

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
November 15, 2023
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Joan Fox, Nick Brown, Ed Adelman, Judy Buell, Kathi Newcombe.

Staff and Others Present: Selectman John Tillinghast, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola

Motion: Joan fox, seconded by Kathy Donahue, to seat Kathi Newcombe for Diane Gagnon. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson challenged some of the figures presented in the October 11 Meeting Minutes which were subsequently reported in *The Hampton Gazette*. She clarified that the employment settlement First Selectman Cahill characterized as “six figures” was actually \$93,000, and that since the employee died shortly after the settlement was reached, the school only needed to pay \$14,371. She also noted that the \$20,000 negotiated to settle another employee issue was paid using Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) insurance at no cost to the school. Ms. Bisson also criticized the amounts reported for the school’s consideration of a new heating system, stating that the Board of Education would never consider a system that would not ultimately save money. Chairman Donahue replied that all the numbers she provided at the October 11 meeting were part of the documents provided by the HVAC Contractor, Action Air Systems, distributed at the school’s Finance and Operations Committee during their recent meeting.

Nick Brown mentioned that Representative Pat Boyd was holding a meeting in Hampton on November 16 to discuss some of the Public Acts adopted by the 2023 Legislative Session and to address resident concerns. Mr. Brown urged members to attend and voice concern over the circumstances involving the Solar Park, the litigation and the resultant delinquent taxes. Chairman Donahue announced that she would attend and discuss this matter.

It was noted that Senator Jeff Gordon will hold a similar session in Hampton on November 28.

Approval of Minutes: After discussion and due to the absence of First Selectman Cahill, approval of the Minutes was tabled.

Welcome to Elected Members and Eletion of Officers

- a. **Chairman:** Nomination of Kathy Donahue by Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell. With no other nominations, Kathy Donahue was re-elected Chairman with unanimous support.
- b. **Vice-Chairman:** Nomination of Nick Brown by Joan Fox, seconded by Ed Adelman. Nomination of Judy Buell by Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Kathy Donahue. Judy Buell was re-elected Vice-Chairman in a 4-2 vote.
- c. **Clerk:** Nomination of Ed Adelman by Joan Fox, seconded by Kathy Donahue. With no other nominations, Ed Adelman was re-elected Clerk with unanimous support.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: Selectman Tillinghast reported that Kathi Newcombe, representing the Seniors Club, approached the Board of Selectmen with regards to having the organization come under the auspices of Town government. Chairman Donahue explained that an ordinance would be needed to enact this change, which was unanimously endorsed by the members of the Seniors Club at their October 25 Meeting. Mr. Tillinghast also reported that the paving of the Town Hall will be postponed until spring, and that the office formerly occupied by Small Cities is currently being rented to the company working on the local bridge for a fee of \$1000 per month. Chairman Donahue added that the First Selectmen filed a letter of withdrawal from the Northeast District Department of Health and is currently researching and reviewing other options for these services. Ms. Donahue also reported that the Town notification system is expected to be available by the first of the year. She explained that residents may select the type of notifications they wish to receive and the delivery method.

Tax Collector: The monthly report has not yet been received.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez requested two transfers.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to transfer \$657 to #6001-12 Tax Collector Misc. from #6001-03 Tax Collector Equipment/Supplies; and \$582 to #6013-17 Community Center Supplies from #6013-03 Town Hall Electricity. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Rodriguez distributed updated financial information on all Town accounts including FDIC coverage and interest rates, and reported on maturing Certificates of Deposit and possible transfers which will yield higher interest rates. Chairman Donahue stated that she will schedule a virtual Special Meeting to approve the transfers.

Boards of Education:

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue announced that the Superintendent, Ken Henrici, passed away. She also reported receipt of the school's financial reports.

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue reported that the school has hired new staff to fill existing vacancies. Joan Fox, who represented the Board of Finance on contract negotiations between the Board of Education and the Education Association, reported that the two entities have reached a tentative agreement on a three-year contract, requiring neither mediation nor arbitration. Both the Board of Education and the teachers' union will need to sign the agreement.

Board of Finance Committees

Policies and Procedures Committee: No report.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of financial reports from the schools and the Hampton Elementary School's response to the Board of Finance's Freedom of Information request.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

a. Update on Accounts

The information was distributed by Treasurer Rodriguez.

b. Update on LoSap Funds

Chairman Donahue reported that the current agreement took effect in March of 2023, and suggested that as the one year mark approaches, the finance board should consider investing the percentage the Town can annually withdraw, confirming that there is a sufficient amount in the Flushing Bank account to cover this year's annual expenses. Nick Brown suggested the finance board request a report from the Actuary. Chairman Donahue stated that, per the agreement, a report would be forthcoming and suggested that a meeting with Mr. Sagistano, of Hometown FireFighters, take place.

c. Response from F. O. I. Request to Hampton Elementary School Board of Education

The response was discussed during the Audience for Citizens, with the Board Chairman confirming that CIRMA covered the settlement of \$20,000, and that the other settlement, originally \$93,000, was reduced to \$14,371 due to the death of the former employee. Chairman Donahue also reported that additional students have opted to attend the magnet school, which will increase the line item for tuition beyond that which was budgeted.

Citizen Comments: Kathi Newcombe mentioned that two former Chairmen of the Board of Finance, Dan Meade and Jeff Clermont, recently passed away.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Discussion on Minutes, letter to State Representatives concerning Solar Park litigation. Chairman Donahue urged members to forward other suggestions for the next meeting.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: December 13, 2023 at 6:30PM in the Community Room of Town Hall.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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