

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
February 8, 2025
10AM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03AM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Joan Fox, Judy Buell, Diane Gagnon (virtually), Ed Adelman (10:09), Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustaveson

Staff and Others Present: Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola

Motion: Judy Buell, seconded by Joan Fox, to seat Regina DeCesare for Nick Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Donahue introduced Fran Gustaveson, who was appointed to fill Stan Crawford's vacancy by the Board of Selectmen at their February 3, 2025 meeting.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Judy Buell, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 8, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: Chairman Donahue reported for First Selectman Cahill who was not in attendance at the meeting, stating that the Selectmen are meeting with representatives from Eversource to discuss the recent power outages on South Brook Road. At their meeting, the Selectmen approved some refunds for overpaid taxes, appointed Fran Gustaveson to the finance board and Steve Donahue to the Board of Assessment Appeals, and approved a new lease for the lower level of Town Hall by members of the Mennonite Community for use as a school until January of 2026. An extension has been given for the completion of the audit as some documents from the elementary school are outstanding, and an application for a STEAP grant for \$500,000 has been submitted for re-paving of South Bigelow and Windham Roads, and for rebuilding the welcome center at Trail Wood. To Joan Fox's question, Chairman Donahue said that she did not have any further details on the lease for the lower level of Town Hall, including a study into the average rate in the area for the rent of similar spaces.

Tax Collector: Chairman Donahue received and distributed January's report, with a net collection of 95.5%. The Tax Collector also provided the outstanding balance due to the Town from the Huntington National Bank/Solar Park Trust delinquency. The amount owed to the Town to date is \$1,700,278.99. There is no further news on the status of court proceedings regarding the matter.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez requested five transfers.

Motion: Judy Buell, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the following transfers: \$23.00 to #6003-07 Town Clerk Professional from #6003-08 Town Clerk Conference; \$728.00 to #6004 Town Counsel from #7000 Contingency; \$99.00 to #6010-02 P & Z Legal Notices from #6010-08 P & Z Legal and Engineering; \$63.00 to #6100-14 Fire Dept Incentive Admin Fee from #6-100-12 Burn Permits; \$437.00 to #6300.00 Sanitation Transfer Station from #7000 Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Boards of Education:

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue reported that at their most recent meeting, the Board of Education approved the expenditure of \$2000 to pay for fingerprinting for volunteers at the school, established a new Ad-Hoc Committee to consider representation for non-certified staff, and distributed the goals of the newly formed Ad-Hoc Committee for Advocacy to include maintaining current level of Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funds, the reimbursement of special education costs, and to provide funding to EASTCONN to assist districts in developing low-cost, high-impact programming. A draft budget is expected to be presented at the February meeting.

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue reported that at their most recent meeting, the Board of Education reviewed the audit report. A contract with the Regional District #11 Teacher's Association has been negotiated for the next three years.

Chairman Donahue also updated the board on the status of ECS funding, which still expects to reduce Hampton's amount by \$83,800. She will send links to members to check the status of government grants to education.

Board of Finance Committees

Policies and Procedures Committee: none.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of financial reports from the schools, the report from the Tax Collector, and contributions to the Annual Report and budget requests from various departments.

Old Business**a. Update on Requests for Contributions to Annual Report**

Chairman Donahue reported receipt of contributions to the Annual Report from Fletcher Memorial Library, the Fire Department, the Recreation Commission, and the Department of Public Works.

b. Update on Requests for Department Budgets

Chairman Donahue has received budget requests from Fletcher Memorial Library and the Fire Department. The Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses Agency also reported that their budget is level with last year's spending plan.

Citizen Comments: none.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Members were encouraged to send suggestions for the Agenda to the Chairman. Budget presentations may begin at the next meeting.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: March 12, 2025 at 7PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 10:22AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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