

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**MEETING MINUTES Public Hearing on 2020 Budget**  
January 15, 2020

**Members Present:** Selectman Murphy, Selectman Bennett, Selectman Guthrie

**AA to Board of Selectmen:** S. Theriault

**Budget Committee:** S. Bookless, D. Green and (later in meeting) T. Lovell

N. Gallo, R. Krol, P. Carideo, M. Hanides, K. Hanides, J. Worthen, D. Green, P. Williams, W. Warnock, Chief Carrier, H. Steadman, C. Cote, D. Cote, Chief Beaudoin, K. Kiesling and M. Grimm

Chairman Bennett opened the public hearing at 7:00 pm and Read the warrant and notification for session I and session II

*Article 1- Town Officers*

*Article 2- Zoning Ordinance- read it Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) ordinance*

*Article 3- Ground Water Protection Ordinance (GWPO)*

*Article 4- Zoning Petition article to amend cell tower*

**Review of the Town Articles**

*Article 5 – Bond for HFD \$1,350,000*

Chief Carrier was asked if they had a formal presentation to make on the bond request tonight. Chief Carrier responded that he didn't have a formal presentation but is asking that the Selectmen put the tax impact on the warrant for a five-year term. S. Theriault asked if the Selectmen had agreed on the term to be a five-year bond and Chief Carrier stated that they did at the presentation he and Deputy Chief Warnock gave the Selectmen where as it was the most cost effective compared to a one and done or a 10-year bond. Over 5 years it is a \$1.07 per thousand estimated tax impact.

K. Hanides asked Chief Carrier the cost on a home assessed at \$350,000 over the 5 years and he stated about \$374.50 or \$74.90 per year with the projected interest rate expected to be about 1.49%. He stated that with the current rate and the town assessment at \$1.3 billion that is the potential impact he would expect the first-year payment to be on the principal at \$270,000 and interest at \$20,000 to be a tax impact at \$.022 times the home value. He received the info from the NH Bond Bank.

JG to Chief, what presentation will they be doing at deliberative. The Chief responded that they already have information out on social media and a video presentation that was produced by the Cable Committee and they will just do the same as this- no formal presentation

*Article 6- Operating Budget \$7,358,576 or default to \$7,133,098*

Selectman Guthrie asked J. Worthen if the schedule he just presented is for all the road work in 2020. J. Worthen responded yes but it may change based on what the paving bid comes back at. He estimated the road work based on 2019 prices.

S. Theriault went over the budget and explained that items in bold are updated since the December meeting and went over them and went over the default budget. She directed to the library that we don't have the year to date so not sure on what should carry into default. S. Theriault pulled over the lower of the two on the contracts whereas there was an increase in the 2020 proposed line. R. Krol responded that these were new contracts along with increases in other contracts so the default will need to go up to the 2020 proposed number.

S. Theriault had a question on the planning engineering position for the default amount whereas it is not filled for the circuit rider so she used \$30,000 as was the 2019 budget instead of the proposed 2020 budget of \$50,000. Selectman Murphy asked what vacancy she was talking about. S. Theriault explained the one for the circuit rider. P. Carideo put \$30,000 for Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) or an outside consultant to help in the Planning office (not discussed with the other board members) because he is overwhelmed with work. In addition to provide planning services, they would also assist the town with a CIP plan and update the master plan. The current Planning Board can't do it. Selectman Guthrie asked P. Carideo if has he looked at the secretary to the PB

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and has that assignment changed any- are more hours needed there? P. Carideo stated no, with the assistance of the circuit rider for about 4 hours per week would help. He can look at the office hours during the next budget season. Selectman Guthrie asked if the ability to work more is there when the work is heavy, and the response was yes.

Selectman Murphy stated that the default should be at \$50,000. Chairman Bennett agrees, but that means the money is coming no matter what. P. Carideo has talked with RPC and there isn't any circuit riders available now, but other towns are interested and RPC may look at an additional person. He also noted that the new Town Engineer may be able to pick up some of the work as well. He is the current planner in Sandown. The Selectmen all agreed to move the default for that line to \$50,000.

**\$7,134,548.00 new default number leaves a delta of over \$200,000**

*Article 7-* A request to increase the Library Trustees from 3 members to 5 members

*Article 8-* A petition article requested by Selectman Guthrie to move the Board of Selectmen from 3 members to 5 members. The petition was done because there was no interest among the other member of the Board of Selectmen. He hopes to explain the reasons at the deliberative session, but believes with five members they could distribute the work.

