

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
February 11, 2026
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Ed Adelman, Judy Buell, Kate Donnelly, Joan Fox, Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustavesen, Kathi Newcombe, First Selectman Allan Cahill, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Kathi Newcombe was seated, upon request, for Nick Brown.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Judy Buell, seconded by Kathi Newcombe, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2026, with the following amendment under Hampton Elementary School Report: “Chairman Donahue...also reported that there are only 32 students from Hampton enrolled in *and attending* Parish Hill Middle-High School in grades 7 – 12.” Motion carried unanimously, Kate Donnelly and Joan Fox abstaining.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: First Selectman Cahill reported that the audit is complete and has been filed with the State. He also reported that he met with Windham’s Town Manager and was assured that the tax reports should be forthcoming as the Town is in the process of filling vacancies in the Revenue Collection Office.

Tax Collector: None received.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez requested six transfers.

Motion: Kate Donnelly, seconded by Fran Gustavesen, to approve the following transfers: \$2697 to #6000-07 Selectman Computer Support from #6000-04 Administrative Assistant; \$168 to #6007-04 Town Hall Fire Extinguisher from #6007-03 Town Hall Maintenance; \$28 to #6011-05 Inland Wetland Supplies from #6011-03 Inland Wetland Mileage;\$349 to #6100-14 FD Incentive Admin Fee from #6100-13 DOT Physicals; \$3561 to #6201-09 Equipment Maintenance from #6201-03 Road Maintenance Payroll /OT; \$3525 to #6300-00 Sanitation - Transfer Station from #7000 Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Boards of Education:

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue reported that the board is developing its FY2026-2027 budget, which currently has a 3.19% increase due to rises in special education, transportation, and health insurance costs. Additionally, the State mandated Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system review will cost approximately \$30,000. She also stated that the Superintendent reported on necessary roof repairs at an estimated cost of \$600,000 for the main building and \$300,000 for the library, which should be reimbursed at a rate of 75% by the State.

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue reported that the preliminary draft version of the FY2026-2027 budget was presented with a \$141,999, or 6.28%, increase and includes another full time

special education teacher. She reported that 30 students, nearly half of the school's population, receive special education services, and that an alternate proposal was presented with a \$953,176, or 42%, increase which illustrates the costs of out-placing high needs students. She noted that board members asked questions regarding Individual Education Plan (IEP) hours, student needs in terms of speech, physical and occupational therapy, and special education, and methods of delivering services. First Selectman Cahill stated that there is also a full time interventionist to provide instruction to students who have educational needs but are not identified as requiring special education services. Chairman Donahue also noted that certain non-contractual raises are at 5% - 10%.

Policies and Procedures Committee: The committee did not meet.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of the financial reports from the schools.

Old Business

a. Update on Contributions to Annual Report:

A report has been received from the Registrars of Voters.

New Business

a. Requests to Departments for Budget Submissions for FY2026-27

The Board of Selectmen's Administrative Assistant sent a reminder to departments to submit their budget requests with a February 28 deadline.

b. Update on Proposed Governor's FY2026-2027 Budget and Town FY2026-2027 Budget Requests

Chairman Donahue reported that in terms of the Educational Cost Sharing Grant (ECS) the towns will be held harmless for another year and will start the phasing of the new funding plan the following year. First Selectman Cahill also announced that the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) funds will also remain the same in the next budget. Chairman Donahue also noted that the State is contemplating increases in the tuition rates for magnet schools, and that there are grants for small school projects. She will distribute copies of the *Connecticut State School Finance Project*, which closely follows legislation, to the board members.

Additions to the Agenda: none.

Citizen Comments: Ed Adelman reminded the Clerk to remove from the Agenda *limited to Agenda items and subject to Chairman's discretion* from the second Citizen Comments item.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Budget presentations and scheduling of workshops. Chairman Donahue asked members to email their availability. Members are also encouraged to send suggestions for discussion to the Chairman.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 at 7PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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