

Town of Hampton  
Minutes  
Annual Town Meeting – June 16, 2022

Approximately 45 participants assembled for a Town Meeting at 164 Main Street Hampton on Tuesday June 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM and transacted the following business:

**1. Call to order.**

- **First Selectman Cahill** read the opening paragraph on the legal notice/ agenda for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Attendants were informed that items 8. and 9. of the agenda will be put to vote by referendum on Tuesday June 28, 2022.

**2. To elect a moderator for said meeting.**

- **Kathy Donahue moved** to elect Allan Cahill as moderator. **Bob Grindle Seconded the motion.** There being no other nominations, **Mr. Cahill was elected.**

**3. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow, if necessary, money to defray expenses until other funds are available.**

- **Bob Grindle moved / Kathy Donahue seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:**

- A question was raised to clarify if the approval is "carte blanche" or if the Selectmen would go back to the Board of Finance (BOF). Selectman Cahill stated they would go back to the BOF.
- **Motion passed with one abstention.**

**4. To nominate and elect one member to the Regional District 11 Board of Education for a term of 3 years.**

- **Susan Lovegreen moved to nominate Kathy Freed. Joan Fox seconded the motion.** No other candidates were nominated. **Kathy Freed elected to term July 2022 - June 2025.**

**5. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreement with Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the expenditure of funds available July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for improvement and maintenance of town roads.**

- **Kathy Donahue moved and Diane Gagnon seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:**

- Citizen requested Selectman Cahill explain what this is, for those who do not typically attend meetings. Selectman Cahill explained the use of funds for improvement of town roads as needed and that the State provides funding to help offset costs, which needs to be approved by the town/voters.
- **Motion passed** with one abstention.

**6. To authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve and accept Local Capital Improvement funds (LOCIP) from the State of Connecticut for road repair.**

- **Kathy Donahue moved to approve and Diane Gagnon seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:**

- Questions were raised including how much the funding will be for this year, and on what basis if that amount determined. Selectmen Cahill confirmed an amount of \$28,602.00, which is based on miles of paved road which is confirmed annually by the First Selectman and audited by the State of Connecticut.
- **Motion passed** unanimously.

**7. To approve the 5 year Capital Improvement Plan including the 5 year Road Plan.**

- **Kathy Donahue moved to approve / Bob Grindle seconded the motion.**

**Discussion:**

- First Selectman Cahill provided details regarding ongoing and upcoming projects including: Station Road was the focus last year. Next summer, Rte. 97 will be closed by the State for 12-14 weeks (after Hampton Elementary School closes for the year) to repair the bridge right near Utley Road. This will put added pressure on alternative routes. This year we will focus on Hammond Hill, Bigelow, N. Bigelow, etc.. to absorb added traffic. Additionally the weather patterns throughout the winter has taken a toll on our roads and the town will revise priorities accordingly.
- Questions raised regarding improvements/changes to the Town Hall Campus and facilities, tennis court, and the Community Center.
- **Motion passed** unanimously.

**8. To hear discussion and act on the General Budget for the year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required.**

- Selectman Cahill introduced the budget as presented and provided an overview highlighting budget items that have a significant change, either increasing or decreasing that line item.

