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2 **TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**
3 **MUNICIPAL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING**

4 **December 4, 2023 6:30 PM**

5 **NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL**

6 ***DRAFT MINUTES***

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8 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Rick Stanton, Vice-Chairman Tom von Jess, Larry Miller, Sean Dionne, Lisa
9 Gallagher, Little Boar's Head Rep Brian Goode, Select Board Rep James Sununu

10 **MEMBERS ON ZOOM:** School Board Rep Lisa Gagalis, Andrew Raucci

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Michael Tully, Finance Director Ryan Cornwell

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14 Chairman Rick Stanton welcomed everyone to the Municipal Budget Committee Meeting of December 4,
15 2023 and called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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17 **Motion:** Vice-Chair von Jess made a motion to allow Lisa Gagalis and Andrew Raucci -to participate by
18 Zoom; **Seconded:** Selectman Sununu; **Vote:** approved 7-0.

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20 Chairman Stanton said all votes will be Roll Call votes.

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22 **OLD BUSINESS:** Review and approval of any Draft Minutes of 2023.

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24 **NEW BUSINESS**

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26 **Second Review of Library Budget FY2025**

27 Chairman Stanton reviewed questions submitted by Committee members regarding the Library Budget.
28 Selectman Sununu said he received a copy of the contract for electricity and the rate as requested; Mr.
29 Goode asked for number of part-time hours which was provided. As there were no further questions for
30 the Library, Chairman Stanton asked for a motion.

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32 **Motion:** Vice-Chair von Jess made a motion to approve the Library FY2025 Operating Budget of \$537,899,
33 as presented; **Seconded:** Selectman Sununu; **Roll Call Vote:** Larry Miller-aye, Sean Dionne-aye, James
34 Sununu-aye, Tom von Jess-aye, Rick Stanton-aye, Lisa Gallagher-aye, Brian Goode-aye, Lisa Gagalis-aye,
35 Andrew Raucci-aye; *Motion approved 9-0.*

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Chairman Stanton said that will go into the Town Budget for funding.

Second Review of Town Budget FY2025

Chairman Stanton said he asked the Town Administrator for information on the lawsuit for the Town and was provided amount paid so far and net projected in the Budget based on overlay for lawsuits: \$314,000. Town Administrator Tully said that is for abatements: last year the Town put forward overlay for preliminary rate from DRA; collected \$300,000 from fund balance last year and put back in fund Balance for this year.

Town Administrator Tully said the Town Proposed Operating Budget for FY2025 is \$9,641,000, a 7.37% increase divided into two aspects: Default calculation of 5.7% increase, plus 1.58% to set off total increase. Main Drivers on Budget: Health Insurance \$105,000 increase, Hydrants \$83,000, and \$25,000 Workmen’s Comp/Property Liability/Life Insurance. Default Budget FY2025: \$9,492,000.

Mr. Goode asked if Aquarion is doing the same for most towns. Town Administrator Tully said yes but towns that do not use Aquarion use a different means of figuring hydrants, though PUC finds their method acceptable; Aquarion will put the money in the rates otherwise. Mr. Goode said it would be better in the rates because it would be harder to raise the rates. Town Administrator Tully said the Rate Case was just finished and there will not be another for several years. He said it would pass that on to the Water Commission.

Motion: Vice-Chair von Jess made a motion to approve the Town FY2025 Proposed Operating Budget of \$9,641,882 which includes \$537,899 for the Library; **Seconded:** Selectman Sununu; **Roll Call Vote:** Larry Miller-aye, Sean Dionne-aye, James Sununu-aye, Tom von Jess-aye, Rick Stanton-aye, Lisa Gallagher-aye, Brian Goode-aye, Lisa Gagalis-aye, Andrew Raucci-aye; *Motion approved 9-0.*

Chairman Stanton said he is satisfied that the union line of the Police Budget is sufficient to take care of the SRO position, and said the department is still short 3 officers.

ANY OTHER ITEM THAT MAY LEGALLY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Next Budget Committee Meeting: December 18, 2023: School Second Review; Public Hearing: January 11, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Sununu made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chairman Stanton adjourned the Municipal Budget Committee Meeting at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary