

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Special Budget Meeting  
April 25, 2016  
7pm  
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

**Call to Order:** Chairman Clermont called the Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

Alternates Present: Stan Crawford, David Fowler

Members/Alternates Absent: Rick Matejka

Rick Matejka designated Stan Crawford to be seated in his absence.

Staff and others present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

**Citizen Comments:** none.

**Discuss FY2017-18 General Government Budget**

First Selectman Cahill proposed the reinstatement of \$20,000 to the Contingency account due to the uncertainty of potential costs associated with Ambulance Corps services. First Selectman Cahill fielded various questions on the intent and use of these funds, which he explained cover expenses that are not anticipated, and unexpended money from the account is not carried from year to year. The initial proposal allocated \$10,000 to Contingency.

First Selectman Cahill verified that although revenue from property taxes has increased by 5.93%, the potential loss in inter-government revenue is 29.14%. Treasurer Rodriguez reported that with the proposed spending plan and anticipated loss of revenue, the Town could expect a 1.18, or 4%, increase in the mil rate.

Perry Matchinis suggested transferring monies from the General Fund and the Open Space account to level the mil rate. Members voiced support for the use of money from the General Fund, and opposition to the use of money from the Open Space account, to offset the mil rate.

Ed Adelman suggested reinstating some money to the Open Space account. Mike Higgins agreed, fearing that future funding of the account could be negatively impacted. Nick Brown stated that this is a year of difficult choices, and expressed confidence that the Town, which has historically supported the purchase of open space, would protect its funding in the future. Perry Matchinis noted that there are no imminent plans for development of the Town's remaining open space.

**Motion:** Ed Adelman, to reinstate \$10,000 into the Open Space account. The motion was not seconded.

Stan Crawford suggested that, based on his fiscal involvement with the Senior Citizens, their line item be reduced by \$1000. It was also reported that, based on the actual expenditures of past years, the Inland Wetlands Clerk line item could be reduced by \$500, and that recent purchases in the Registrars' Office could reduce the Election Training line item by \$1800. By general consent, it was agreed to direct the Board of Selectmen to reduce #6406, Senior Citizens, from \$2000 to \$1000, #6011, Inland Wetlands Clerk, from \$1,433 to \$933, and #6009.03, Election Training/Mileage from \$6783 to \$4983, and to increase #7000, Contingency, from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Perry Matchinis suggested that the Library's budget request, which increased by \$2000, be held to a level amount. Other members disagreed, noting the \$1800 reduction in State funding to the library and the increase in services provided, and patron use, under the current management.

Mike Higgins questioned the increase in the Planning and Zoning Commission's request. First Selectman Cahill explained that the reconfiguration of the department necessitated an additional \$5,000 to continue the services provided by CME consulting. Mr. Higgins also asked if the fuel oil could be reduced and advocated for equitable adjustments on the salaried positions at Town Hall. First Selectman Cahill said that the Selectmen were satisfied with the service and the rate of the current fuel provider, and that the salaried positions were reviewed and adjusted in recent years.

Dave Fowler asked if the State Department had issued a response regarding the request for a waiver from the Minimum Budget Requirement for the current year. Chairman Clermont distributed the communication received, which stated that it was premature for the Town to ask for the waiver prior to the close of the fiscal year, but warned that if the waiver was denied, the violation and the consequent fine would be levied simultaneously.

Chairman Clermont summarized the discussion regarding the Town Government Budget. Treasurer Rodriguez reported that, in order to maintain a flat mil rate, approximately \$165,000 could be taken from the General Fund, currently at 14% of the operating expenses, leaving the undesignated funds at 12%. First Selectmen Cahill noted the amount needed could change depending on the State's decisions.

**Motion:** Stan Crawford, seconded by Perry Matchinis, directing the Board of Selectmen to make approved changes to the Town Government Budget and to use money from the General Fund to fill the deficit created by reductions in State revenue in order to maintain a flat mil rate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola, Recording Clerk