

RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON - 2020 VOTER GUIDE

If all warrant articles on the 2020 ballot pass, taxes on an average single family home will have increased by \$1,336, or 22% since 2014.

Check out the historical chart included with this mailing.

Hampton School District SAU90

Hampton School Board: The open seat on the Hampton School board is uncontested.

Articles

- 1: NO** Operating Budget of \$23,789,112 is over \$200,000 more than last year's budget and almost \$100,000 more than this year's Default budget. The budget has increased by \$3.7 million or 19% over the past 5 years, despite declining student enrollments.
- 2: NO** SEA Teachers union contract. The total cost increase of this contract is \$4.6 million over four years; this increase is 86% greater than the increase in the last contract, which had a four-year cost increase of \$2.5 million. It has an average annual cola of 2.5% on top of 3.75% step increases every year for a teacher's first 12 years, compounding for annual increases of over 6%.
- 3: NO** \$300,000 for the repair and maintenance of facilities. This amount should have been reduced, as there is no maintenance required at Hampton Academy due to the \$26 million renovation. It appears that SAU90 will ask for \$300,000 a year forever until the voters say NO.
- 4: YES** \$43,975 for Sacred Heart School.

Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

Winnacunnet School Board: None of the seats on the WHS School board are contested.

- 1: NO** Operating budget of \$28,569,586 is over \$1.3 million more than last year's budget and almost \$200,000 more than this year's Default budget. Student enrollments levels reflect a negative trend.
- 2: YES** Seacoast Educational Support Personnel Association's contract, the increase is reasonable.

- 3: **YES** \$231,910 HVAC Upgrades. This is part of an ongoing preventative maintenance plan.
- 4: **NO** \$85,000 to replace the auditorium sound system. Nice, but not necessary.
- 5: **YES** \$75,000 to be added to the existing Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.
- 6: **NO** \$75,000 for the Health Insurance Fund, this is an unnecessary fund.
- 7: **NP** “Sanctuary Cities” policy. (RATIONAL TAXPAYERS has taken no position on this warrant article)

Hampton Board of Selectmen (Two seats are up for election)

Mike Plouffe and **Brian Warburton** are recommended.

Change is essential, the status quo is special interest driven and is not benefiting the general public.

RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON Spokesman Norm Silberdick
 Updates and details available at www.RTOH.org

Town of Hampton

UFB indicates funding from prior surplus taxation held in the Unassigned Fund Balance.

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

Articles

- 2-9: NP** Rational Taxpayers has taken no position on Zoning Articles.
- 10: NO** \$125,000 for an update to the Town of Hampton Master Plan.
- 11: YES** Discontinue Cemetery Trustees by delegating their duties to the Town Manager.
- 12: NP** Allow the operation of sports book retail locations within the Town of Hampton.
- 13: YES** \$30,000 to DPW for the Town’s Asset Management for Wastewater Assets, offset by State of NH.
- 14: YES** Elderly increased exemptions for property tax.
- 15: YES** Operating Budget of \$28,322,336 is \$12,700 less than the Default budget.
- 16: NO** Hampton Firefighters 3 year contract with 2.8% a year across the board increases. When combined with existing step increases that average 1.4% a year the result is a 13% increase for the average employee by the third year. In addition, the existing contract allows Fire Department employees to increase their base pay by as much as 18% by obtaining Firefighting and Medical steps, swimming and boating certifications and college degrees.
- 17: NO** Hampton Fire Supervisors 3 year contract with 2.8% a year across the board increases. Many of the employees covered by this proposed contract are already making well over \$100,000 with overtime.
- 18: NO** \$435,000 from the Road Fund for engineering work related to replacing Winnacunnet Road and High Street sewer and closed drainage system mains, sewer services, paving and associated items. RTOH is opposed to spending large amounts of money on engineering for future projects that may not be approved in future warrant articles. Engineering should be part of a broader warrant article that includes the actual work, which is the case with the Locke Road warrant article.
- 19: NO** \$425,127 for increased costs for trash and recycling disposal. The language on the ballot that “*the estimated cost increase over the total fiscal year 2020 is \$248,097*” and the Fiscal Impact Note indicating Zero Tax Impact are misleading. RTOH estimates that the total tax impact for the years 2021 to 2023 is almost \$2 million. (Only the year 2020 is funded by the **UFB**)
- 20: YES** \$850,000 for replacing the Locke Road clay sewer line, drainage systems and paving.
- 21: YES** \$486,231 for the paving of streets and associated work.
- 22: YES** \$303,000 for two 3/4 ton trucks with plows; one utility hot box; and one Caterpillar Loader. **UFB**

- 23: YES** \$300,000 to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund
- 24 : NO** \$200,000 for the flood control design. RTOH is opposed to spending large amounts of money on engineering for projects that may not be approved in future warrant articles. **UFB**
- 25: YES** \$195,000 for ADA sidewalk approaches at High Street & Mill Road, pedestrian lights for safety.
- 26: YES** \$183,039 for Hampton’s contribution to twenty-one human service agencies on the Seacoast.
- 27: YES** \$126,700 Parks and Recreation Department, from Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund:
- 28: NO** \$126,500 5-year lease purchase agreement for 2 Refuse and Recycling Trucks. This is the third year in a row that the Town has placed lease purchase agreements with non-appropriation clauses on the ballot in order to enable the article to pass with a simple majority, as opposed to 60%. The problem is that there has been no meaningful subsequent vote by the voters in years 2 – 5. This approach opens the Town up to court action that could result in having to return the trucks and ensuing chaos.
- 29: YES** \$116,300 for improving emergency communications systems funded by State of NH aid.
- 30: YES** \$90,000 Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund, no tax impact.
- 31: YES** \$85,000 for the purpose of interior building improvements at the DPW main offices. **UFB**
- 32: NO** \$80,000 Create a Recycling Revolving Fund. No justification for the \$80,000, if approved this article will also redirect up to \$200,000 a year that is currently applied to reduce taxes. **UFB**
- 33: YES** \$50,000 for participating in a FEMA Grant Program; enables future FEMA reimbursements. **UFB**
- 34: YES** \$50,000 to conduct a Transfer Station Improvements Feasibility Study. **UFB**
- 35: YES** \$50,000 for removing trees from the High Street Cemetery. Cemetery Trust funded, no tax impact.
- 36: NO** \$40,000 for a truck for the Fire Prevention Officer, this amount is too expensive for its use. **UFB**
- 37: YES** \$32,000 for replacing the Town Office second Floor west side heating System. **UFB**
- 38: YES** \$27,500 to be added to the Protective Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. **UFB**
- 39: YES** \$24,500 to purchase a new mid-size pickup truck for the Building Department. **UFB**
- 40: YES** \$20,000 for conducting two hazardous waste collection days during 2020.
- 41: YES** \$20,000 to be placed in the Hampton Conservation Commission Fund;
- 42: YES** Discontinue and close the Department of Public Works Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.
- 43: NP** Amend the membership composition of the Heritage Commission
- 44: YES** \$3,000 to Experience Hampton Inc., to defray expenses for the annual Hampton Christmas Parade.
- 45: YES** \$6500 to reimburse the American Legion for 200 bronze service flag holder grave markers?
- 46: YES** \$500 for Step Up Parents.

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

Updates and details available at www.RTOH.org