*Article 9-* To move the Police Chief from an elected position to an appointed position

Selectman Guthrie stated that it was important to the Board of Selectman, and stated that hopefully the Chief stays around 10-20 years, but this article puts the motions in place to be able to appoint if needed. S. Bookless asked if there is a potential impact going forward on the elected/appointed- Chairman Bennett stated that it will still be part time – stays the way it is now. Selectman Guthrie said that we have a part time Chief and full time staff that does the day to day and when he (Chief) decides to leave, we may be put in the position to go forward with a full time person, but it is fair to say, no impact on this article, but when the current Chief leaves, will need to look at the potential of a full time person. S. Bookless noted that in 2021, the Selectmen have the option to replace him.

*Article 10-* Change the Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed one. With the passing of the current Treasurer it felt it was time to make some changes.

*Article 11-* Add to the Library non expandable trust maintenance fund for \$10,000

*Article 12-* Vic Geary Center \$6,000- request to continue funding

*Article 13-* Lamprey Health \$1,600- request to continue funding

*Article 14-* Center for Life Management \$7,200.00

*Article 15-* Family Promises \$5,000- new request for funding

*Article 16-* Southern NH Rock \$8,657.00- new request for funding

Selectman Guthrie motioned to change the amount to \$6,000 and challenge them to do a good job whereas they are unknown to the Selectmen. Selectman Murphy stated that it was per capita price and stated that they have been used for many years, this is the first time they are asking the Town of Hampstead for funding, previously had federal funding. Selectman Guthrie was okay as long as there was history and withdrew his motion.

*Article 17-* Rescind the solar energy exemption and move to the updated RSA

S. Theriault stated that the definition changed from the original 1978 rules. If it were to be used today no one would qualify based on definition. This would update the exemption.

*Article 18-* Modify the elderly exemptions and incomes as listed. Income levels change from \$32,500 to \$35,000 for a single, and then for a married from \$40,000 to \$50,000 and assets at \$100,000

Age 65 from \$125,000 to \$150,000 for the exemption

Ages 75 to 80 from \$150,000 to \$200,000 for the exemption

Ages 80 and up from \$200,000 to \$230,000 for the exemptions

*Article 19-* To add the same changes in the income to the disabled qualifications

They also have income qualifiers that should be the same- all the same paperwork.

*Article 20-* change the "all veteran's credit" from \$500 to \$750

*Article 21-* Blasting Ordinance per RSA 31:39

P. Carideo spoke to article 21. He stated that the town had a blasting ordinance that was administered by the fire department with a permit through the building department. The Planning Board didn't know about it so they took information to prepare an ordinance to have it as a zoning ordinance. Per town counsel, it couldn't be a zoning one, but can be a town ordinance. He explained that they took all of what fire had in place and added the state regulations plus some of the fire code information that was provided. The Fire Dept. permit was a one page permit and the new one is 10 pages. The new permit provides for blasting and created different blasting levels that the town can start enforcing rather than going through the state. It also addresses about large blasts and that the notice requirement becomes larger. The Planning Board has been working on this ordinance since July. It has been reviewed by Town Counsel and all information is current and up to date on regulations. The Planning Board is asking for the Selectmen to place it on the warrant as a town ordinance. Chairman Bennett stated that he read through it and had a question for Chief Carrier. He asked the Chief if he had any issues Chief Carrier said they had no issues, but this go beyond their scope of authority. There will be an impact for a blasting administrator, which the Chief would put onto Deputy Chief at about 2 hours week and an annual cost of about \$2, 400. Currently there maybe 3-4 permits per year at \$100 now. P. Carideo stated that they hadn't thought about permit costs. Chairman Bennett asked if that the costs would be to the permittee? P. Carideo stated that he had heard there was blasting without permits which lead to some of this discussion and the ordinance. Chairman Bennett asked if there has there been any enforcement. Chief Carrier stated that the permittee must notify police and fire, have a license through the state, and insurance (need to show to fire to get permit). The Fire Department has no issue with the ordinance as it is presented, other than the potential cost impact. Chairman Bennett asked if a Blasting administrator need to be on site for every blast. Chief Carrier and P. Carideo stated that they should be. Chairman Bennett asked if it could it happen without him (blasting administrator) on site. Chief Carrier said that someone should be there. Also, he explained, that over time you know the vendor and their work and may allow them to blast without a presence. Chairman Bennett asked there will be a reason to hold up a permit? Selectman Guthrie said that if requires to notify all abutters 2 hours prior to blasting (on page 9). That is what the residents are interested in, to be notified. P. Carideo stated that other towns have blasting ordinances through their zoning, but those towns are set up with codes different than us (Windham, Merrimack etc.). He explained that they used other towns documents and took things out not pertinent to Hampstead. They also used the State's, and added the cumulative blast, specified on notification of abutters which the Planning Board did it based on the size of the blast. The intent is not to slow anyone down from being able to do work i.e. pool or septic- (they are exempt from the state regulation), do what you need to do, but let your neighbors know. Chairman Bennett said a lot of what is in the ordinance is the current practice. P. Carideo said they want to keep it less bulky so they referred back to state regulations rather than include them.

