

Hill Budget Committee

Public Hearing
Town Budget
February 11, 2008

Members Present: Nancy Chaddock (Chairman), John Lynch (Vice Chair), Shaun Bresnahan (Secretary), Steve Farris (Selectmen), Shelly Henry (School Board), Rhonda Bucklin, Bob Dupuis, Joseph Mahoney, Paul Meyerhoefer, Paula McDonough, Vickie Plant, George Robie Gary David and John Belco.

At 7:00 PM Nancy Chaddock re-opened the recessed public hearing on the Town Budget.

Matt Desrochers, HFD Chief presented a summary of bids for new fire truck and some more info on current financing rates. Bids ranged from \$285,000 to \$360,000, the lowest bid was the only bid that met HFD spec's 100%. No selectmen were present during the bid opening. Request for bid stipulated that the purchase of this tanker was contingent on funding being passed at town meeting. Fire Dept. needs some more time to fully assess all of the bids.

Jerry Desrochers informs the Committee that currently a 12 yr. bond is at 4% and payments would be \$24,933/yr.

Gary David asks to review Article 12; he wants to know if the FD can operate in the current station house successfully if this new tanker is purchased. Matt answers yes but they will have to move the utility truck outside. They would like to purchase a carport to keep it out of the weather.

Paul Meyerhoefer asks to review Article 7; He wishes to know how this money can be put in the Capital Reserve Fund without coming from taxation. Steve F. says this is the 2007 Highway Block Grant; DRA won't allow this to be specified in the warrant article.

Discussion Article 10; this is unspent money from the Road Study group. Gary David asked if this money should be saved for engineering for road improvement projects. Road Committee and Selectmen agree that there is enough local experience and the highway crew is also quite capable of doing this work without the need of spend money on engineering. The LRPC study is very detailed and will go a long way in the planning of this work; best of all it cost Hill nothing. The road committee feels it will take 10 yrs. to complete work.

Discussion then turns to the projected revenues for 2008. Nancy finds that the revenue sheet lacks the detail needed to complete the MS-7. She relies on Lynda Henry to get the revenue portion completed.

The revenues were reviewed line by line with some general discussion.

Nancy comments that the 2008 budget has \$67,000 more in warrant articles than ever proposed in the past. The 2008 operating budget is \$146,800 higher than 2007, a 15% increase we will have our work cut out for us.

Denise Robie comments that it would be nice to see the town pass all of these articles at town meeting, but we can't afford all of this. She would like the budget committee to keep in mind that there are plenty of people in town that can't absorb a big tax increase. We need to live in the means of all of Hills residents.

At 9:05 the Public Hearing is closed and the Budget Committee Meeting is opened.

Line 4130 – Paul M. moves a total of \$40,154, seconded by Bob. D, Paul outlines how he arrives at this number. There is much discussion around pay raise and auditing service. Gary David moves the question. For – 0 / Against 14.

- Steve Farris moves a total of 41,300, no one seconds.
- Bob Dupuis moves a total of 41,750, John L. seconds and comm. Votes.
For – 14 Against –0.

Line 4140 - Paul M. moves the sum of 42,943; he feels that the Town Clerk should only get a 3% raise and no additional hours. There is general discussion surrounding pay for both the Deputy clerk and Town Clerk. Shaun B. moves the question.

Committee votes For – 10 / Against – 4.

Line 4150 – Bob d. moves 6,220, John L. seconds,
committee votes For – 11 / Against 3.

Line 4152 – John L. feels that the Town is being taken to the cleaners regarding annual assessing fees. If they are looking at 20% of the properties then those properties assessments should be adjusted. Why do we wait for year 5 when the assessor goes out and looks at all properties a second time? John L. moves the sum of 2,310, Gary D. seconds and committee votes. For – 4 / Against – 9.

- Nancy C moves the sum of 22,310, Gary D. seconds, committee votes For – 1 / Against –13.
- Bob D. moves the sum of 17,310, Shaun B. seconds, committee votes
For – 11 / Against –2 / Abstain – 2.

