



TOWN OF HAMPSTEAD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 16, 2020 7:11 PM

PRESENT: Timothy Lovell, Steven Bookless, Donna Green.

ABSENT: Carol Cipriano

VISITORS: None

The meeting was held at 7:11 pm in the Hampstead Town Hall.

The Warrant Articles, which will be the March ballot, were discussed and voted on by the Budget Committee.

- **Article 5**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,350,000 (One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of financing the construction of an addition and renovation of the Fire Station and equipping same and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes of not more than \$1,350,000 (One Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) 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; and 4) take any other action or pass any other vote relative thereto.

Tim Lovell and Steve Bookless visited the Fire Station. They felt the living conditions were cramped and not suitable for the female on duty to be in the sleeping area with the men. Also, the para medical people needed space as well. There are not a lot of bells and whistles for this. Another concern was the contaminated gear not being stored away from the living area. Donna Green felt this is a health concern. Their original figure was \$300,000 and they cut it to \$1,350,000. The station was originally built for volunteers.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 6**

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 \$7,358,576 (Seven Million Three Hundred Fifty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$7,133,098 (Seven Million One

Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Ninety Eight Dollars) 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.

Tim Lovell said there are very few areas to cut from the budget. The Road Agent cut his budget from \$500,000 to \$400,000.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 11**

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

Tim Lovell and Donna Green felt the Library did a good job in detailing what they were using the money for compared to last year. Steve Bookless did not agree.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 2-1

- **Article 12**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 (Six Thousand Dollars) to the Vic Geary Center.

The Budget Committee felt this was good for the seniors in town.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 13**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,600 (One Thousand Six Hundred Dollars) for the Lamphrey Health Center.

Steve Bookless researched the Lamphrey Health Center and found it did not serve Hampstead but instead listed Raymond, Newmarket and Nashua.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 0-3

- **Article 14**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,200 (Seven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars) for Center for Life Management.

The Budget Committee felt if this is a benefit to our residents then it's worth the donation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 0-3

- **Article 15**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for Family Promises.

The Budget Committee felt if this is a benefit to our residents then it's worth the donation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Not Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 0-3

- **Article 16**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 (Six Thousand Dollars) for Southern Rockingham County Coalition for Healthy Youth.

The Budget Committee felt if this is a benefit to our residents then it's worth the donation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 18**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 72:39-b to modify the elderly exemptions qualifications from a net income of not more than \$32,500 to \$35,000, or if married, from a combined net income of not more than \$40,000 to \$50,000 and assets not in excess of \$100,000; and to modify the elderly exemption based on the assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years of age from \$125,000 to \$150,000; for a person 75 years of age and up to 80 years of age from \$150,000 to \$200,000; and for a person 80 years of age or older from \$200,000 to \$230,000.

Tim Lovell asked if there is verification of the income source.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 19**

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to RSA 72:37-b to modify the exemption for the disabled qualifications from a net income of not more than \$32,500 to \$35,000 or if married, from a combined net income of not more than \$40,000 to \$50,000 and assets not in excess of \$100,000.

Steve Bookless mentioned the asset amount is the same for single and married.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

- **Article 20**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the existing “All Veterans’ Tax Credit” from \$500 per year to \$750 per year.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

Recommended by the Budget Committee (advisory only) 3-0

The September, October and November Budget Committee Meeting notes were approved. 3-0

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Tim Lovell and seconded by Steve Bookless. 7:35pm

Vote 3-0 to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Green