

TOWN OF HAMPTON
Incorporated 1786
BOARD OF SELECTMEN – SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
9:25pm
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

First Selectman Allan Cahill called the meeting to order at 9:25pm.

Members present: Allan Cahill, Bob Grindle, and Mike Chapel.

2. Audience for citizens

Dayna McDermott-Arriola spoke as a Registrar of Voters, suggesting that an advisory question be added to the referendum, asking if the school budget is too high or too low, in order to avoid an additional referendum just to determine that, as had to be done last year. An additional question on this referendum would not result in any additional cost.

Nick Brown disagreed and thought that last year was a special circumstance, stating that it's clear that the failure of either of the budgets would be because they are too high.

John Burnham agreed, and stated that it would be pretty clear that a no vote on the education budget the first round would mean that voters thought it was too high.

Selectman Bob Grindle agrees that the first time through the budget that such an advisory question is not necessary, and as a Board member he would vote against adding it to the referendum.

Maryellen Donnelly agrees that the advisory question is not necessary.

Gay Wagner asked about the cost of a referendum cost; the response was \$1,300.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola then noted that there was an extra referendum just to determine this last year, and that the Board of Education claimed from the very beginning of the budget process that the budget was too low.

John Burnham stated and Jeff Clermont clarified that the first HES budget presented last year was already reduced by the Board of Finance from the budget originally approved by the Board of Education.

Bob feels that the question would be presumptuous on the first time through.

Nick Brown thought that if the question is added for the school budget then it should be added for the general government budget.

Mark Becker said last year the Board of Finance reduced the original HES budget and the HES Board of Education did not fully support the original budget presented to the voters; this year the Board of Finance supports the elementary school budget.

3. Set Date, Time, Call and Location of Annual Town Meeting and Referendum

First Selectman Cahill suggested that the annual town meeting be set for Thursday, May 15th at 7pm at the elementary school, with a referendum on the questions on Thursday, May 22nd from Noon-8pm in the Town Hall Community Room. He read the items suggested for the call of the town meeting, which include:

- Election of a member to the RD11 Board of Education
- Expenditure of State funds for town roads
- Acceptance of LOCIP funds from the State for road improvement
- Approval of 5-year Capital Improvement & Road Plans
- Approval of an ordinance allowing the town to withdraw from WINCOG and join NECOG
- Approval of a changed ordinance establishing the Recreation Commission
- Approval of an ordinance allowing no tax bill for under \$5 to be issued
- Approval of an ordinance clarifying IWWA member terms
- Approval of transfer of \$18,606.85 in interest earned on Capital funds to the General Fund
- Approval of transfer of \$25,000 from General Fund to the Fire Department Capital account
- Hear discussion on the General Government budget
- Hear discussion on the Hampton Elementary School budget
- Hear discussion on payoff of the school roof note of \$127,500
- Hear discussion on payoff of the town garage construction note of \$341,500

The items to be voted at referendum would be the general government budget, the elementary school budget, the payoff of the school roof loan from the general fund, and the payoff of the town garage construction loan from the general fund. Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez suggested that since the Capital fund interest is intended to offset the Fire Department needs, the transfer of interest be directly to the Fire Department Capital account, then only about \$6,500 must be transferred out of the General Fund to that account. She also noted that the amount to be approved for the school roof payoff is not yet final because of a request to the Board of Finance that a final State grant payment toward that project be used to pay down the loan. She must still fill in the exact numbers for the last two questions, adding the words "up to" just prior to the amounts.

First Selectman Cahill invited discussion on the advisory discussion. Selectman Grindle stated that he can't imagine that if the budget goes down, no one could consider it as anything but too high. Selectman Chapel said that if the budgets go down, advisory questions can be added the next time.

Selectman Grindle wondered who would explain the questions on the loan payoffs; he thought it would be confusing for anyone who is not at the town meeting to hear the discussion. First Selectman Cahill indicated that he would with support from the Treasurer. Selectman Grindle stated that passage of the questions would leave the town debt-free, and First Selectman Cahill expressed his goal to not get the budgets passed without raising taxes but Treasurer Rodriguez clarified that the mil rate will still go up. Selectman Chapel asked if the questions pass but the budgets fail, would the loans still be paid off. Treasurer Rodriguez said that if that happened, the loans would be paid off and the government budget would be adjusted to remove the monies set aside for debt service.