Line 4153 – Nancy moves the sum of 25,000 Gary D. seconds, committee votes
For – 13 / Against - 1

Line 4155 – Rhonda B moves the sum of 13,150, Bob D. seconds, committee votes
For – 13 / Against - 1.

Line 4191 – Bob D. moves the sum of 3,000, Gary D. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against - 0.

Line 4194 – Paul M. moves the sum of 26,384, Gary D. seconds, Removes 6,000 from maintenance. Committee votes For – 11 / Against - 3.

Line 4195 – Nancy moves the sum of 2,300, Gary D. seconds, committee votes
For – 12 / Against – 1 / Abstain - 1.

Line 4196 – Nancy moves the sum of 12,350, John L. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4210 – Shaun B moves the sum of 69,264, Gary D. seconds. Removes salary and
benefits for full time chief, minor reductions in most lines. Committee votes
For – 12 / Against – 1 / Abstain - 1.

Line 4215 – Nancy C. moves the sum of 27,000, Bob D. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4220 – Joe M. moves the sum of 55,467, John L. seconds, Joe feels that we
should level fund the FD, they are requesting a lot of funding this year. Committee votes
For – 11 / Against – 3.

Line 4290 – Nancy moves the sum of 1,475, Joe M. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4312 – Paul M. moves the sum of 236,532, Shaun B. seconds; Paul outlines his
cuts. Committee votes For – 2 / Against – 12.

- Shaun B. moves the sum of 247,532, Bob D. seconds. Shaun proposes to
replace 2 of 3 bay doors and slight reductions in most lines. Committee votes For
– 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4316 – Nancy moves the sum of 3,600, Bob D. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4319 – Nancy moves the sum of 46,572, Bob D. seconds, committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4320 – Paul M. moves the sum of 74,975, Shaun B. seconds; Paul removes 1,000
from Hazardous waste and 750 from Maintenance.
Committee votes For – 12 / Against – 2.

Line 4332 – Nancy C. moves the sum of 114,182, Gary D. seconds, Committee votes
For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4415 – Bob D. moves the sum of 500, Joe M. seconds, general discussion.
Committee votes For – 1 / Against – 13.

- Shaun B. moves the sum of 3,904, Gary D. seconds, Committee votes For – 13 /
Against – 0 / Abstain -1.

Line 4400 – Steve F. moves the sum of 5,000, Gary D. seconds,
Committee votes For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4520 – Paul M. moves the sum of 4,195, Shaun B. seconds; Paul reduces Athletic
League to 650 and Park Maintenance to 450. Committee votes For – 11 / Against – 3.

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Line 4550 – Bob D. moves the sum of 24,921, Steve F. seconds,
Committee votes For – 12 / Against – 2.

Line 4583 – Bob D. moves the sum of 800, Steve F. seconds,
Committee votes For – 14 / Against – 0.

Line 4619 – Bob D. moves the sum of 400, Joe M. seconds,
Committee votes For – 13 / Against – 1.

Line 4723 – Shaun B moves 1,000, Steve F. seconds,
Committee votes For – 14 / Against – 0.

Committee considers proposed warrant articles.

Article 1; Discussion about purchasing new tanker and what dollar amount to use. Steve F. points out this committee can only recommend or not recommend, they can't change the wording of the article. Bob D. makes a motion to recommend article as written, Steve F. seconds, Committee votes For – 9 / Against – 3 / Abstain 2.

Article 2; Nancy moves the sum of 850,694, Shaun B. seconds.

Article 3; General discussion surrounding each capital reserve fund, specifically regarding the Fire Heavy Equipment fund and whether to support the 25,000. Bob D. makes a motion to amend the appropriation to \$50,000, reducing Fire Heavy Equipment by \$25,000 and Revaluation by \$10,000. Joe M. seconds the motion. Committee votes For – 6 / Against – 8 Motion to amend appropriation fails.

At 11:15 John L makes a motion to recess this meeting until 2/13/08 after the conclusion of the School Budget Meeting. Shaun B. seconds; motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Shaun Bresnahan
Secretary