

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
April 8, 2026
6:30PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:32PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Ed Adelman, Joan Fox, Nick Brown, Judy Buell, Kate Donnelly Colt, Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustavesen, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, First Selectman Allan Cahill, Conservation Commission Chairman Mark Samios and members Mark Cardwell and Penny Newbury, Hampton Fire Company Chief Rich Schenk, Fletcher Memorial Library Board Chairman Bonnie Cardwell, Recreation Commission Chairman Andrea Kaye and Treasurer Bruce Spaman, and Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Citizen Comments: none.

Budget Presentations

Conservation Commission: Chairman Mark Samios distributed and presented the FY2026-2027 proposal of \$20,500, which includes the costs of maintenance and additional money for signage, fencing, tree planting and trail marking. An amount of \$2,200 is budgeted for the Little River Preserve Dedication, which is dependent on the completion of the handicap accessible board walk. Approved grant funding has been delayed and will not be released until the expert from the State conducts a turtle survey, at which time possible adjustments to the plan may be necessary. Fire Chief Rich Schenk explained that the National Data Base Review showed their presence on a map of the area, and the survey will give the Commission guidance as to protecting the turtles while maintaining the area. Joan Fox asked if the trail marking could be completed by an Eagle Scout and asked what the remaining \$3,900 from the current budget will be used for. Mr. Samios explained that grass and brush cutting will be completed this spring. Noting that the amount requested has nearly doubled, Nick Brown suggested that the Commission sponsors some fundraising activities. Mr. Samios also advocated for the Town to budget \$10,000 in the Capital Non-Recurring Account for Open Space.

Hampton Volunteer Fire Company: Chief Rich Schenk distributed and presented the department's FY2026-2027 budget request of \$99,250. Mr. Schenk explained that the increase is minimal because of grants applied to various equipment. Additionally, the town has caught up with some of the needed supplies. Truck mandated inspections and maintenance has risen by \$5,000, and a delivery date for the new truck has not been announced yet. The department is in the process of putting in a new septic system; unfortunately the current leach field was plugged, but the situation will be rectified prior to the annual fundraiser this spring, the Ham and Bean Dinner.

Fletcher Memorial Library: Chairman Bonnie Cardwell distributed and presented the library FY2026-2027 proposal of \$63,215, a minimal increase over the current year, with costs expected to rise in heating oil, property taxes, and liability insurance. The initial plan to re-do the parking lot has been altered; bids are being received this year solely for dealing with the drainage problems and pipe installation due to excess water in the parking lot and in the basement. This will cost significantly less than the parking lot. Mrs. Cardwell praised the community for the successful fundraisers the library has hosted, which included a new event this year, a wine-tasting.

Recreation and Community Activities Commission: Chairman Andrea Kaye announced that the Commission has taken on the responsibility of youth sports in town, including softball, baseball, basketball, and a running group. Nick Brown thanked the commission for revitalizing youth sports which had traditionally been included. Mrs. Kaye also reported that the commission's goal is to provide activities for all demographic groups in town. Treasurer Bruce Spaman distributed and presented the

FY2026-2027 budget request of \$9,100, which includes funding for Arbor Day, Movie Night, Halloween and Christmas activities for the elementary school students, as well as funding for Karaoke for the adults. He explained that 40 tickets were purchased last year for the annual WooSox game and transportation, with the town absorbing half of the costs and participants paying the other half. Nick Brown suggested that some people might be able to afford the total cost of the ticket. An additional \$2,000 has been budgeted for other activities, which might include music, theater, cooking and craft classes, and teen CPR training. Mr. Spaman also announced that the Conservation and Recreation Commissions are teaming for a Fishing Derby for children accompanied by adults. Chairman Donahue thanked the presenters.

Citizen Comments: none.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:1PM.

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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