

**Town of Hillsborough P.O. Box 7, 27 School Street, Hillsborough, NH 03244**  
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## **Board of Selectmen Budget Hearing 02/14/2012**

Town of Hillsborough  
Board of Selectmen's  
Budget Hearing  
February 14, 2012

Present: Selectmen Russell Galpin, Lou Ann Rousseau, and Steven Venezia, Town Administrator John Stetser, Larry Baker, Douglas Parker, Philip Harvey, Herman Wiegelman, Shane O'Keefe, Thomas McClure, Tamara McClure, Dana Brien, Lauralee LoMonaco, Denise DeForest, Dennis DeForest, William Goss, James Bailey, Robert Hill, Chief David Roarick, Chief Kenneth Stafford, Luke Levesque, Peter Mellen, Kevin Belanger and Selectmen's Secretary Iris Campbell.

7:00 p.m. Mr. Galpin called the hearing to order.

Mr. Galpin said articles one through six will be voted on by ballot and articles seven and eight will be discussed later this evening.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 9. To hear the reports of the Town Officers, Auditors, Agents, Committees or other officers heretofore chosen or appointed; or to take any other action in relation thereto. Majority vote required."

Mr. Galpin said the reports are not ready at this time and will appear in the town report.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Million Six Hundred Seventy-two Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-nine Dollars (\$6,672,389.00) for the operating expenses of the Town including General Government, Public Safety, Highways, Streets, and Bridges, Sanitation, Health, Welfare, Culture and Recreation, Debt Service, Operating Transfers Out and all other current expenses of the Town. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Galpin said the 2012 proposed budget is 2.5% over last year. He said assessing is up \$49,200 due to the town wide reassessment being done this year. He added if this is not done then the State will be ordering it to be done.

Mrs. McClure asked if the Board could go over the items which have a significant increase and give a short explanation.

Mr. Galpin said election and registration is up because there are four elections this year. He added conservation commission is up due to research being done on the properties we own and debt services have increased due to the payment on the new fire engine.

Mr. McClure asked why the legal expense budget was over spent.

Mr. Venezia said it was because of the negotiations with the two town unions.

Mr. Stetser said the legal budget also reflects hours spent on negotiating a property tax abatement.

Mr. Galpin said the Gable Building needs a new roof because if leaks into the water and sewer commissioner's office. He added fuel and gasoline prices have also gone up

Mr. McClure asked about the police station budget.

Mr. Venezia said it has gone up because of a new security system.

Mr. Venezia presented: Article 11. To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and New England Police Benevolent Association Local No. 51, which covers full-time police patrol officers and full-time and part-time dispatchers in the Police Department, and which calls for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Estimated Increases Over Prior Year</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Dispatch</u>
2012	\$ 5,719	\$2,200
2013	\$18,552	\$5,568
2014	\$34,924	\$6,764
2015	\$9,576	\$4,790

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$7,919) for the 2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2011 fiscal year. Notes: (1) The collective bargaining agreement includes the same Step Plan which has been in effect in the Police Department for several years, adjusted by the negotiated cost of living adjustments (COLA's). It is not a new Step Plan. (2) The COLA's in the agreement are: 2012: 2.2% Police Officers, 2.5% dispatchers; 2013: 2.2% Police Officers, 2.5% dispatchers; 2014: 2.0% Police Officers, 2.2% dispatchers. (3) The collective bargaining agreement provides for employee sharing of health insurance premiums at 5% effective July 1, 2012; 7% effective July 1, 2013; and 9% effective July 1, 2014 and other provisions which will reduce the town's expense for employee health insurance. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Hill asked who had represented the town in the negotiation process.

Mr. Venezia answered Chief Roarick, Mr. Stetser and Attorney Michael Donovan.

Mr. McClure asked are you protecting the town by not giving step increases if the employee doesn't deserve it.

Mr. Venezia said steps are automatic based on years of service.

Chief Roarick said all town departments use a step wage scale.

Mr. Hill asked what the difference is between the wage steps and the negotiated contracts.

Mr. Venezia said it is the COLA which is applied to the steps every year.

Chief Roarick said the contract reflects approximately an increase of \$5,000 in year one, \$10,000 in year two and \$10,000 in year three.

Mr. Hill said that was about \$25,000 over the next three years.

Mr. Venezia said by negotiating in good faith on a three-year contract we will save money in the future on legal fees by not having to negotiate every year.

Mr. McClure said it looks like the unions will be expensive.

