ROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN Meeting on December 2, 2019 the Board of Selectman was presented a petition by Juan Arriola and Kathy Donahue and 20 other citizens to hold a Town Meeting to 1) Address future of Ambulance Services 2) Explain the Tree Bucket Truck purchase. By Connecticut State Statute, The petitioned Town meeting must be held within 21 days. To make this happen the Board of Selectman must meet and post the agenda to Town and Media for 5 days before held Town Meeting. This task is not easy to make happen with December's many events. Since the 21st day would be Christmas Eve. Being a pragmatic minimalist and without need for redundant Town Meetings, I added to the Agenda 3) To Discuss and Act on Rescinding the Ordinance creating the Board of Finance and adjourn to Referendum 1-6-2020.

On September 23, 2019 Chief Ben Brocket of Hampton-Chaplin Ambulance Services informed me that they will cease to operate Ambulance Services to our Towns April 1, 2020. Since then I have been researching and interviewing other local Ambulance Services both Municipal (Town of Windham) and private (Scotland, K-B Ambulance, American Ambulance and Windham Hospital-Hartford HealthCare) Other towns, Chaplin, Canterbury, Eastford, Pomfret and Scotland face the same decline volunteer impact and rising costs.

In the next months I see a collaborative of 4-6 towns sharing the benefits and costs of supporting a 24/7 professional EMS service with 1.5 to 2 Ambulances crews on call. An additional daytime 12 hr. shift would cover the highest call volume.

Tree Bucket Truck - Hampton like other Quiet Corner Towns has hundreds of "Dead and Dying Trees" as a result of several Gypsy Moth infestations, drought and Emerald Ash Borer. After 2 years of effort and collaboration with Eversource, CT. DOT, CT DEEP and our Town DPW and contractors there is still hundreds of Hazard Trees to mitigate. In October the Board of Selectman voted to purchase a 75 foot Bucket Truck and took delivery on 10/29/2019. I made the executive decision to purchase and order to address public safety concerns immediately. All funds to purchase were within the present budget. $82K Truck and Equipment CNR, $70K Road Paving, $21K First Selectman salary with a total of $173,690. To date 40 dead trees have been removed by DPW from our roads with zero increase to insurance costs and our Tree Removal line item exhausted. The crew was already certified and experienced through the 25 foot small truck I bought 6 years ago.

There has been some misunderstanding about the decision-making chain in our town. The coming town meeting is our opportunity to discuss and clarify our procedures and the way we establish town goals.

The Board of Selectmen bears responsibility for guiding our small ship of state, with the advice and review from our town boards and commissions, and residents in formal and informal settings. The Board of Finance was established to bring more voices and talents to bear our increasing complicated financial decisions. Nonetheless the final financial decisions resides with the Board of Selectmen.

Board of Finance - When first elected I advocated for the concept of review board. I appointed the first Board of Finance. In my first budget I was advised by them and Chair Rheo Brouillard to decrease the bottom line by $30K. (CNR was decreased). Fast forward to the 2019 the Board of Finance interpreted Their charge as Town Council and Town Managers. Wrong, they are a review board to advise the Board of Selectmen who are the Town Managers. I Allan Cahill am the Chair of the Board of Selectmen and CEO of the Corporation of Hampton and tasked with the daily and annual changes and responsibilities of running "The Business of Hampton." Thus I embrace a community conversation and Referendum on the Board of Finance. The focus and goal is to give citizens an opportunity to Recalculate the direction of Hampton governance. Since 2011 the Board of Selectman have spend over $600K on building projects and equipment from CNR Accounts without Board of Finance oversight. This does not include Fire House addition or STEAP Grants. For hundreds of years Hampton survived and has done well before the 2012 ordinance.

Allan Cahill
First Selectman