



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING BUDGET WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2020

10:00 O'CLOCK A.M.  
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
233 ATLANTIC AVENUE  
APPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order by the Chair**

Chair Maggiore called the meeting to order at 10:11AM. Those in attendance were Selectman Sununu, Town Administrator Tully and Finance Director Cornwell.

2. **First Public Comment Session**

Public Comment is an opportunity for residents to ask questions, request information and make comments on issues facing the Town. Individuals will be given not more than three (3) minutes to speak, and people who have already spoken will be asked to wait until everyone has had the chance to speak once. The total time devoted to this agenda item is fifteen (15) minutes. Individuals who are not able to speak during the First Public Comment Session will be given first opportunity to speak during the Second Public Comment Session at the end of the Meeting.

No comments from the public.

3. **New Business**

3.1 Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Review

Town Administrator Tully gave the board a brief overview of the preliminary budget and emphasizing it was only preliminary. He further stated the 5.69% increase, or \$443,000 has been created by a 29% increase in debt service due to the new library; a 25% increase at the New Hampshire Retirement System and 32% increase in health insurance. He noted that the health insurance figure is based on a 10% increase although the GMR has not been received yet.

John Savastano presented his budget for Channel 22 noting there were no major issues with equipment, except the Nexus system which will be discontinuing their service and there will be a need to purchase a new system.

Selectman Sununu asked whether increases from 2017, 2018 and 2019 will continue, and Finance Director Cornwell stated things will level off now. He further gave a brief overview of the Cable Channel Revolving Fund.

Police Chief Mone presented her proposed budget noting that most of the increases in the department are contractual.

Selectman Sununu inquired about cost benefits of switching to First Net. Chief Mone explained both she and the Fire Chief have been looking into switching once there is service/coverage in North Hampton.

Fire Chief Lajoie presented his proposed budget and noted most of the increases in the department are contractual. He further stated there has been a demographic change in the department leading to a substantial increase in health insurance.

Chief Lajoie noted that training costs have increased, and they have hired an onsite teacher for \$10,100 per year for all training required. This will help with paying overtime as training will be done while on shift.

Chief Lajoie noted decreases in line items for Gas and Tolls, Station Maintenance, and equipment.

Public Works Director John Hubbard presented his proposed budget for highway, recycling center and brush dump. Director Hubbard noted there is a 5% increase in solid waste disposal. He further noted small increases in recycling center and brush dump salaries.

Director Hubbard stated there is an increase in catch basin cleaning due to requirements of the MS4 permitting.

Town Administrator Tully presented proposed budgets for Executive, Town Clerk, Finance. He noted an increase in the finance department due to security issues last year whereby financial information was compromised through an email account which then resulted in a security breach of close to \$75,000. Mr. Cornwell stated the increase is part of a program at Citizens Bank that ensures this will never happen again.

Town Administrator Tully finished his review of proposed budgets for Legal Expenses, Data Processing, Planning and Zoning, General Government Buildings, Cemetery, Property and Liability insurance, Heritage Commission, Code Enforcement, Water, and Conservation Commission.

Mr. Cornwell noted that the preliminary default (using a 10% placeholder for health insurance) would be up \$402,311 over last year. This would result in a 5.4% increase to the default budget and a proposed 6.2% increase in the overall budget.

Selectman Sununu discussed concerns with using the COLA increase as well as the CPI index and would like to revisit that. He further stated health care selections should be addressed as costs need to be reigned in.

**4. Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board**

The Board reserves the right to take action on any item relative to the prudential administration of the Town's affairs, which circumstances may require

**5. Second Public Comment Session**

See Item 2, above

**6. Adjournment**

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 1:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Facella

