.00	\$15,140.00	\$190.00	\$ 15,140.00
Assessing	\$ 92,301.00	\$ 95,001.00	\$2,700.00	\$ 95,001.00
Legal	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$ 12,000.00
Personnel Adm.	\$357,932.75	\$385,478.19	\$27,545.44	\$385,401.08
Planning	\$57,500.00	\$62,610.00	\$5,110.00	\$ 62,610.00
Zoning	\$136,739.00	\$136,092.00	(\$647.00)	\$135,635.00
Board of Adjustment	\$8,480.00	\$9,205.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 8,605.00
Government Bldgs.	\$283,123.25	\$247,666.00	(\$35,457.25)	\$,260,016.00
Cemeteries	\$49,500.00	\$48,000.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$ 48,000.00
Insurance	\$115,949.00	\$126,624.00	\$10,675.00	\$126,624.00
Regional Planning	\$8,298.00	\$8,516.00	\$218.00	\$ 8,516.00
Police	\$1,279,913.00	\$1,281,713.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,283,213.00
Fire	\$958,059.00	\$974,742.00	\$16,683.00	\$982,042.00
EMD	\$11,926.00	\$11,926.00	\$0.00	\$11,926.00
Highway	\$907,533.00	\$1,017,015.00	\$109,482.00	\$1,014,015.00
Street Lighting	\$35,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$35,000.00
Recycling and Waste	\$640,730.00	\$665,730.00	\$25,000.00	\$667,180.00
Animal Control	\$23,770.00	\$25,292.00	\$1,522.00	\$24,894.00

Pest Control	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Health Agencies	\$75,686.00	\$51,420.00	(\$24,266.00)	\$51,420.00
Welfare	\$26,903.00	\$23,853.00	(\$3,050.00)	\$26,903.00
Recreation	\$86,218.00	\$85,831.00	(\$387.00)	\$85,338.00
Cable	\$55,500.00	\$55,500.00	\$0.00	\$55,500.00
Library Trustees	\$91,766.00	\$92,255.00	\$489.00	\$95,504.00
Library	\$419,558.00	\$411,432.00	(\$8,126.00)	\$411,432.00
Patriotic Purposes	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Conservation	\$6,391.00	\$6,391.00	\$0.00	\$6,391.00
Total Budget	\$6,180,327.00	\$6,359,747.19	\$179,420.19	\$6,331,491.08

Budget Chairman J. Mesa-Tejada asked for the Chair to go over all the warrant articles. Whereas there were no questions and the public session was motioned to close at the end of the budget reading.

Article 6 Request for \$10,000 for existing Building Repairs and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 6. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 7- Request for \$10,000 for existing Library Building Maintenance Non Capital Fund

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 7. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 8- Request for \$6,800.00 to support Rockingham County Community Action.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 8. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 9 Request for \$17,142.00 to support Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation (CART)

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 9. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Mr. Hartung spoke to the article as a volunteer on the CART Board. He said that the town gets a great value for the services from CART. He explained that the towns provide the seed money and they look for grants to help offset the costs. He also noted that they are looking for an Executive Director. He asked for people with any questions to call him directly.

Article 10-Request for \$50,000 for road construction and guardrails alongside Mills Shore Drive and Shop Pond Dam.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 10. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 11-To adopt the "All Veterans' Property Tax Credit per RSA 72:28-b.

Colonel Steadman spoke to the request. He noted that the legislature recently passed an amendment to the Veteran's Credit and it allows all veterans to be eligible to get the credit regardless of when they served or where. It is for all veterans and the amount is the same as the current credit of \$500.00. S. Londrigan asked if there was any idea as to how many people this would benefit. Mrs. Theriault responded that a while ago the assessing company put together a rough number making certain assumptions and estimated that there could be roughly 200

additional veterans eligible to get the credit. Chairman Murphy and Selectman Lindquist both noted that there is really no way to know what the amount was whereas there is no listing of veterans in town.

J. Tabbi of 30 Charlestown Ridge spoke to the number estimate. He stated that when he spoke with the assessor and asked where the number came from he was told that it was just an educated guess. J. Tabbi took issue with this and stated that all they did was take the number of veterans in the state and divided it by the number of cities and towns and came up with the number. There was no research done and the number should not be used whereas just an "educated guess". Chairman Murphy stated that he had inquired on the potential impact and asked that the assessor be questioned. J. Mesa-Tejada stated that regardless of the study, the article is long overdue for veterans. Colonel Steadman agreed with J. Tabbi and said that he didn't want people to be misled by the numbers in the study whereas there is no credibility to the numbers. He stated that the town should honor the veterans by granting the credit.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 11. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 12- Request for \$51,165.00 to hire one new full time police officer.

Chief Beaudoin spoke to the article and stated that it was half a years' wages and benefits. He stated that currently he has one officer on patrol from midnight to 8 a.m. and they currently rely on mutual aid from surrounding towns. He noted that he recently lost an officer to disability due to an incident that occurred when the officer was on patrol alone and waiting for backup. He stated that they need to take DWI drivers to Parkland for blood tests and this could take them out of town for up to an hour leaving the town without an officer. He then went over the department calls for 2016 . He stated that there were 4,763 calls in 2016. Those calls were broken out as follows: Arrests 189 (48 more than 2015), 198 car accidents, 1,560 motor vehicles stops, 24 assaults, 11 burglary/robbery, 51 thefts, 12 criminal threatening, 16 driving while intoxicated, 28 drug related cases, 45 criminal mischief reports, 9 sex offender registrations. The new officer would work nights, midnight to 8 a.m. and probably five days a week and they may fill in the other two days with part time officers or leave the officer on patrol alone. He also noted that they have currently been covering in Danville whereas they had two officers resign and are short staffed. He said that the officers on duty need to wait for backup before going on certain calls. He asked that people support their request.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 12. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously. (3-0)

Article 13-Petition Article – To add a section to all department mission statements. The wording of the article is listed below.

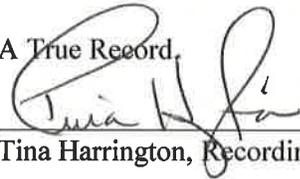
To see if the Town will vote to add to all department mission statements the following:
For town officials to exercise a high degree of official judgement and discretion when making policy decisions or negotiations including seeking for-profit revenue, request for funds and allocation thereof, which will only serve to improve, promote, and protect the personal, economic and environmental health of individuals, families, and our community. That this mission statement amendment will be a source of inspiration and will solidify the core values of our community.

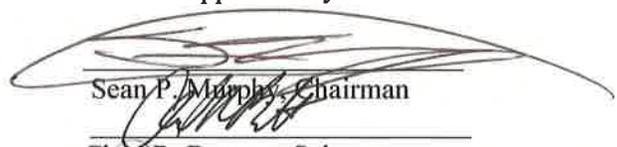
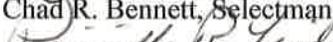
Selectman Lindquist motioned to recommend Article 13. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion failed unanimously. (0-3)

The public hearing was closed at 7:26 pm.

J. Mesa-Tejada announced that this deliberative session will be his last. He announced that he will not be running for any public offices and that he has been on serving the Town of Hampstead since 1971. The Selectmen thanked him for his service.

A motion to adjourn was made by Selectman Lindquist and seconded by Selectman Bennett. The motion passed unanimously.

A True Record,

Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:

Sean P. Murphy, Chairman

Chad R. Bennett, Selectman

Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman