

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
January 13, 2021
7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Roll Call: Members/Alternates Present: Kathy Donahue, Nick Brown, Ed Adelman, Judy Buell, Diane Gagnon, Kathi Newcombe, Stan Crawford, Alyssa Languth.

Others Present: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Resident Jessie Samios, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Seating of Alternates

Motion: Diane Gagnon, seconded by Judy Buell, to seat Kathi Newcombe for the vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: none.

Acceptance of Resignation of Board Member

Chairman Donahue read Perry Matchinis' letter of resignation dated December 31, 2020.

Motion: Diane Gagnon, seconded by Ed Adelman, to accept the resignation of Perry Matchinis. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Member to Fill Vacancy on Board of Finance

Chairman Donahue read a letter of endorsement from the Republican Town Committee submitted by its Chairman, Juan Arriola, recommending the appointment of Jessie Samios. Chairman Donahue announced that, although information on the vacancy was sent to the Board of Selectmen and posted on the Town website, the finance board's email was checked prior to the meeting and no other elector had communicated an interest.

Diane Gagnon nominated Jessie Samios to fill the vacancy. The nomination was seconded by Judy Buell.

Ed Adelman nominated Alyssa Languth to fill the vacancy. The nomination was seconded by Nick Brown.

Hearing no others, Chairman Donahue closed the nominations.

Ed Adelman spoke in support of Alyssa Languth's appointment, citing her experience with municipal finance and public policy and her service as an alternate member of the finance board. Ms. Languth thanked members for the nomination and described her experience with municipalities in her consulting firm, noting that her appointment would add age diversity to the board. First Selectman Cahill confirmed that if Ms. Languth was appointed, there would be an opening for an alternate.

Jessie Samios thanked the finance board for their consideration and described her experience of 35 years with a consulting firm which involved municipal projects and budgets. She stated that her decisions would not be based on her political affiliation.

There was some discussion on minority representation. Kathi Newcombe confirmed that minority representation is governed by State statute, and Stan Crawford read the section of the finance board's by-laws on minority representation. Mr. Adelman, in response to the Republican Town Committee's request that "you retain that (political) balance and respect the voters who elected a Republican to the seat that is now vacant," stated his belief that political balance is unimportant, and reminded members that when two Democrats left vacancies, they were filled by a Republican and a "Republican-leaning Democrat". Chairman Donahue reminded members that the term of the appointed seat would end November 16, 2021 and would be filled at the Municipal Election.

The vote was as follows:

In favor of Alyssa Languth: Ed Adelman, Nick Brown

In favor of Jessie Samios: Diane Gagnon, Judy Buell, Kathi Newcombe, Chairman Donahue

By a vote of 4-2, the Board of Finance appointed Jessie Samios to fill the vacancy.

Chairman Donahue invited Mrs. Samios to attend the regular meeting, stating that she would need to be sworn in by the Town Clerk before participating. She also took exception with Mr. Adelman's characterization, stating that he is unaware of her "political leanings".

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Clerk

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