

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2025
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Joan Fox, Ed Adelman, Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustaveson.

Staff and Others Present: Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recreation Commission Chairman Andrea Kaye and Treasurer Bruce Spaman, Fire Department Chief Rich Schenk, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola

Regina DeCesare was seated, upon request, for Diane Gagnon, and Fran Gustaveson was seated for Nick Brown.

Citizen Comments: none.

Budget Presentations

Recreation Commission: Treasurer Bruce Spaman distributed and presented the Recreation Commission's FY25-26 request, explaining the listed activities and new line items for Youth Sports, which include a running club and partnerships with area towns for softball, baseball, and basketball. Chairman Donahue mentioned the possibility of local business sponsorship for teams. The revival of funding for youth sports received positive comments from finance board members. Chairman Andrea Kaye reported that one of the commission's goals is to provide for various age groups, as evidenced in the activities and participation of youth and young couples.

Fire Department: Chief Rich Schenk distributed and presented the Fire Department's FY25-26 request, explaining increases in line items for Charter Spectrum, Insurance, Emergency Reporting, and Garbage Removal, which is the result of additional events and residential use of the dumpster. He also reported that a number of area towns applied for a FEMA Radio Grant, which would allow communication to integrate with every emergency department in the state, and Hampton was awarded \$134,000 for the purchase of 24 portable radios. The Town is responsible for a 5% match of \$6,400. Next year, the department expects to coordinate with area towns for a grant to cover new hoses. To Joan Fox's question on safety upgrades, Mr. Schenk said that the department has caught up with supplies for the new members.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 12, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Fran Gustaveson, to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshop session of March 27, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: no report.

Tax Collector: Chairman Donahue received and distributed the Tax Collector's *Third Quarter Comprehensive Reports*, which reported the collection of \$4,350,496, 103.5% of the total budget due to the collection of past due taxes.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez reported that the draft audit is complete and no findings were issued. She also requested nine transfers.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the following transfers: \$2485 to #6004 Town Counsel from # 7000 Contingency; \$365 to # 6007-04 Town Hall Fire Extinguisher from #6007-03 Town Hall Maintenance; \$187 to # 6009-02 Election Other Workers Pay from #6009-07 Election Canvass; \$79 to # 6009-04 Election Postage & Supplies from # 6009-06 Election HAVA Expenses; \$474 to # 6013-03 Town Hall Electricity from # 6013-16 Community Center Alarm; \$433 to # 6013-06 Town Hall Telephone from # 7000 Contingency; \$1380 to # 6013-08 Town Garage Oil from #7000 Contingency; \$465 to # 6013-11 Community Center Oil from #6013-19 Community Center Elevator Maintenance; \$7334 to # 6300-00 Sanitation Transfer Station from #7000 Contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

Boards of Education: Chairman Donahue reported that both Boards of Education have approved their requests for FY2025-2026. She will be scheduling a special meeting for the superintendent to present the proposals for both schools, based on the availability of the superintendent and finance board members. She also reported that there is still no decision on the State holding towns harmless for the Educational Cost Sharing Grant formula for another year. As proposed, the town would lose approximately \$83,000 this year, for a total of \$584,501 by 2032. She urged members to review legislative updates on the *CT Mirror* website.

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue reported that the school's proposal (attached) represents a \$196,627, or 9.02% increase, over this year's budget.

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue reported that the school's proposal of \$7,386,184 represents a \$191,255 assessment for Hampton (attached), despite a decrease in enrollment of four students, based on the student census in all three towns.

Board of Finance Committees

Policies and Procedures Committee: none.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of financial reports from the schools, and the reports from the Tax Collector.

New Business:

a. Discuss and Possible Approval of Dairy Farm Abatement

Chairman Donahue announced that the Board of Selectmen approved the Abatement and recommended that the item be tabled till an actual amount is available.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Fran Gustaveson, to table approval of the dairy farm abatement until the May meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discuss and Possible Approval of Suspense List

The Suspense List was distributed.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Ed Adelman, to approve the Suspense List. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Discuss and Possible Approval of Board of Finance's contribution to Annual Report

As many members were absent, it was decided to table approval.

Motion: Ed Adelman, seconded by Joan Fox, to table approval of the Board of Finance's contribution to the Annual Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

a. Update on Requests for Contributions to Annual Report

Chairman Donahue reported that the finance board is still waiting for some reports.

b. Update on Requests for Department Budgets

Chairman Donahue reported that some of the remaining departments represent increases. Notably these include the Registrars of Voters, as the State thus far is not funding the Early Voting this year, and the Government Budget with an increase in Legal Counsel due to representation at the State Supreme Court on the Solar Park litigation, funding of the Fire Department's Length of Service Award Program, and an increase in the cost of the KB Ambulance service.

Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to add to the Agenda Approval of the Use of the School's Capital and Non-Recurring Account to Fund the Removal and Renovation of the Hampton Elementary School's Sunroom Wall. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Donahue reported that the board received a quote of \$15,265 from Home Improvements by Brandon Longe for removal and renovation of the school's sunroom wall. The deposit of \$7,632.50, half of the total, is due prior to commencement of the project.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the use of \$7,632.50 from the school's Capital and Non-Recurring Account as a deposit for the Hampton Elementary School's Removal and Renovation of the sunroom wall, and to fund the balance of the \$15,265 upon completion of the project. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: none.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Members were encouraged to send suggestions for the Agenda to the Chairman. Tabled items will be included and budget presentations will continue. A Special Meeting will be scheduled to hear presentations on the RD#11 and Hampton Elementary School budget proposals.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: Special Meeting (TBD) and Regular Meeting of May 14, 2025 at 7PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 8:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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