Mr. Venezia said there are differences between the two contracts, and one being change in the employee's contribution to their health insurance premium.

Mr. Galpin presented: Article 12. Shall the Town of Hillsborough, if Article 11 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 11 cost items only? Majority vote required.

Mr. Galpin said this article will not be needed if article 11 passes.

Mr. Venezia present: Article 13. To see if the Town will vote to approve the cost items included in the three (3) year

collective bargaining agreement reached between the Board of Selectmen and American Federation of Teachers Local No. 3912, which covers full-time highway department personnel, full-time and part-time transfer station personnel; the welfare director; the deputy town clerk/tax collector and the paramedic, and which calls for the following increases in wages and benefits at the current staffing levels:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Increases Over Prior Year</u>
2012	\$1,104
2013	\$8,484
2014	\$8,273
2015	\$3,892

and further to raise and appropriate the sum of One Thousand One Hundred Four Dollars (\$1,104) for the 2012 fiscal year, such sum representing the additional costs attributed to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at current staffing levels paid in the 2011 fiscal year. Notes: (1) The collective bargaining agreement includes the same Step Plans which have been in effect for these employees for several years, adjusted by the negotiated cost of living adjustments (COLA's). (2) The COLA's in the agreement are: 2012: 0%; 2013: 2.0%; 2014: 2.0%. (3) The collective bargaining agreement provides for employee sharing of health insurance premiums at 5% effective July 1, 2012; 6.5% effective July 1, 2013; and 8.5% effective July 1, 2014 and conversion to a less costly health insurance plan on July 1, 2012; (4) Longevity stipends will be paid to employees with 10 years of service to the town: \$250 in 2012; \$400 in 2013; \$500 in 2014. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Galpin said the town employees are not part of the school's unions but they are being represented by the AFT.

Mr. McClure asked if they received the same steps as the police.

Mr. Venezia said the steps for all employees are every two years.

Mr. Galpin presented: Article 14. Shall the Town of Hillsborough, if Article 13 is defeated, authorize the governing body to call one special meeting, at its option, to address Article 13 cost items only? Majority vote required.

Mr. Galpin said this article will not be needed if article 13 passes.

Mr. Galpin asked the Water Commissioners to present: Article 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Seventy-eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Ten Dollars (\$678,810) for the purpose of operating the Water Department during 2012; said funds to be offset by the income to the Water Department of an equal amount. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Parker said the budget is up due to debt services.

7:30 p.m. Peter Brigham entered the hearing at this time.

Mr. Galpin asked the Sewer Commissioners to present: Article 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six Hundred Twenty-nine Thousand, Seven Hundred Ten Dollars (\$629,710) for the purpose of operating the Sewer Department during 2012; said funds to be offset by the income to the Sewer Department of an equal amount. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Galpin presented: Article 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the purpose of reconstructing and repaving of Childs Way, Windsor Terrace, Kemp Road and Old Drift Way. Also to shim and overlay a portion of Sawmill Road from old 202 and 9 to Fullers Corner. This will be a non-lapsing, non-transferable appropriation for a period of two (2) years per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the projects are completed or by December 31, 2013. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen.

There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ninety-five Thousand Dollars (\$95,000) for the purpose of completing the fire suppression sprinklers at the Governor John B. Smith House/Fuller Public Library approved by Article 6 of the 2010 annual meeting; of this amount, the sum of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) shall be offset by a grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) shall be raised by general taxation and Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) paid from Library savings. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Galpin said the installation of the sprinkler system will allow for the protection of the main library floor and the use of the second floor.

Mr. Hill asked if it was a water or gas system.

Chief Stafford answered water.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000) for the purpose of re-placing the Gould Pond Road Bridge over Sand Brook. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Stetser said this project had to be suspended because of the very wet spring we had. Last year.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 20. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a three year municipal lease purchase agreement for Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000) for the purpose of leasing a new fully equipped 1 ton 4x4 pick-up truck with plow and dump body for the highway department to replace a 1985 ½ ton pick-up truck, and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the first years payment for that purpose. This lease shall contain an escape clause and the second and third years payment shall be included in the highway budget for those years. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. McClure asked if future payments would be added into the budget.  
Mr. Stetser answered yes.

