

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
April 28, 2022
Town Hall Lower Level
7:00PM

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathy Donahue at 7:00pm.

Members present: Kathy Donahue, Diane Gagnon, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Judy Buell (7:30), Stan Crawford, Kathi Newcombe

2. Others present: 1st Selectman Allan Cahill (via phone), Selectman John Tillinghast (7:35pm), Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez

Nick motioned and Ed seconded to seat Stan and Kathi for absent members Joan Fox and Judy Buell; motion passed unanimously.

3. Citizen Comments: None
4. Budget Workshop Session:

Presentation of municipal budget:

1st Selectman Cahill presented the General Government 2022-23 budget which featured:

- a. A 3% across the board COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) increase for all town employees;
- b. A \$5,000 increase for the Town Treasurer whose salary is on the low side according to AI;
- c. A new line item for \$2,500 for a quarterly newsletter from the Board of Selectmen;
- d. An additional \$3,000 for line item 6004.00 Legal Counsel to cover increased legal costs which includes two lawsuits pending against the Town;
- e. An additional \$3,094 (but down \$10,000 from previously requested) for line item 6008.01 Conservation Commission to cover signage, trail tree removal and the Knotweed project;
- f. An additional \$2,000 for line item 6010.09 P&Z Planning Services;
- g. A reduction of \$13,002 line item 6015.00 Health Insurance (due to change of personnel, a family plan was replaced with single coverage) despite an overall 15% increase;
- h. An increase of \$30,000 in line item 6100.03 Ambulance due to KB contracted services; Eastford and Pomfret were also each assessed an additional \$30,000;
- i. A \$3,000 reactivation of line item 6100.15 Emergency Management Coordinator.

Discussion and possible action on FY2022-23 budget:

Ed noted that the Total Sanitation % increase/decrease appeared to be in error; Ellen will check.

Kathy suggested moving some expenses to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Fund, such as the increase to the Ambulance line item. She also requested from Hometown a figure that would bring the LOSAP account up to 70% funded, a level that most plans maintain.

Ed inquired about progress on the unimproved section of the Airline Trail, wondering if it could be covered under the ARP fund, to which AI responded that since the trail is a State Park, the Town should not have to pay for improvements to it.

Kathy suggested that a larger hot water heater for the Community Center could be paid for by the ARP fund.

Ellen questioned how the LOSAP administrative costs should be paid, to which Kathy responded that for this fiscal year those costs would be withdrawn by Hometown from the LOSAP plan account; Kathy also asked Al if he had requested a copy of LOSAP monthly statements from the Fire Department.

Stan noted that there were problems with the Fire Department's Jaws of Life during the response to the recent accidents on Rt. 6, and Al confirmed that Hampton resident David Foster had made a generous \$100,000 donation to the Fire Department which will fund a Jaws of Life replacement and provide for paving of a section of the parking lot.

Kathy suggested that funding for extra heating oil for the elementary school should be put into the Contingency line item so there would be no impact on the Minimum Budget Requirement should the school not need the extra. She also shared that the HES Board of Ed accepted a bid from Pinecroft Paving & Landscape for \$146,130 to pave the front parking lot and provide new curbing at the school; she noted that there were ample funds in the CNR accounts to pay for this.

Kathy suggested that the public hearing on the budget could be scheduled for just before the next regular meeting, and the town meeting and referendum would be scheduled by the Board of Selectmen for sometime in early-to-mid June.

Kathy noted that Joan Fox had been a great help in obtaining updated information for the annual report. Reports are still outstanding from Agriculture Commission, Public Works and Board of Selectmen.

Al noted that ARP funds had been expended on billboard illumination, NECCOG report binding and a public address system for use at public meetings.

5. Citizen Comments: None

6. **Nick motioned and Diane seconded to adjourn at 7.37pm; motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Newcombe