

## RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON

### 2018 HAMPTON VOTER GUIDE

*If all warrant articles on the ballot are approved, taxes on an average single family home will increase by 7% over last year and will have increased by 19%, or over \$1,100 since 2014.*

#### Hampton School District SAU90

**Hampton School Board:** 2 slots for 3 years, none of the candidate's standout as being sensitive to taxpayers.

##### Articles

- 1: **NO** Operating Budget of \$22,877,640 is **\$91,450** more than the Default budget, where is the limit?
- 2: **YES** \$300,000 for the repair and maintenance of schools.
- 3: **NP** \$100,000 for a second School Resource Officer.
- 4: **YES** \$44,574 for Sacred Heart School.

#### Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

**Winnacunnet School Board:** 2 slots, 3 years, none of the candidate's standout as being sensitive to taxpayers.

##### Articles

- 1: **NO** Operating budget of \$26,241,037 is **\$377,143** more than the Default budget.
- 2: **YES** Support Personnel contract 2.5 % 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2.75% 2<sup>nd</sup> year; these people are currently underpaid.
- 3: **NO** \$665,000 for Art Department renovations should be funded in the Operating Budget.
- 4: **NP** \$330,000 for security upgrades.
- 5: **YES** \$150,000 to be added to the existing Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.
- 6: **NO** \$25,000 for to the Health Insurance Fund, use of this fund for employees and retirees is unclear.

#### Town of Hampton

**Board of Selectmen:** (2 slots for 3 years)

**Timothy “Citizen” Jones** - We strongly support Jones for Selectman. On the Budget Committee for 5 years he steadfastly represented the taxpayer’s interests at all times. New blood is needed on the Board of Selectmen.

**Mary-Louise Woolsey** - Mary-Louise has served the community for many years, is an experienced Selectman, she will challenge “special interests” and will not be deterred.

**Municipal Budget Committee:** (2 slots for 3 years)

**Mike Plouffe**

**Brian Warburton**

**RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON Spokesman Norm Silberdick**

Updates and details available at [www.RTOH.org](http://www.RTOH.org)

## **Town of Hampton**

“**NP**” indicates that RATIONAL TAXPAYERS have taken no position on the warrant article.

“**UFB**” indicates that funds already taxed sitting in the Unassigned Fund Balance are used.

- 2-6: NP** Rational Taxpayers has taken no position on Zoning Articles.
- 7: YES** \$11.7 million for Phase 1, another \$29 million is anticipated in future years. While we’re not completely comfortable with the amount and a detailed plan is necessary, repairs and upgrades are badly needed.
- 8: NO** Operating Budget of \$27,225,312 is **\$383,000** more than the Default.
- 9: NO** \$1.5 million for improvements to Lafayette Road from High Street to Towle Ave. off of Winnacunnet Road. This project is funded by draining the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. \$613,212 is still left from last year’s warrant article to pave virtually the same stretch of road. Improvements proposed this year, including ornamental lighting, primarily address esthetics. Use of this fund should be limited to fixing roads that are in bad shape such as Exeter Road, Winnacunnet Road, Locke Road and many others.
- 10: YES** Teamsters Union contract. A 3-year contract with annual increases of 2.7%. This union has had no increase in 2 years. If approved the average annual increase over the 5-year period will be 1.6%.
- 11: NO** Fire Supervisors 3017 Union contract, a 2-year contract with annual increases of 3%. Annual increases of 3% are too generous; most members of this union make close to \$100,000 with overtime.
- 12: NO** SEIU “Local 1984” DPW employees contract, a 3-year contract with annual increases of 3% is too much.
- 13: NO** \$620,000 5-yr lease for two new trash trucks, the cost of maintaining the existing six-year old trucks has been exaggerated. Taxpayer’s subsidizing daily commercial trash pickup needs to be addressed first.
- 14: YES** \$316,231 for street paving and associated repairs.
- 15: YES** \$300,000 to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund
- 16: YES** \$172,624 Hampton’s contribution to twenty human service agencies in the Seacoast
- 17: YES** \$131,814 from the Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund to replace equipment and fencing
- 18: NO** \$120,000 to upgrade the Fire Dept’s computer network and outsource Town hosting services, **UFB**
- 19: NO** \$100,000 to install new decorative street lighting on C, D, F Streets, and Ashworth Avenue, **UFB**.
- 20: YES** \$100,000 to study and report on solutions to, flooding from the Hampton River and Harbor, **UFB**
- 21: YES** \$90,000 to authorize the withdrawal of \$90,000 from the Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund.
- 22: YES** \$80,000 for a study and preliminary design for a King’s Hwy. Storm-water drainage system, **UFB**
- 23: NO** \$51,000 for the purchase of a pickup truck with plow for the Fire Dept, the cost is unreasonable.
- 24: NO** \$50,000 for the purchase of the yard horse tractor for DPW, \$25,000 would be more reasonable.
- 25: NO** \$50,000 re-construction of the Landing Road sidewalk from Route 101 to Winnacunnet Road, there is very little foot traffic on the existing sidewalk.
- 26: NO** \$44,662 for adding a full time Town Clerk Assistant at a annual cost of \$59,549. No plans have been communicated for expanding hours, Friday afternoon or an evening etc, if this addition is approved.
- 27: NO** \$21,057 for adding a part-time paralegal in the Town Counsel’s Office, total annual cost is \$28,075. The Legal Dept. was \$128,000 over budget in 2017; their 2018 budget is already increased by 25%.
- 28: NO** \$20,000 to study establishing a Sewer Enterprise Fund and removing the costs from the tax rate. We are

