

RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON - 2021 VOTER GUIDE

Hampton School District SAU90

Hampton School Board - Recommendations on candidates for the two seats up for election.

Jerry Znoj: Former Hampton Selectman and former Hampton School board member.

Kathleen Terry: Former Hampton School board member.

Articles

- 1: NO** Operating Budget of \$24,400,670 is over \$600,000 more than last year's budget and over \$150,000 more than this year's Default budget. It includes the addition of permanent positions at Centre School in the face of a pandemic and a hybrid learning strategy. The budget has increased by \$4.8 million or 18% over the past 5 years, despite continuing declining student enrollments.
- 2: NO** SEA Teachers union one year contract. The annual salary and benefits increases totaling \$407,069 is 62% more than the amount of the annual increase of the final year of the last contract approved by the voters. The pay plan includes step increases of 3.75% every year for Teachers not already at the top of the pay scale and are compounded by a 3.25% across the board COLA increase on all steps. Teachers not already at the top of the pay scale would receive a 7% increase, which is substantially greater than increases in the CPI of less than 2%. It does not appear that anyone at the negotiating table was looking out for the interests of Hampton taxpayers.
- 3: YES** \$300,000 for the repair and maintenance of facilities including \$275,000 for an HVAC air ventilation system for Centre School.
- 4: YES** \$69,542 for Sacred Heart School, enrollments increased due to transfers from SAU90

In our opinion, SAU90 has shown little interest in lowering costs and balancing educational objectives with the needs of Hampton taxpayers during the pandemic and in the face of declining enrollments. There is a need for fresh thinking on this board, which is loaded with former teachers or spouses of same.

Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

Winnacunnet School Board - Recommendations on candidates.

At Large seat: James G. Sununu Parent of two students at WHS, current North Hampton Selectman and former member North Hampton School Board. Again, there is a need for fresh thinking.

WHS Hampton seat: This seat is uncontested.

Articles

- 1: YES** Operating budget of \$28,770,668. While it is \$200,000 more than last year's budget, it is \$200,000 less than this year's Default budget. Student enrollments levels reflect a negative trend.
- 2: YES** \$325,000 HVAC Upgrades. This is part of an ongoing preventative maintenance plan that we reviewed in depth in the past.

RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON Spokesman Norm Silberdick

Updates and details available at HYPERLINK "http://
www.RTOH.org/" www.RTOH.org.

Town of Hampton

Hampton Board of Selectmen - Recommendations on candidates for the two seats up for election.

Mary Louise Woolsey: Current Selectman, many years experience as a Selectman and Budget Committee.

Sharleene Hurst: Former member of the Budget Committee, Hampton School board and member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Hampton Budget Committee - Recommendations for the two seats up for election.

Brian Warburton: Current Chairman of the Budget Committee and former Selectman.

Michael Plouffe: Current Vice-Chairman of the Budget Committee and former Selectman.

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

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

Articles

2-6: NP Rational Taxpayers has taken no position on Zoning Articles.

07: NO \$15.7 million in total spending on High Street and Winnacunnet Road to pave and replace the underground infrastructure. \$13.7 million will be bonded, \$1 million will come from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve and \$1 million from the UFB. We agree with the Budget Committee, it is too ambitious doing both roads in the same project. There will be several years of traffic impediments, the replacement of all sewer pipes under both roads is questionable and the ability to effectively manage such a large project is a concern. The argument that doing both roads at the same time will result in a better price is not consistent with actual experience in recent years.

08 YES The Operating Budget of \$29,125,194 is \$114,120 less than the Default budget.

The four union contracts below are all 3 years with annual COLAS averaging 1.8%

09: YES SEIU Local 1984 (DPW employees) employee union contract.

10: YES Professional Firefighters Association, Local 2664, IAFF employee union contract.

11: YES Fire Department Supervisory Association with IAFF employee union contract.

12: YES Teamsters Local 633 employee union contract.

13: YES \$565,000 for two trash / recycling trucks for DPW. Funding is from the UFB, with no tax impact and the trucks are necessary.

14: YES \$486,231 for road paving and other improvements, offset by \$305,617 from the State of NH.

15: YES \$300K to be added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.

16: YES \$183,539 for the Human Service Agencies, same as last year.

17: YES \$90K Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund, no tax impact.

18: YES \$72,100 for a Recreation Infrastructure improvement projects and equipment funded by the Special Revenue Fund. No tax impact.

19: YES \$27,500 to be added to the Firefighters Turn Out Gear/Personal Protective Equipment Capital Reserve Fund funded from the UFB, no tax impact.

20: YES \$20,000 to be added to the Conservation Commission Fund.

21: YES \$3,000 Experience Hampton Inc. to defray expenses for the annual Hampton

Christmas Parade.

- 22: NP** Code of Ethics update, Rational Taxpayers take no position on this article.
- 23: YES** This article makes voter approval via a Warrant Article a requirement in order to add additional employee positions. While the Selectmen may not be legally bound to abide by this article, if this is approved they will at least know how the public feels about the issue.

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