

Town of Hampton, Connecticut
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Budget Workshop Meeting - March 20, 2012
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A Budget workshop of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at the Town Hall.

Present for the Board: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Selectman Mike Chapel, Selectman Bob Grindle

Staff Present: Liz Stillman, Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: Call to Order: First Selectman Cahill called the meeting to order at 2:31pm.

ITEM 2: Audience for Citizens

Gay Wagner thanked the Main Street Beautification Committee for their work in cleaning up the triangle on Rt 97/ North Bigelow Road intersection. First Selectman Cahill added that the road crew would be by soon to pick up the debris.

Linda Gorman stated that Regina Deceasar has requested the Board of Selectmen's presence at the 8:30am meeting on March 26th to discuss the parking lot.

Vie Marquis asked about the increase in the fire department proposed budget, Treasurer Rodriguez read off part of the budget request that includes kit boots, portable generator, life preservers and fire prevention.

Ms. Marquis also asked why the ambulance corps budget was blank- First Selectman Cahill stated that it still hadn't been received, Ms. Marquis said the budget would be resent.

ITEM 3: Discuss and Act on authorizing Ad-hoc Playscape Committee to apply for grants and receive funds on behalf of the town, for the purpose of fundraising for the playscape project.

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to empower First Selectman Allan Cahill to sign on behalf of the playscape committee any grants submitted and to accept any checks received. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

ITEM 4: Budget Workshop

Treasurer Rodriguez stated that the Youth Sports budget request had been received since the last workshop.

Selectman Grindle indicated that the Planning and Zoning Commission, IWWA and Ambulance Corps were missing, and asked about the transfer station request. First Selectman Cahill stated that a video camera and some electrical conduit repairs were requested.

Selectman Grindle asked about the contract with Donahue (goes through mid-2013), First Selectman Cahill stated that a permit for the transfer station would have to be reapplied for, \$800.00 should cover that.

Gay Wagner highlighted some points from the Recreation Commission's subsidy requests including the Little River Concert Series, the Storytelling program, and Shakespeare.

Selectman Grindle asked if the revenue projections were based on past history. Ms. Wagner confirmed that they were.

As a side note (Wagner): The Northeast Cultural Alliance is a regional arts organization (NECOGG towns primarily) - encouraging the state of Connecticut to create one organization for the towns north of Norwich as one region.

Penny Newbury asked about the Recreation and Youth Sports budgets, and why there were grouped together under the same cost center. Selectman Grindle explained why, and suggested he would like to see actual income achieved by the Youth Sports Committee this year.

Ms. Wagner explained that when Youth Sports was part of Recreation, they always received what they requested and it was generally \$1200-\$1500.

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First Selectman Cahill mentioned the budget line item for Green Energy will be used to upgrade the solar panel system at the Hampton Elementary School.

Regarding the potential street light on Rt 6/ North Bigelow Road, Selectman Grindle drove the area on a dark night and didn't have an issue finding the road. Randy Thompson volunteered to look into solar street lights.

Gay Wagner suggested talking to neighbors closest to the area where the street light might go, and ask for input.

Vie Marquis stated that she has a street light in front of her house with lower wattage, that costs \$10 a month and lights up the whole intersection.

First Selectman Cahill added that the street light contract would be a 14 year commitment.

Gay Wagner asked what the revenue at the Community Center had been for the last year and mentioned that she and Melanie were working on a brochure for the town to consider the Community Center for events.

Penny Newbury asked for salaries for departments like Planning and Zoning/ Road Crew/ Transfer Station could be broken down into positions and asked if the Conservation line under Planning and Zoning was for administrative costs (yes) and if that could be clarified within the budget. Additionally, Ms. Newbury asked why some large costs were not included under capital expenses. Selectman Grindle explained that items such as the computer or server would not qualify as capital expenses as they do not last, that they would be considered an office supply.

Brian Hathaway (Town Hall IT) requested an increase of \$1000 to cover potential additional requests from Windham. First Selectman Cahill stated that he's heard nothing but positive feedback from the town hall employees about Mr. Hathaway, and that the skill set is not in question.

Gay Wagner requested to replace the thermostats in the Community Center to those that reset themselves after a certain time, to save on oil costs when renters forget to turn down the heat. Ms. Wagner also asked that the floors in the kitchen and bathroom need to be finished.

Vie Marquis asked about downstairs in the Town Hall- First Selectman Cahill stated that he hoped to put together a RFP soon, and perhaps that could be part of a STEAP grant request, and eventually rent out the space or use it in an emergency situation.

Gay Wagner asked about the proposed steward position at the Community Center, it was agreed that likely the fee for a steward would be built into the fees for rental, and that fees needed to be adjusted in general.

Emergency Management- First Selectman Cahill stated that a \$3,000 grant has been applied for to help set up a proper office in the new town garage.

Gay Wagner asked if the new town garage had a generator- First Selectman Cahill stated that there was as well as additional features (shower, etc...).

First Selectman Cahill recommended an incremental pay raise for town employees, discussion followed regarding how much would be appropriate and how long it has been since the last increase. Mr. Cahill also spoke on health insurance negotiations and as of now, a 0% increase was projected.

Selectman Grindle asked if it was still being investigated whether the town hall employees and some employees at the school were eligible for the health insurance. Discussion followed regarding eligibility and coverage.

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Treasurer Rodriguez asked if the garage build overrun in expenses would be budgeted or taken out of savings.

Gay Wagner stated that the Ad-hoc Website Review Committee has made suggestions and is going to the website designer to get an estimate on what it would cost to make these suggested changes.

Selectman Chapel stated that school District 11 was projecting less than 1% increase.

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: There being no further business for the Board to discuss at this budget workshop meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Selectman Grindle/Chapel moved/seconded to adjourn at 3:40 p.m.; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Stillman
Recording Secretary