*Article 22- By Petition to freeze school portion of the school rate at the age of 65.*

*Article 23- By Petition to "affirm" the conservation easement on map 16, lot 23, Nelson Avenue*

Map 16 lot 26 Hadley Road, Map 16 lot 31 Country Road and Map 17 lot 48 along Kelley Brook Road. Per the 1999 vote at town meeting.

D. Cote gave a handout to the Selectmen and went over article 23 from 1999 and article 18 from 2019 and the goal of this petition. In 1999 article 23 was put on the ballot to encumber 5 parcels to restrict to be a conservation easement. It had a 89% in favor vote at town meeting which approved it and the Selectmen at that time were in favor of it. The easement was never done. Article 18 (2019) addressed map 18 lot 2 (read the article). It was recommended by the Selectmen 3-0 and had a 75% in favor vote at town meeting. This year's article is the same language as last year but added the additional 4 parcels. The reason is they are being written, but don't restrict cell towers but uses utility which leaves it open for a cell tower. Currently the zoning allows cell towers on any town owned land. The restrictions of map 18 lot 2 should extend to the rest of the articles and ask that they support it as was approved by the town meeting vote in 1999. Map is each of the lots and how many homes are in the 500 feet range, 1000 feet range etc. and then a recap on the issue. Selectman Guthrie stated that he doesn't know what happened in 1999 nd he was on the board, there was no follow through and we need to reaffirm it and get it done.

C. Cote- thanked the Selectmen regarding the easement work on the one voted in 2019.

Selectmen Guthrie asked if the budget committee had voted yet and T. Lovell stated that they are meeting tomorrow night. Selectman Guthrie wants the Budget committee recommendation before he votes. S. Theriault stated that they would need to meet again after the Budget Committee meets. Selectman Murphy also noted that you can change the recommendation at the deliberative session. Selectman Guthrie stated that he was okay if the other Selectmen are okay, but would like their recommendation even though advisory.

### **Selectmen Voting on Recommendations of the Warrant Articles**

Article 5- Motion to recommend- all yes 3-0

Article 6- Motion to recommend- all yes 3-0

Article 7- Motion to recommend -should the Trustees speak to it first- RK tonight or at deliberative. Heads up before they vote on it.

RK- difficult to get a quorum and if two of the three are together, that can be considered a meeting (ie at supermarket). They always have interested alternates and felt that was a good way. JG motion to recommend all yes 3-0

Article 8- Motion to recommend 1-2 (JG, CB) against (SM)

JG stated 14 communities have a three-member board and he noted that we don't have an issue with a quorum, but the work demands have an advantage with five members. Brings more people into making a decision. Most of the time 3 are fine, but there are some times that 5 have an advantage. The only complaint he heard was getting someone to run. Every time he runs, someone has run against him. Thinks it would work. It was discussed back in the 90's but nothing ever came forward.

Article 9 Motion to recommend 2-1 (JG, CB) for – (SM) against

Article 10 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 11 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 12 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 13 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 14 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 15 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 16 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 17 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 18 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 19 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 20 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 21 Motion to recommend 3-0

Article 22 Motion to recommend 0-3

Article 23 Motion to recommend 3-0

A Motion was made to move the articles to the warrant by Selectman Murphy and a second by Selectman Guthrie. The vote passed with all in favor 3-0

Chief Carrier said that if there are any questions regarding the proposal for the fire station addition, to please call the station at 603-329-6006

S. Theriault asked the Selectmen a question on behalf of the assessors. We currently request the elderly exemptions to be certified every year. The law allows it to be every five years. The assessing office is asking if they (Selectmen) want to change it this year. Currently there is a lot of hand holding for the annual income verification. S. Theriault stated that if the verification is a longer time frame, you could miss something that changes in someone's income. When they apply it is always the past year income information. A situation she noted, you purchase a property June 1<sup>st</sup> and it has an exemption, the new owner gets that exemption. She also stated that in another community it was known that of a case that someone got an additional four years because they weren't required to provide info. Chairman Bennett and Selectman Murphy said to keep it as it is. Selectman Guthrie said if they don't need to change it leave it as is. All agree to leave it as is.

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**Selectman Murphy made a motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Selectman Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

A True Record:



Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

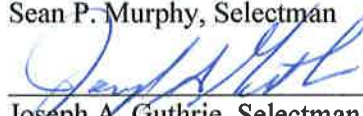
Approved By:



Chad R. Bennett, Chairman



Sean P. Murphy, Selectman



Joseph A. Guthrie, Selectman

