

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
January 17, 2006  
BUDGET WORKSHOP (Room 211)**

**Members Present:** F. Eric Sonnett, Chairman; Leonard A. Holden, Vice-Chairman; Ronald M. Clark; Mary C. Pratt; Muriel E. Kramer

**Others Present:** HopNews: Robert Falcione and Kevin Kohrt; Brian Morrison, Conservation Commission; J .T. Gaucher, DPW Director; Mike Mansir, DPW Highway Manager; Eric Carty, DPW Water/Sewer Manager; Police Chief Tom Irvin; Fire Chief Gary Daugherty; Michael Shepard, Director of Municipal Inspections; Theodore D. Kozak, Executive Secretary

**Public Meeting Opened**

**7:00 p.m.** Mr. Sonnett, Chairman, opened the public meeting. The following Department Heads gave an overview of their Department's budget.

**DPW BUDGET: John T. Gaucher, Director**

No additional personnel. Request for additional funds, for line painting and drainage work. Also, a request was made for 2 new trucks.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET: Police Chief Thomas Irvin**

Request for a Lieutenant Position and one cruiser.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET: Fire Chief Gary Daugherty**

Request for Deputy Chief and operations position. Also a new Brush/Pumper truck.

**INSPECTIONAL SERVICES BUDGET: Michael Shepard, Director**

No change in proposed department budget. Asked to approve Wiring Inspector and Plumbing Inspector stipend to increase by \$100.00 and add \$1.00 to the Inspection Fees paid.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET: Theodore D. Kozak, Executive Secretary**

Request for a full time position for computer services, re-modeling of the Selectmen's Hearing Room, and additional funds for fringe benefits and legal services.

The Board indicated their support for the proposed budgets submitted as the maximum and recommended that the Department Heads work with the Appropriation Committee on funding requests cognizant of the Town's ability to fund them.

**LEGAL USE POLICY DISCUSSION**

Mr. Sonnett said that the current policy allows the Executive Secretary to contact Town Counsel for legal advice and that in practice the Chairman of the Board should also have the ability to contact Town Counsel. Mr. Sonnett suggested a change in the policy as well as a change in the timeline to review the legal account from quarterly to annually.

**Vote:** Mr. Clark moved to add the phrase "of other Departments" in paragraph 3 after the "Chairman may approve a request". He also moved to change paragraph 6 to report legal activity to the public "annually" and to add in paragraph 8 after the Executive Secretary "and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen" has authority to contact Town Counsel. **Second Mr. Holden.**

**Discussion:**

Mrs. Pratt suggested reporting legal activity every six months. Mrs. Kramer suggested a log book be established to record discussions with Town Counsel and should be shared with the Board members.

Mr. Clark noted that the Town Counsel invoices have a break down of work he performs for the Town. He said a log book would be a public record that would be subject to inquiries and cause the office staff to spend unnecessary time on public record requests.

**Vote:** Mr. Sonnett asked for a vote. Mr. Sonnett: yes; Mr. Holden: yes; Mr. Clark: yes; Mrs. Pratt: no; Mrs. Kramer: no. The vote is three yes and two no. **So voted.**

**8:40 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**

**Vote:** Mr. Clark motioned to adjourn the public meeting. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore D. Kozak  
Executive Secretary

Date approved: 1/31/06

TDK/mkp