

*Town of Hampton, Connecticut
Board of Selectmen
Budget Workshop Minutes
May 3, 2012
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DRAFT

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday, May 3, 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 1:33pm

ITEM 2: Audience for Citizens

Kate Donnelly spoke on the Green Energy budget line item- specifically public education and brought up that a grant has been issued to the town a few years ago, with \$2000 a year payouts.

Kate Donnelly asked why the insurance line item has decreased. First Selectman Cahill stated that there were fewer participants this year than last.

Kate Donnelly supported giving a 3% increase to the First Selectman salary.

Gay Wagner responded to Ms. Donnelly that it was town policy that a committee submit selectman salaries, First Selectman Cahill indicated that it was not a legality, but more a tradition that a committee reviewed Selectmen salaries.

Selectman Grindle elaborated on the committee process and how they came upon their decision not to submit for a Selectmen salary increase this year.

Kate Donnelly added that the First Selectman's position needs to be compensated appropriately.

Kate Donnelly asked about the increase for the librarian salary increase, and First Selectman Cahill answered.

Vie Marquis asked if the question whether the librarian was a town employee or not was going to be addressed.

Donnelly suggested looking at Canterbury as an example of an elected Library Board.

Kate Donnelly stated that she is opposed to the budget line item increases in open space, capital and non-recurring, and land acquisition in this economy, and that employees, roads and infrastructure should be the town's priority at this time.

Kate Donnelly stated that she was disappointed that the solar projects line item had been reduced.

Grindle stated that he would welcome more input from the Green Energy Committee for ideas.

ITEM 3: Budget Workshop Session

Selectman agreed to reduce the librarian salary budget to 20 hours from 24 hours (plus 3%). Grindle asked to clarify whether the librarian is hourly or a salaried position, as well as other town hall positions.

The question was raised whether the town would give the Fletcher Memorial Library the money for the librarian salary line item, and have the library board pay the librarian.

Discussion followed regarding the treasurer position and salary. Selectman Grindle mentioned that the town hall employees do not have an advocate for their positions as the librarian / Library Board is and acts as. Treasurer Rodriguez explained how the position and the requirements and responsibilities of the treasurer/ bookkeeper positions have changed and grown over the years since she was first elected.

Selectmen agreed to bring the Treasurer line item up to \$20,000.

Discussion followed regarding health insurance benefits for full time employees, and the question was raised whether they should contribute 20% as well.

A rider to grandfather employees who work less than 20 hours a week will be petitioned for to include them in the health insurance eligibility pool and to continue to cover them. Discussion followed regarding health insurance benefits for town hall employees.

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Selectmen decided to leave the budget line item in for now until the town hears back whether the town secures a rider to grandfather.

ITEM 6: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: There being no further business for the Board to discuss at this special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Selectman Cahill/Grindle moved/seconded to adjourn at 3:54 p.m.; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Stillman
Recording Secretary