

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
December 8, 2015
7pm
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present: Jeff Clermont, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Mike Higgins, Perry Matchinis

Alternates Present: Stan Crawford

Members/Alternates Absent: Rick Matejka, Luciann Norton

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Conservation Commission Chairman Randy Thompson, Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Chairman Clermont seated Stan Crawford for Rick Matejka and welcomed newly elected members Mike Higgins and Perry Matchinis.

Election of Officers

a. Chairman

Nomination of Jeff Clermont to serve as Chairman by Stan Crawford, seconded by Ed Adelman. There being no other nominations, Jeff Clermont was elected Chairman.

b. Vice-Chairman

Nomination of Nick Brown to serve as Vice-Chairman by Stan Crawford, seconded by Mike Higgins. There being no other nominations, Nick Brown was elected Vice-Chairman.

c. Secretary

After a brief discussion of the secretary's duties, the decision was made to table the election of the Secretary until the next meeting.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Chairman Clermont, seconded by Nick Brown, to table the approval of the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes until the next meeting.

Presentations: none.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: Al Cahill reported that budget proposals for FY 2016-2017, and submissions for the Annual Report, have been requested of all Town departments. Selectman Grindle apprised the Board of the Town Meeting's decision to approve the purchase of 6.5 acres to extend an area of town-owned and protected property for \$45,000, \$22,750 of which will be funded with a State Land Acquisition Grant and \$22,250 with the Town's Capital & Non-recurring Open Space Account. Conservation Commission Chairman Randy Thompson answered questions on survey costs, approximately \$2000, and restrictions imposed by the grant which limit usage to recreational and agricultural purposes.

Tax Collector: Chairman Clermont reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, which reported deposits for the month of November totaling \$21,198.11. Year-to-Date, the Town has deposited \$2,095,560.56, received online payments of \$68,196.06, and refunded \$1,192.98, for a net collection of \$2,162,563.64.

Treasurer: Ellen Rodriguez reported that the Savings Institute raised their interest rates to match another offer. Discussion on investments and risks ensued, as well as restrictions placed on municipalities. Treasurer Rodriguez agreed to research municipal restrictions. The monthly reports will be sent to Board members on Thursday.

Board of Education: The *2016-2019 Agreement between the Hampton Board of Education and the Hampton Education Association* has been signed by both parties and will become final after a public inspection period of 30 days. First Selectman Cahill expressed concern that the 9% salary raise awarded over the life of the three-year contract could make it difficult to hold Town employee raises to a lesser amount.

Board of Finance Committees:

HR Committee: With job descriptions complete, and the terms of two of the three committee members expired, it was agreed that a discussion of the responsibilities of the committee is warranted.

Fiscal Policy and Procedures Committee: Nick Brown reported that the committee met with the auditor to review the fiscal policies and procedures in place. The committee will meet with the auditor next week and in January to complete the review.

Other: Perry Matchinis stated that remarks made by the public at recent meetings of the Boards of Education suggested rejection of school budgets in response to school officials' disregard for the exit poll results, and expressed concern over the potential impact of that financial pressure. Chairman Clermont briefly explained the role of the Board of Finance in the budget process. Mr. Matchinis also asked how the survey the Boards of Education are developing would be funded. Chairman Cahill replied that the cost should be minimal as the mailing that explained the exit poll cost approximately \$500 to send to taxpayers.

Correspondence: Members received invitations to a *Newly Elected Workshop* from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Old Business

Report from Central Office Committee: First Selectman Cahill distributed copies of the auditor's report *Towns of Scotland and Hampton Agreed upon Procedures June 30, 2013, 2014 and 2015* and reported that both the auditor who conducted the review and the Town auditor are willing to conduct further review. Chairman Clermont will schedule a meeting of the committee to review the findings.

Report on Hampton Elementary School Contract Negotiations: Discussed under Board of Education Report

New Business

Set 2016 Schedule of Regular Meetings

Motion: Chairman Clermont, seconded by Mike Higgins, to schedule Regular Meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, at 7 p.m., in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Citizen Comment: Stan Crawford informed members that the First Selectman was in receipt of a letter from school officials at Lyman High School stating that their school can accommodate all of Regional District #11's students. First Selectman Cahill shared the letter with Chairman Clermont.

Suggestions for Next Agenda

- Preliminary Budget Requests
- HR Committee Responsibilities
- Appointment of new members to committees

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:

Regular Meeting on January 12 at 7 pm in the Community Room of Town Hall.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Clerk

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