

**Town of Hampton
Minutes
Special Town Meeting – December 23, 2019**

Approximately 70 legal Voters and those qualified to vote in Town Meeting assembled in a Town Meeting at the Hampton Town Hall, lower level, 164 Main Street Hampton, Connecticut on Monday December 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM and transacted the following business:

1. **Call to order.** First Selectman Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He asked for a moment of silence to honor the death of Vernon and Elaine King's infant daughter.

2. **To Elect a moderator for said meeting. Stan Crawford/Diane Meade moved and seconded** to elect Sue Hochstetter moderator. There being no other nominations, Ms. Hochstetter was elected. She explained that citizen comments/questions would be limited to 3 minutes and Selectman Grindle would be handling the timing.

First Selectman Cahill stated that the meeting was called as a result of a petition received by the Board of Selectmen on December 2, 2019. Mr. Cahill issued an explanatory statement for each of the three points of discussion:

- Regarding ambulance/emergency services, as of April 1, 2020 the Hampton Chaplin Ambulance Corps (HCAC) would be ceasing operations. The Board of Selectmen are investigating private and municipal alternatives.
- Regarding the purchase of the bucket truck, the number of dead trees is considered an emergency situation and aide from Eversource and DEEP has ceased. Removal of the trees is critical.
- Regarding the Board of Finance, he believes it's time to recalculate the need for a board of finance as the present Board is overstepping its statutory responsibilities and interfering in the day to day operation of the town.

3. **Discussion of the current and future ambulance/emergency services for the Town of Hampton.** Many questions were asked and answered regarding the future services. Members of the HCAC were in attendance and spoke to the substantial increase in calls due to changes in State Police procedure, society's need for more support than in the past, and increased instances of substance abuse. Volunteerism is greatly reduced.

The public's concerns are:

- response time, particularly given our elderly population
- where will an ambulance be housed
- what information will be available to the public
- will present HCAC members still be involved

First Selectman Cahill stated that there will be a public information hearing at a later date.

4. **Discussion of the \$173,690 Freightliner Bucket Truck approved and purchased by the Hampton Board of Selectmen including the process and funding.** Much discussion ensued regarding the purchase of the bucket truck. Many questions were asked and answered. The need for the truck was not in question, but rather whether the proper purchasing protocol was followed.

5. **To discuss and act on the future of governance by the Board of Finance.** Many people spoke in favor of and against rescinding the ordinance establishing the Board of Finance. Positive comments were made about some actions taken by the board, and others were concerned that the Board has moved from oversight to micro-management. The matter adjourns to referendum on January 6, 2020 from noon to 8:00 PM. The question to be voted on is:

"Shall the ordinance titled "Establishment of a Board of Finance" be rescinded?"

6. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Leslie Wertam, Town Clerk