Gay Wagner suggested that between the website and a community email list, a concise explanation of the impact of the loan payoffs could get out to many more people in town. Dayna McDermott-Arriola was concerned that the Board of Selectmen seemed to be advocating for passage of the Board of Education budget when they are only responsible for the government budget; First Selectman Cahill corrected himself. Maryellen Donnelly asked about the restrictions to information being disseminated once a referendum has been set. It was stated that no advocacy for budgets could be paid for with town funds, only information, on any item to be voted on at referendum, once the referendum has been set.

Selectman Grindle moved and Selectman Chapel seconded to approve the call as attached with the final numbers to be filled in by the Treasurer; motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Newcombe,

Substitute Recording Clerk

TOWN OF HAMPTON

Legal Notice

Annual Town Meeting

The legal voters and those qualified to vote in Town Meeting are hereby warned to assemble in Town Meeting at the Hampton Elementary School, 380 Main Street in Hampton, Connecticut on Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

Items 14, 15, 16 and 17 will adjourn to referendum vote to be held on Thursday, May 22, 2014 from Noon to 8:00 p.m.

1. Call to order.
2. To elect a moderator for said meeting.
3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow, if necessary, money to defray expenses until other funds are available.
4. To nominate and elect one member to the Regional District 11 Board of Education for a term of three years beginning with their first Board meeting in July, 2014.
5. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreement with the Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the expenditure of funds available July 1, 2014 for the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 for improvement and maintenance of Town roads.
6. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve and accept Local Capital Improvement Funds (LoCIP) from the State of Connecticut for road improvement.
7. To approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan including the 5 Year Road Plan.
8. To consider and act upon a proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for the Withdrawal from Windham Council of Governments and the Approval to Join the Northeast Council of Governments". A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and may be reviewed during regular business hours.
9. To consider and act upon a proposed replacement ordinance entitled "Establishment of a Recreation and Community Activities Commission". A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and may be reviewed during regular business hours.
10. To consider and act upon a proposed ordinance entitled "Taxation Payments in Excess of Amount Due". A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and may be reviewed during regular business hours.

11. To consider and act upon a revised ordinance entitled "Establishment of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency". A copy of the proposed ordinance is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and may be reviewed during regular business hours.
12. To hear discussion and act on the question, "Shall the Town of Hampton transfer \$18,647.85 from the Capital Non Recurring Interest account to the Fire Truck Capital Non Recurring account?"
13. To hear discussion and act on the question, "Shall the Town of Hampton transfer \$6,500.00 from the General Fund account to the Fire Truck Capital Non Recurring account?"
14. To hear discussion on the General Government Budget for FY July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required.
15. To hear discussion on the Hampton Elementary School Education Budget for FY July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required.
16. To hear discussion on the question, "Shall the Town of Hampton pay off the Hampton Elementary School roof note of up to \$126,997 from the General Fund account?"
17. To hear discussion on the question, "Shall the Town of Hampton pay off the Town Garage construction note of up to \$341,371 from the General Fund account?"
18. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Adjournment.

At its meeting held on April 30, 2014, the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that items 14, 15, 16 and 17 on the call of the May 15, 2014 Annual Town Meeting be submitted to referendum vote on May 22, 2014 between the hours of Noon and 8:00p.m. at the Town Hall, 164 Main Street, Hampton, CT.

The designation of the questions on the ballot for said referendum vote shall be as follows:

1. "Shall the Town of Hampton appropriate \$1,775,436 for the General Government for the 2014-2015 fiscal year?"
2. "Shall the Town of Hampton appropriate \$2,257,756 for the Hampton Elementary School for the 2014-2015 fiscal year?"
3. "Shall the Town of Hampton pay off the Hampton Elementary School roof note of up to \$126,997 from the General Fund account?"
4. "Shall the Town of Hampton pay off the Town Garage construction note of up to \$341,371 from the General Fund account?"