

RATIONAL TAXPAYERS OF HAMPTON - 2019 VOTER GUIDE

If all warrant articles on the ballot pass, taxes on an average single family home will increase by \$500, or 7% and will have increased by over \$1,500, or 26% since 2014. RTOH recommendations result in a 2.5% increase.

Hampton School District SAU90

Hampton School Board: None of the candidate's standout as being sensitive to taxpayers.

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

- 1: NO Operating Budget of \$23,585,440 is over \$700,000 more than last year's budget and almost \$200,000 more than this year's Default budget.
- 2: NO Seacoast Educational Support Professionals Association contract increases entry wages by 17% over 3 years. In addition, it adds Holiday pay, medical and dental benefits.
- 3: NO \$300,000 for the repair and maintenance of facilities. RTOH feels the annual amount requested should have been reduced given the \$26 million already being spent to renovate Hampton Academy.
- 4: NP \$100,000 for an additional School Resource Officer to improve staff and student safety.
- 5: YES \$38,925 for Sacred Heart School.

Winnacunnet Cooperative School District

Winnacunnet School Board: None of the candidate's standout as being sensitive to taxpayers.

- 1: NO Operating budget of \$27,208,859 is almost \$1 million more than last year's budget and over \$400,000 more than this year's Default budget.
- 2: NO Seacoast Education Association teacher's contract, a 2.75% COLA per year is too much of an increase when factoring in the compounding affect of step increases.
- 3: YES \$244,151 HVAC Upgrades. This is part of an ongoing Preventative Maintenance plan.
- 4: YES \$192,200 Auditorium Roof Replacement. This is a 23-year old flat roof and it's time.
- 5: NO \$115,000 Track and Tennis Court Resurfacing, both appear to be in good shape at this time.
- 6: NO \$75,000 for the Health Insurance Fund, unneeded fund, direct transfer from UFB could accomplish the same end.
- 7: YES \$50,000 to be added to the existing Special Education Expendable Trust Fund.

Town of Hampton

Selectman or Budget Committee: None of the positions are contested.

Town of Hampton

“**NP**” indicates that RATIONAL TAXPAYERS have taken no position on the warrant article.
“**UFB**” indicates that funds already taxed held in the Unassigned Fund Balance are used.

Articles

- 2-9: NP** Rational Taxpayers has taken no position on Zoning Articles.
- 10: NO** \$18,000 for a future update of the Town of Hampton Master Plan, Planner should drive first phase.
- 11: NO** Operating Budget of \$28,141,882 is \$1.3 million more than last year’s budget and \$546,766 more than the Default budget. Significantly inflated, no reduction made by the Selectmen.
- 12: YES** Hampton Police Association (Sergeants), 2.8% increase per year for 3 years.
- 13: YES** Hampton Police Association (Patrolman), 2.8% increase per year for 3 years.
- 14: YES** Optional tax credit for combat service \$500.
- 15: YES** Change veterans' optional tax credit from \$500 to \$750
- 16: YES** Change veterans' permanent service-connected disability credit from \$2,000 to \$4000
- 17: YES** \$200,000 to establish a Capital Reserve Fund for purchasing Firefighters Turn Out Gear/Personal Protective equipment with funding coming from the UFB.
- 18: NO** Authorizes four additional full time Fire Fighter/ EMT's to the Hampton Fire Department. The cost to the taxpayer will rise from \$138,000 in the first year to over \$400,000 a year in four years. Most residents appear to be satisfied with the level of service provided by current staffing.
- 19: YES** \$150,000 for a Town-wide revaluation of property, mandated by State of NH.
- 20: NO** \$22,847 per year for a part time Code Enforcement Officer. Need a better plan for work content.
- 21: YES** \$590,170 for improvements to streets, and associated repairs.
- 22 NO** \$300,000 added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. RTOH no longer supports this as the fund was drained last year when much of the spending was for purposes other than paving roads.
- 23: YES** \$243,165 for trucks and sidewalk plows used for snow plowing (UFB)
- 24: YES** \$246,500 replace culverts and piping at Eaton Park
- 25: YES** \$210,050 for 5-year lease purchase agreement for a Mack 6-Wheel Dump Truck w/accessories
- 26: YES** \$91,000 for the purchase of a trash ejection trailer.
- 27: YES** \$85,750 for the replacement of the water line that services the Public Works Department
- 28: YES** \$245,241 replacement of 872 existing streetlights with more energy efficient LED lighting
- 29: NO** \$100,000 Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund, should name specific locations and the costs.
- 30: YES** \$20,000 for the purpose of conducting two household hazardous waste collection days.
- 31: YES** \$11,000 for completing the construction and enclosing of the Cemetery Building from the Trust Fund.
- 32: YES** \$42,000 for a New Holland Tractor/Loader funded by the Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund,
- 33: YES** \$50,000 for removing trees from the High Street Cemetery from Cemetery Maintenance Trust Fund.
- 34: YES** \$124,750 from the Recreation Infrastructure Special Revenue Fund for several Rec. projects.
- 35: NO** \$71,668 for continuing the upgrade of the Information Technology systems. This is an inappropriate use of surplus funds (UFB).
- 36: YES** \$177,724 Hampton’s contribution to twenty human service agencies in the Seacoast
- 37: NO** \$50,000 to continue the process of converting stored paper documents to digital. No plan as to when this is to end and the extent of effort. This is an inappropriate use of surplus funds (UFB).
- 38: YES** \$90,000 to authorize the withdrawal of \$90,000 from the Police Forfeiture Special Revenue Fund
- 39: YES** \$16,440 Replacement of front interior doors at the Town Offices, addresses ADA compliance.
- 40: NO** \$10,000 for creating and supporting the Town of Hampton Naval Committee Fund. This is an inappropriate use of surplus funds (UFB).
- 41: NP** Repeal false alarm Ordinances that are addressed by the Police and the Courts
- 42: YES** Increases charges for Police details to businesses in Chapter 149-16 of the Entertainment ordinance.
- 43: YES** Distribute the balance of \$41,616 in Fund 21 to the UFB, Fund 21 is obsolete.
- 44: YES** \$110,000, \$55,000 from taxation and \$55,000 from the Conservation Fund, for a 70 acre parcel off of Timber Swamp Road.
- 45: NP** Establish a Heritage Commission as proposed by the Planning Board.
- 46: YES** \$3,000 to assist Experience Hampton Inc. with the Christmas Parade
- 47: NO** \$6,500 to Hampton’s American Legion Post 35 for 200 bronze service flag holder grave makers. Should be funded by cemetery trust fund as previous articles 31, 32 & 33 were.
- 48: NO** Petitioned article requesting \$520,000 for construction of a sidewalk on Mace Road. This is a lot of money for a 1-mile stretch and it could be higher. The majority of the voters opposed this article on last year's ballot; none of the Selectmen or Budget Committee members recommend it this year.
- 49: NP** Outlaw smoking on town property in Hampton with provision for fines.
- 50: NP** To see if voters will outlaw smoking on Town property, this article is only advisory.