

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
November 14, 2017  
7:00 pm  
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Clermont, Ed Adelman, Perry Matchinis, Rick Matejka, Mike Higgins, Dave Fowler, Stan Crawford

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola

Chairman Clermont appointed Dave Fowler to be seated for Nick Brown, as requested, and congratulated the re-elected officials.

**Citizen Comments:** none.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** Ed Adelman, seconded by Dave Fowler, to approve the October 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 4-0, Rick Matejka and Mike Higgins abstaining.

**Presentations:** none.

**Reports/Actions**

**First Selectman:** First Selectman Cahill said he looks forward to working with the Board of Finance for another two years. He reported that Eversource has petitioned the Public Utilities Commission to institute a rate increase of 7% for customers. He also said that the State budget is reportedly already showing a deficit, and advised that the Town continue to tread cautiously. The Selectmen plan on scheduling a Special Town Meeting next month to discuss reallocating the \$175,000 that was budgeted in the event that the State required a contribution to the Teachers' Retirement Board. This could fund the tax abatement for seniors on limited incomes as the State is no longer funding its share, at \$19,000 per year. Another consideration is to replenish the Capital Non-recurring Accounts which were frozen in this year's budget. Treasurer Rodriguez noted that the line item for health insurance would need to be increased for two eligible employees, and that a road maintenance project that was supposed to be funded with last year's budget was not recorded properly, according to the auditor, and will therefore require funding from this year's budget, resulting in an additional surplus from 2016-17. The Town also lost \$60,000 in revenue from the Educational Cost Sharing Grant. Questions were asked, and remain, concerning the Minimum Budget Requirement. Perry Matchinis and Jeff Clermont will look into this year's legislation concerning the MBR. Perry Matchinis' question on whether or not the Board of Finance is required to approve all transfers remained unanswered as well. Ed Adelman suggested that the budget remain as close as possible to what the taxpayers approved, and Chairman Clermont affirmed that it appears as though that can be accomplished.

**Tax Collector:** Chairman Clermont reviewed the Tax Collector's Report, which reported deposits for the month of October of \$25,748.25, with \$8,777.42 in online payments, for a total of \$34,525.67. Year to date the Town has deposited \$2,156,367.27 and received \$83,890.31 in online payments for a total of \$2,240,257.58. The Town has paid \$2,194.40 in refunds and bounced checks for \$2,433.51 for a net collection of \$2,235,629.67

**Motion:** Perry Matchinis, seconded by Mike Higgins, to approve the Tax Collector's report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Rodriguez asked for the approval of one transfer.

**Motion:** Ed Adelman, seconded by Rick Matejka, to approve the transfer of \$25.00 from Assessor Professional 6006-05 to Assessor Computer Support 6006-06. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board of Education:** none.

**Board of Finance Committees:**

**HR Committee:** none.

**Fiscal Policy and Procedures Committee:** none.

**Other:** none.

**Correspondence:** Jeff Clermont reported that the Town Clerk sent notification on scheduling the Board of Finance's Regular Meetings for 2018.

**Motion:** Dave Fowler, seconded by Rick Matejka, to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM in the Community Room at Town Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Review Board of Finance By-Laws:** tabled.

**New Business:**

**Options for Funding Fire Department Addition**

First Selectman Cahill reported that the State is no longer offering STEAP grants and that he would research other grant opportunities. He also reported that the Savings Institute is offering three-year loans at 4.5%. Perry Matchinis said that he is waiting for a response on loans from the Webster Bank. Ed Adelman confirmed that the building project would need to be approved at Town Meeting prior to moving forward with it.

**Citizen Comment:**

Stan Crawford asked for the terms and interest rates of the Town's current Certificates of Deposit. Treasurer Rodriguez said that the six and nine month terms garner approximately 1% interest. Perry Matchinis clarified that private and municipal rates are not the same.

Mike Higgins challenged the attribution on a letter to the editor, published in The Hampton Gazette, that identified the author, Perry Matchinis, as a member of the Board of Finance. It was explained that it is the policy of newspapers to identify writers who are members of public agencies.

**Suggestions for Next Agenda:**

Review Regular Meeting Schedule for 2018

Election of Officers

**Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:** December 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dayna McDermott Arriola  
Recording Clerk

*This is a draft version of the Minutes until approved by the Board of Finance.*

