



TOWN OF HAMPS TEAD

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes

January 11, 2018

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Carol Cipriani, Donna Green, Steve Londrigan, Emily Reschberger, Andy Weir

VISITORS: Joe Guthrie, Tina Harrington

1. Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Steve Londrigan at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Office, Hampstead Town Hall. Steve Londrigan asked members to remain standing to pay tribute to Forest Brown, also known as Brownie, a long-time Hampstead resident and WWII combat veteran, who passed away this morning. Emily Reschberger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes: December 21, 2017

Motion by Emily Reschberger to approve the December 21, 2017 Draft Minutes was seconded by Andy Weir. Andy Weir asked a sentence be edited to read "Andy Weir noted that the Fire Department's overall budget increased by less than 3% with the addition of the protective clothing." He also noted that Carol Cipriano's name was misspelled. Steve Londrigan noted the Warrant Article for the Capital Needs budget should read \$10,000. Emily Reschberger rescinded her first motion to accept the minutes and made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Andy Weir seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

3. Visitors' Comments:

None

4. Discussion Town Budgets – January 10th Public Hearing:

Emily Reschberger commented it bears reiterating what Andy Weir had said last night. The overall increased amount to the overall proposed budget for 2018 is \$27,790.25 and overall increase of .43%. This is the lowest it has been in the last five years. Town Department Heads have worked diligently to assess their needs, listened to their employees, saw the needs of the town and came up with an excellent proposal. Andy Weir commented it was interesting to note that if it failed to pass in the default budget that went into place, the increase would be virtually doubled. The voters should keep that in mind.

Steve Londrigan read the individual Articles related to financials.

Article 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an Operating Budget \$6,463,086 vs. default budget of \$6,486,135 (the same as last year).

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

Article 7: To approve the cost items included in the 3-year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and the New England Police Benevolent Association Local No.37 of NH effective April 1, 2018.

2018: (9 mos.) Total \$25,364 **2019:** (12 mos.) \$30,609 **2020:** (12 mos.) \$26,230 **2021:** (3 mos.) \$5,297. Emily Reschberger noted this article will not come back to the town until 2021 when the

contract will be renegotiated. This year it will be on the Article, but subsequent years will be simply added to the budget. **Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0**

Article 9: \$10,000 to be placed into the existing Building and Repairs and Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund. Andy Weir noted the topic has come up many times during the year as to whether \$10,000 is enough or too little for pending maintenance for the Town's aging buildings. He encourages the Town to tightened up their processes. Steve Londrigan agreed with his assessment and noted the schools have a maintenance punch list of repairs and needs (i.e., carpeting, tiling) and how long their resources will last. He will get an example of the list form to put together something similar for the Town. He hopes the Town will graduate to that. Joe Guthrie noted the whole intent is to find out the expenditures.

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

Article 10: \$10,000 to be placed in the existing Hampstead Public Library Building Maintenance Non-Capital Reserve Fund. Emily Reschberger noted for purposes of disclosure since she is on the Board of Trustees and the Treasurer, helped craft and prepare this, she will abstain from voting on this Article.

Vote: Yes 4 No 0 Abstain 1

Article 11: To raise and appropriate \$700 to support Retired Senior Volunteers. Emily Reschberger noted every 3-4 years the Town pulls a couple of social services to put on the Article. This happens to be a time to give voters a voice. There is no under-serving. There are 14-15 agencies on a regular schedule. Carol Cipriani asked what Retired Senior Volunteers was. Tina Harrington said they provide help with tax prep, business start-ups and transporting people in need.

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

Article 12: To raise and appropriate \$1,000 for Child Family Services. Emily Reschberger said with the closure of Rockingham Park, the community has lost the ability to hold fundraisers there. This is important here in Town. Child Family Services helps families in need and families in crisis.

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

Article 13: To raise and appropriate \$5,000 for Isaiah 58. Andy Weir noted for purposes of disclosure, he served on the Board for Isaiah 58 until October, but was not compensated nor has a financial interest. He would abstain from voting if it was inappropriate. Emily Reschberger noted this is a new one this year. Steve Londrigan said he and Andy Weir were at the Selectmen's meeting. Family Promises closed down and Isaiah 58 stepped forward kind of late to fill that void. Emily Reschberger explained they also, could not do fundraising at Rockingham Park and funding from the Town is important. They focus on affordable housing and helping the homeless. Joe Guthrie stated this is a new item and it is important to say this is replacing the money for Family Promises.

Vote: Yes 5 No 0 Abstain 0

5. Board and Committee Forum – January 20th:

The Hampstead Public Library invited the Budget Committee to a community information session: "Boards, Committees and Clubs – a Town Forum" on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. This session gives people in town a chance to see what's available for clubs, boards and committees to see if they would like to volunteer or run for office. Steve Londrigan will represent the Budget Committee in an official capacity. The majority of the Committee will attend as well. The Town provides training and workshops. Carol Cipriano said many people move into town and are not aware they have a say on how things work in our area. Andy Weir stated there are non-contested positions on the ballot. Emily Reschberger noted it comes at a good time because the sign-up period for candidates running for Town positions is January 24 – February 2, 2018. This is a chance to realize your friends

and neighbors are on boards, committees or clubs and everyone can get involved. Emily Reschberger will bring copies of the proposed 2018 budget to hand out at the Library.

- 6. Budget Committee Website Description:** Steve Londrigan read the current website description for the Budget Committee, which is outdated. The Committee can update it, correct it, take it down (it's one of the few descriptions on the website) or push it to the next group since this is our last meeting. A proposed website description was presented by Steve Londrigan. Emily Reschberger will compose a new description with language stating the Budget Committee is not a Municipal Committee but an Advisory Committee with the terms being for three years. The Committee will vote on it after the Town Deliberative Session on February 9th. Tina Harrington will post a meeting notice.
- 7. Feedback from Selectmen on Executive Summary:** Steve Londrigan and Andy Weir presented the Executive Summary at the Selectmen's meeting. It was well received. It's too late for the current budget cycle but will be voted on in the next cycle. It will be readily available to voters giving them a transparent snapshot of the budget. Joe Guthrie mentioned it would be given out at the beginning of the process before the budget hearing. Steve Londrigan noted it would be up to the returning members for the 2018 season to make sure it doesn't fizzle out.
- 8. Members Comments:**

Carol Cipriani could not think of anything to add for comments.

Donna Green enjoyed being on the Budget Committee. It was very informative and learned a lot.

Andy Weir complimented the leadership on capably lead us in a collaborative way. Never felt his input wasn't welcome. He appreciated it. Due to a health issue, he will not seek re-election. He's not negative about his term. He enjoyed this year.

Emily Reschberger said we have been a very productive group and have served this term in a positive way. She encouraged anyone who might to run for the position. It's a small-time commitment. We are willing to answer questions and help. Department Heads and Town Employees are willing to help and answer questions. It's been rewarding. She was happy to serve.

Steve Londrigan said it was an honor to serve as the Chairman. He thanked everyone. Everyone did a great job. New members asked questions and didn't assume. He and Emily have been here for a time and many methods and procedures have been in place for a long time but not necessarily written down. It was great to have all here.
- 9. Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

Town Deliberative Session Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7pm HMS.
- 10. Schedule Next Meeting Date:**

After Town Deliberative Session on Friday, February 9, 2018 at HMS.
- 11. Visitors Comments:**

None.
- 12. Adjournment:**

On motion by Andy Weir, seconded by Carol Cipriano, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Green