**Discussion/Highlights:**

- 4% wage increase for town employees due to inflation/cost of living.
- 6000.08 new line item (\$2,500) for Town Hall Newsletter.
  - Questions were raised regarding why the Selectmen would create a newsletter rather than utilize resources that are already available (i.e. Gazette and/or website) to communicate with citizens. Selectmen Cahill stated that all resources could be utilized. The newsletter would be an independent resource mailed to all residents, not a non-profit publication to which not everyone subscribes, or on online communication when many people do not go online. A suggestion was made to utilize the funds to improve the website and have an email sent to subscribers rather than a newsletter.
  - The editor of the Gazette took exception to a comment regarding her competence. Selectmen Cahill clarified that he stated "lack of confidence" with regard to the Board of Selectmen's decision to remove the link to the Gazette from the town website.
- Line item 6004.00 Town Counsel doubled due to ongoing litigations. (Solar Park rte. 6 vs. Town Assessor, Old Town Pound Road Family Trust Campground vs.PZC, AD-HOC Committee research legal fees. A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to offset fees associated with AD-HOC committee research.
- Line item 6008.01 Conservation Commission requested additional funding to improve trails in Town parks.
- Line item 6010.09 Planning & Zoning consultation services will require an additional \$2,000.
- Energy increased 5% across the board. Contingency funds are budgeted if 5% is insufficient.
- Line item 6015.00 - Health insurance overall increase of 15%, offset by change in plan utilization.
- Line item 6100.03 - Ambulance \$30,000 increase. Hampton will utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to offset so the increase is not seen on the line item.
- Line item 6100.15 - Emergency Management Coordinator stipend replaced due to vacancy in position.
- Line item 6300.00 Sanitation increase 5% due to energy and transportation costs.
- Line item 6406.00 Senior Citizens & Recreation suspended requests for funding.

- Line item 6400.00 A question was raised regarding Public Nurse being reduced to \$500.00 Selectmen Cahill was not certain and referred to the Treasurer.
  - Line item 7000.00 Contingency increase is due to additional energy expenses and \$10,000 removed from the Elementary School budget for energy related expenses if needed by the Board of Ed.
  - Line item 7500.00 Revaluation is required by CT State Statute, Land Acquisition is required by Town Ordinance.
  - Clarification was provided regarding the difference between Land Acquisition and Open Space Acquisition.
  - Line item 5400.08 Marriage Licenses increase due to high volume of marriages being performed at Stonehurst.
  - Line item 5300.01 Question raised regarding Rental Income decrease. Selectman Cahill stated that rental agreement between the Mennonite Church expires in August. The second rental property has now been returned to the Grand List as purchased property.
- This item will be voted on at referendum June 28, 2022

**9. To hear discussion and act on the Hampton Elementary School Budget for FY July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money required.**

- **Kathy Donahue moved to approve discussion / Seconded by Bob Grindle.**
  - Rose Bisson (Board of Education Chair) offered comments regarding items impacting the Elementary School budget. Specifically, Health Insurance costs and the price of energy and the need to run ventilation 24/7 due to COVID.
- This item will be voted on at referendum June 28, 2022

**10. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting.**

- Selectmen Cahill reminds at audience and reads the additional questions that will go to Referendum on June 28, 2022 (Questions #3 & #4 at the end of the agenda).
- Re: Question #3 - Details were provided by Selectmen Cahill and Cathy Donahue (BOF Chair) regarding LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program). Program history, future projections, and the need for Hampton to increase funding to the program to improve the funding rate. Current funding ratio is 11.9% and should be closer to 70% funded. The one-time contribution of \$250,000 from unassigned general funds is intended to achieve this goal. Kathy Donahue reviewed the plan design. The BOF provided an Actuarial Valuation Summary. A report of the number of members and length of service can be provided by the BOF. Rich Schenk answered a question

regarding other types of incentives that have been considered (i.e. tax abatement, pay-per-call).

- Re: Question #4 - Selectman Cahill reported that the mid-duty Ford 550 needs to be replaced. The funding would come from APRA. A citizen questioned if this will be an electric truck. Selectman Cahill said not this truck, but the pick-up truck replacement would be a good opportunity to look into electric.
- Kathy Donahue asked that a report be made regarding how ARPA funding has been or will be used. Selectman Cahill reported that funds have been used for new sign board, administrative contracts with NECCOG, screens for community rooms. Several non-profit organization have requested to utilize funds, however, that will be considered after Hampton's needs are met. Selectman Cahill reported that most towns are using the funds for capital projects. The funds can be utilized generally broadly to respond to the pandemic. Kathy Donahue stated she hopes the town will hold public meetings to take suggestions from the public as to what to use funds for.
- Selectman Cahill read the notice of adjournment to referendum.

## **11. Adjournment**

- **Stan Crawford/Susan Lovegreen moved and seconded to adjourn.**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon Pearl Haddad, Town Clerk