

TOWN OF HAMPTON
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - JUNE 25, 2019
MINUTES

The Legal Voters and those qualified to vote in Town Meeting assembled in Town Meeting at the Hampton Town Hall, lower level, 164 Main Street Hampton, Connecticut on June 25, 2019 at 7:00 PM and transacted the following business:

1. Call to order: First Selectman Allan Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. To Elect a moderator for said meeting. **Dan Meade/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded** to nominate Mr. Cahill. There were no other nominations.
3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow, if necessary, money to defray expenses until other funds are available: **Dick Brown/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded** to so authorize. There was no discussion. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
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, 2019. **Gary Freed nominated Kathleen Freed.** There were no other nominations. **Ms. Freed was elected to the Board unanimously by voice vote.**
5. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreement with the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the expenditure of funds available July 1, 2019 for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 for improvement and maintenance of Town roads: **Kathy Donahue/Lisa Sanchez moved/seconded** to so authorize. There was no discussion. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
6. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve and accept Local Capital Improvement Funds (LoCIP) from the State of Connecticut for road improvement: **Kathy Donahue/Lisa Sanchez moved/seconded to so authorize.** Mr. Cahill pointed out that the amount received from the State of CT has decreased significantly over the last two years. There was no discussion. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
7. To approve the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan including the 5 year Road Plan: **Dan Meade/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded** to approve. There was no discussion. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
8. To hear discussion and act on the General Budget for FY July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required: **Kathy Donahue/Lisa Sanchez moved/seconded** to open discussion. Mr. Cahill outlined the major changes in the budget which include increases in Public Safety, and Recreation Commission programming, reduction in insurance costs, and a 2% cost of living adjustment to all employees. He also explained the increase in the line for tree removal is due to the magnitude of gypsy moth damage and requires outsourcing.

9. To hear discussion and act on the Hampton Elementary School Budget for FY July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required: **Rose Bisson/Maryellen Donnelly moved/seconded to open discussion.** Rose Bisson, chair of the HES Board of Education, stated that the original budget presented was a 0% increase and explained that an additional \$31K reduction in the budget requested by the Board of Finance will be applied at a meeting scheduled for June 26, 2019. Questions were asked and answered regarding the impact of the solar array at the school, the hours for the Special Education Director, justification for the sizeable increase in the Principal's salary, and numbers of students in the Pre-K program. Requests were made for information on the ratio of staff to pupil (FTEs). Answers were not available but will be provided to those questioning as soon as possible.
10. To transfer \$105,275.99 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to 2018-2019 budget paving for Kenyon Road: **Kathy Donahue/Rose Bisson moved/seconded** to approve the transfer. Mr. Cahill explained that the funds are necessary to complete the paving of Kenyon Road for which funds were appropriated last fiscal year but were swept back into the General Fund owing to the work not being done in that fiscal year. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
11. To approve the transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund to Unassigned Fund Balance to a Municipal Reserve Fund: **Kathy Donahue/Lisa Sanchez moved/seconded** to approve the transfer. Mr. Cahill explained that the fund would be for capital improvements only, not open space or land acquisition. Possible projects could include paving the elementary school parking lot, purchasing a generator, repairing the tennis courts, and potentially building a pavilion on the Town Hall campus.
12. To hear discussion and act on the purchase of 51 acres of land along the Little River for \$171,500 funded from Open Space and Land Acquisition Capital and Non-Recurring Accounts: **Dan Meade/Bob Grindle moved/seconded** to open discussion. Mr. Cahill explained that the owners of the land in the Little River Watershed approached the Town, offering the property for sale before listing it on the open market. He stated that the use of the property will be restricted to what can be done in open space areas due to the origin of the funding, and possible uses could include swimming, hiking, hunting or agricultural uses. Much discussion ensued with numerous concerns raised regarding hunting, preservation of wildlife, noise in the valley, and the need to preserve the sanctity of the watershed. Others pointed out should the Town not purchase the property, there would be no control of activities beyond IWWA and zoning restrictions. Mr. Cahill stated that public input on future uses would be scheduled.
13. To hear discussion and act on an ordinance to establish a bidding requirement and procedure for purchases and services: **Kathy Donahue/Lisa Sanchez moved/seconded** to open discussion. Kathy Donahue, as member of the Board of Finance and Ordinance Committee, outlined the basics of the ordinance. Wording was explained regarding the bidding process, and clarified that the Board of Selectmen would handle matters for Town projects, while the Board of Education would handle school projects.
14. To hear discussion and act on an ordinance to change the position of Tax Collector from one of election to one of appointment, as recommended by the Board of Selectmen: **Renee Cahill/Bob Grindle** moved/seconded to open discussion. Mr. Cahill explained that the ordinance would allow for casting a wider net for certified, qualified candidates. He also iterated that the possibility

of outsourcing the tax collection function to another town (for example Windham) could provide twice the service hours at half the cost. Concerns were raised regarding easy access to assistance, whether payments plans - presently offered - would be allowed, and other matters of convenience to the taxpayers of Hampton.

15. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting: A request was made for FTE information and promised to be provided at a later date. The paving of Kenyon Road was praised, as was the work of the DPW crew on tree removal. Mr. Cahill was thanked for opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was announced that the Mennonite choral group would be giving a concert at the Hampton Congregational Church on June 27th at 6:30 PM.

16. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

At its meeting held on June 6, 2019 the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that items 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14 on the call of the July 9th, 2019 [should have read June 25th, 2019] Annual Town Meeting be submitted to referendum vote [should have read "on July 9, 2019"] between the hours of Noon and 8:00 P.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 **\$1,675,184** for the General Government for the 2019-2020 fiscal year?"
2. "Shall the Town of Hampton appropriate **\$2,104,318** for the Hampton Elementary School for the 2019-2020 fiscal year?"
3. "Shall the Town of Hampton transfer \$250,000 from the General Fund to a municipal reserve?"
4. "Shall the Town of Hampton purchase 51 acres of land along the Little River funded by Open Space and Land Acquisition Capital and Non-Recurring accounts for \$171,500?"
5. "Shall the Town of Hampton approve the Ordinance to establish a bidding requirement and procedure for purchases and services?"
6. "Shall the Town of Hampton approve the Ordinance to make the position of Tax Collector one of appointment?"

Dated at Hampton, this 27th day of June 2019

Leslie Wertam

Leslie Wertam, Town Clerk