

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Special Meeting Minutes  
April 24, 2018  
7:00 pm  
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Clermont, Ed Adelman, Perry Matchinis, Nick Brown, Mike Higgins, Rick Matejka, Dave Fowler, Stan Crawford, Kathy Donahue.

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola

**Discuss FY2018-2019 Budgets**

Chairman Clermont announced that the Regional District #11 Board of Education made no decision at their April 23 Special Meeting called for the purpose of discussion and possible action on using their fund balance to offset the Town assessments. Kathy Donahue, who had attended, explained that there was confusion as to the amount remaining in unassigned funds, distributed documents she obtained at the meeting containing information on the fund balance and the assessments to the Towns based on student enrollment, and reported that the RD#11 board rescheduled the meeting for April 25. Treasurer Rodriguez reported that, according to RD#11 Superintendent Henrici, Hampton's assessment is \$1,585,480 without applying unassigned funds, and that the Educational Cost Sharing grant is an additional \$41,000 less than the previously anticipated reduction. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Town would meet the Minimum Budget Requirement if Hampton's assessment for the RD#11 budget decreased further. Mrs. Donahue stated that Hampton's overall student population dropped by 18 students and the MBR could be reduced accordingly. It was decided that further clarification was also needed regarding the MBR in terms of the reduction in ECS funding.

After discussion on awarding 2% or 3% salary increases to Town employees, which amounts to a difference of \$4,349, it was agreed that the 3% raise would remain though it was acknowledged that the cost-of-living adjustment accounts for only 2.3%.

Nick Brown expressed his opinion on the importance of maintaining a level mil rate, a commitment shared by the other members. He questioned the need for \$45,000 in the Capital Non-Recurring Account for Building Maintenance, which was \$20,000 more than the traditional allotment. First Selectman Cahill explained that the \$20,000 was transferred from the CNR Open Space Acquisition Account to Building Maintenance to help pay for the following projects: new windows, a new kitchen, and a pavilion for the barbecue pit at the Community Center; and the completion of renovations to the lower level of Town Hall, as well as a new phone system and server. Chairman Clermont asked if \$25,000 was a sufficient amount to complete the projects. First Selectman Cahill responded that some projects might be delayed.

By general consent it was agreed to instruct Treasurer Rodriguez to adjust the amount in the Building Maintenance Account to maintain a level mil rate after she receives the information on the Town's assessment for the RD#11 budget.

**Discuss Addition to Fire House**

Treasurer Rodriguez reported that the Town Auditor confirmed that the Fire Department is not obliged to obtain multiple bids or to adhere to the prevailing wage for the construction project.

Nonetheless, board members agreed with Mike Higgins that multiple bids should be sought prior to awarding construction projects. First Selectman Cahill will instruct Fire Department Deputy Chief Noel Waite accordingly. In the meantime, during the Town Meeting and Referendum voters will consider an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for the proposed addition to the Fire House.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled for May 8 at 6:45 p.m. in the Lower Level of Town Hall to discuss the Hampton Elementary School and Town Government Budgets and the Addition to the Fire House, followed by the Regular Meeting of the Board of Finance at 7 p.m.

**Citizens Comments:** none.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dayna McDermott Arriola  
Recording Clerk

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