- in favor of doing an in-house study at a lower cost, with some expense on an outside consultant, **UFB**
- 29: NO** \$40,000 to be added to Conservation Commission Fund, the increase over last year was not requested by the Conservation Commission, the doubling of the amount at Deliberative Session appears to be arbitrary.
- 30: NO** \$20,000 for the maintenance of the Town owned Historic Blacksmith's Shop off Barbour Road, **UFB**
- 31: NO** \$15,000 Replacement of the exterior doors on the Town Office Building, they've already been fixed.
- 32: YES** \$10,000 to conduct a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day during calendar year 2018
- 33: YES** To petition the Federal government to dredge Hampton/Seabrook Harbor with federal funds:
- 34: NP** Allows the operation of keno games in Hampton, helps fund Elementary education.
- 35: NP** If approved, some Veterans not currently eligible for Veterans Tax Credit would become eligible.
- 36: YES** Entertainment Noise levels, this rolls back the weekday shut down time from midnight to 11:00 pm. The lead petitioner on competing Articles 39 and 40 is a beach business owner.
- 37: NP** Town Forest Bylaws.
- 38: NP** Modify all fence height restrictions in deeds for former Town leased lots.
- 39: NO** Eliminates Entertainment licenses and expands the hours allowed from midnight to 1:00 am, bad idea.
- 40: NO** Expands the hours allowed for Entertainment from midnight to 1:00 am, raises the noise level, bad idea.
- 41: YES** \$3,000 to assist Experience Hampton Inc. in funding the Christmas Parade
- 42: NO** \$100,000 on top of the \$650,000 already funded by taxpayers for this project. Enough is enough, only a small number of neighbors benefit from this. We suggest a "Go Fund Me" page, **UFB**.
- 43: NP** Move fire lane on Second Street
- 44: YES** Supports the voter's ability to weigh in on Non-Union wage and benefit increases. Voter approval is already required for cost increases related to Union contracts. This will help keep the Default budget down.
- 45: NO** \$520,000 for the construction of a six-foot sidewalk on the west side of Mace Road. We believe that the expense will exceed the amount in this petitioned warrant article by a significant amount.
- 46: NO** \$50,000 to remove and or trim dead or dying trees in the Hampton's cemetery, use Cemetery Trust Fund.
- 47: NP** Support New Hampshire joining Massachusetts and Maine in studying the feasibility offshore wind-power.
- 48: NP** Prohibit Smoking on all Town Beaches in Hampton
- 49: YES** \$5,100 to support One Sky Community Services in providing services for the developmentally disabled.

Check with Town Clerk for Sample ballots, Absentee ballots, Town and School Reports and Election Day times and location.

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