

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 27, 2008

A special meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 for the purpose of holding a budget workshop on the proposed FY 2009 budget. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: Councilors: Mayor Rick Briggs, Edward Murphy, Thomas Brann, Andrew Colford, Matt Arnett and Shannon Cox. Andre Cushing was excused.

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Department Heads/Staff: Town Assessor Vivian Gresser, Town Planner Bob Osborne, Public Safety Director Joseph Rogers, Lt. Ray Pipes of the Fire Department

Budgets for Social Services, Assessing & Planning, Public Safety, Police, Fire Department, Non-Department Utilities, Administration, Municipal Building, Tax Collector, Municipal Elections, Debt Service and General Assistance were reviewed line-by-line.

38-00 OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Heather McCarthy, Executive Director of the American Folk Festival requested that the Council consider making a pledge of support in an amount they felt was appropriate. She did not request a specific amount, but she informed the Council that approximately 16,500 people attended the festival last year and 4.5% of the attendees were from Hampden.

Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Brann to appropriate \$300.00 to the American Folk Festival – unanimous vote in favor.

Kathy Bernier of Hammond Street Senior Center requested that the Council appropriate \$35.00 per member from Hampden, for a total of \$4,690.00.

Eileen McAvoy from Penquis CAP asked that the Council fund \$14,274.00 for Penquis' work in assisting Hampden residents. She provided a summary of services provided for Hampden families in 2007. Following discussion, Councilor Arnett moved to reduce this line item to \$13,500.00 – motion died for lack of a second.

Sharon Estey of Eastern Agency on Aging requested that the Council fund \$3,500.00 for the Meals for Me program for Hampden residents.

Community Health & Counseling and Bangor STD Clinic – No representatives from these agencies were present. Therefore, Councilor Cox moved and Councilor Colford seconded to reduce the line item for Community Health & Counseling to

\$2,152.00, the same amount as last year and reduce the line item for Bangor STD Clinic to zero – unanimous vote in favor.

Harmony Hall – Motion by Councilor Arnett, seconded by Councilor Colford to add a line item in the amount of \$250.00 for the renovations to Harmony Hall – unanimous vote in favor.

The new proposed total for Outside Agencies is \$25,416.00.

01-25 ASSESSING/PLANNING

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$230,336.00.

05-05 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Safety Director Joe Rogers and Lt. Ray Pipes informed the Council that this budget as proposed includes an additional firefighter/paramedic position to complete the 24/7 coverage.

05-05-20-01 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

Councilor Colford noted that the proposed amount of \$23,040.00 only replaces 4 SCBA air-packs and expressed concern that the department will still be using some older air-packs. Ray said the proposed replacement schedule is to buy 3 or 4 each year, but they do have the option to purchase 14 new packs and finance them over a 3 or 5-year period. The annual cost to finance over three years is \$26,892 and the cost for a 5-year term is \$16,861 per year.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Colford to purchase 14 packs now and finance the cost so it doesn't cost more than \$22,000 per year – unanimous vote in favor.

With the change to line item 05-05-20-01, the new proposed total amount for the Fire Department is \$872,488.00

05-01 PUBLIC SAFETY

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$166,354.00.

05-01 POLICE

05-01-10-25 GAS/OIL/LUBE

Public Safety Director Joe Rogers requested that this line item be increased by \$3,000 to \$28,000. Motion by Councilor Colford, seconded by Councilor Arnett to increase the line item to \$28,000.00 – unanimous vote in favor.

With the above increase, the new proposed total for the Police Department is \$968,423.00.

05-03 NON-DEPARTMENT UTILITIES

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$414,078.00.

01-01 ADMINISTRATION

The budget was reviewed line-by-line and no change was made to the proposed total amount of \$537,888.00. However, it was decided that the Finance Committee will conduct a review of the pay scale for the Town Manager position and a comparative wage and benefit study for all departments.

01-10 MUNICIPAL BUILDING

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$119,857.00

01-15 TAX COLLECTOR

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$6,000.00.

01-20 ELECTIONS

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$12,963.00.

DEBT SERVICE

No change was made to the total amount of \$467,793.00.

40-10 GENERAL ASSISTANCE

No change was made to the proposed total amount of \$10,000.00

45-10 COUNTY TAX

No change was made to the total amount of \$586,820.00.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Denise R. Hodsdon
Town Clerk