Mrs. Rousseau read: "Article 21. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of renovating the second floor of the Town Office Building, located at 27 School Street, into three offices. NOTE: This would allow for the relocation of the Town Administrator, Planning Director and Finance Administrator from 63 West Main Street to 27 School Street. This would bring all of the town administrative offices to one location. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mrs. Rousseau said this project would allow the offices for Mr. Stetser and Mrs. LoMonaco to be moved from 63 West Main Street to 27 School Street.

Mr. McClure asked if there were any plans.

Mr. Stetser answered no.

Mr. McClure asked if the town plans to sell the Gables Building.

Mr. Stetser answered yes.

Mrs. DeForest asked when.

Mr. O'Keefe said when Project Lift moves back to the library.

Mr. McClure asked if the Board was going to try and paint the library.

Mr. Stetser said we did do a bidding process for lead paint removal and painting. We received three bids.

Mrs. LoMonaco asked if painting the library had been budgeted.

Mr. Stetser answered no.

7:40 p.m. Douglas Hatfield entered the hearing at this time.

Mr. Parker asked if installing the sprinkler system would save the town money on insurance.

Mr. Galpin answered we don't know.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the future purpose of purchasing new ambulance vehicles. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

There were no questions or comments.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 23. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to assist the Kemp Park Committee in the removal of asbestos, lead paint and the demolition of the old Kemp building on River Street, as required for the development of Kemp Park. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Hill asked what will they be doing.

Mr. Stetser answered removing the house and creating a park with an area to store the two trucks which were given to the town by Richard Kemp.

Mr. Hatfield said there would be a report in the town report which will explain our plans. The proposed park is in the center of the Conservation River Walk.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 24. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new fully equipped Police cruiser. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Chief Roarick said the current cruisers are in bad shape and have more than 100,000 miles. He said the wear on a cruiser is different from the wear you would put on a family car because for one thing when officers are answering calls they don't slow down for bumps.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 25. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the purpose of supporting the Economic Development Commission established at the 2009 town meeting under Article 31. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Stetser said this group is working to improve the economical climate of the town and to help keep businesses and encourage new ones.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 26. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$3,500) for the purpose of providing support for a six-week downtown concert series. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Galpin said this is the third or forth year this event has been supported and it is very well attended.

Mrs. Rousseau added it does get people downtown.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 27. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) from the account "Hillsboro Senior Outings" for the purpose of recognizing and supporting the Hillsborough Senior Services Committee to research and develop programs for seniors. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Galpin said there is a group of volunteers who are trying to organize activities for seniors. He added they are attempting to obtain space at the Valley Bible Chapel.

7:50 p.m. Arlene Johns entered the hearing at this time.

Mr. Galpin read: "Article 28. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and

Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$125,000) for the purpose of removing about 2,500+/- (estimated) cubic yards of material deposited in the channel of the inlet of Gould Pond, and to begin an engineering study to confirm the causes of the erosion which has caused the material to be deposited in the inlet, and to recommend appropriate long term solutions. Majority vote required. Petitioned Article."

Mr. Hutchinson said the ELVD has been doing engineering on this problem and wants to work with the town to remedy it.

Mr. Galpin said he thinks this needs to be done because the lake was created by dredging a pond.

Mr. Hutchinson said the inlet use to be 22' deep, and it is now only 14'. He said it had last been dredged in the 1970's

Mr. McClure asked how NHDES feels about the project.

Mr. Hutchinson said he will be speaking with them next week.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 29. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sign a deed adjusting the boundary line between land of the Town of Hillsborough (Map 24 Lot 149) and land of Kelly D'Errico on River Street in Hillsborough (Map 24 Lot 150) to complete the boundary line agreement entered into by the Town when they acquired the property from Evelyn Kemp as part of Kemp Park. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Stetser said this was to clarify ownership and boundary lines.

Mr. Stetser read: "Article 30. To see if the Town will vote to name the Town owned island below the hydro dam (Map 12 Lot 135) on Contoocook River after Capt. Daniel McNeil who was the builder of the first bridge over Contoocook River in 1779. He was drowned in the falls below the bridge in 1790 while repairing the bridge. Majority vote required. Recommended by the Board of Selectmen."

Mr. Stetser said it would be know as the Captain Daniel McNeil Island.

Mr. Harvey said he was a member of the founding families of Hillsborough. He said the McNeil family engineered and helped build the Bridge Street bridge.

8:00 p.m. Mr. Galpin adjourned the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Campbell  
Selectmen's Secretary

Approved by:

Dated: February 28, 2012

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Russell S. Galpin, Chairman

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Lou Ann Rousseau

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Steven J. Venezia  
Board of Selectmen