

TOWN OF HAMPTON
Minutes
Annual Town Meeting May 17, 2010

The legal voters and those qualified to vote in Town Meeting met at the Hampton Elementary School at 7:00 P.M., on **May 17, 2010** to transact the following business:

Items # 9 through #12 adjourned to referendum vote on May 25, 2010 from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

1. First Selectman Kate Donnelly **called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.** and thanked the political parties for providing the refreshments.
2. **To elect a moderator for said meeting.** Bob Grindle/Harry Baum moved/seconded to nominate Dick Brown as moderator. No other nominations were made. Ms. Donnelly called for a voice vote and Mr. Brown was elected moderator unanimously.

Moderator Brown read the items on the call as each came up.

3. **To authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow, if necessary, money to defray expenses until other funds are available.** Dan Savino/Bob Grindle moved/seconded to authorize. The 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, 2010.** Morris Burr/Matthew LaFontaine moved/seconded to nominate George Askew. There were no other nominations. Moderator Brown called for the vote and George Askew was elected unanimously by voice vote.
5. **To authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into agreement with the Commissioner of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the expenditure of funds available July 1, 2010 for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 for improvement and maintenance of Town roads.** John Rodriguez/George Askew moved/seconded to authorize. Moderator Brown called for the vote and the 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.** Peg Fox/John Rodriguez moved/seconded to authorize and approve. Moderator Brown called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.
7. **To hear discussion, and vote on, an ordinance providing for a property tax relief program for certain elderly and permanently and totally disabled homeowners.** Moderator Brown read the question to be voted on: "Shall the TOWN OF HAMPTON adopt an ordinance to duplicate the State Circuit Breaker program as a local option tax relief program under Conn. Gen. Statute 12-129n. This program shall equal the same benefit and eligibility of

Item 7, continued

the Circuit Breaker program, and shall be funded by the Town of Hampton revenues?” Bob Grindle/Dan Meade moved and seconded to approve. Discussion ensued. Bob Grindle asked for clarification of the program. Tax Collector Harry Baum explained the program and responded to Bob Burgoyne’s question that it would provide certain qualifying citizens with an tax break *in addition* to what they already receive under a State of CT program. Dayna McDermott-Arriola asked what the maximum benefit a couple could receive. Mr. Baum answered \$1200.00. Hearing no further discussion, Moderator Brown called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. To approve the 5 year capital improvement plan including the 5 year road plan. Bob Grindle/Harry Baum moved/seconded to approve.

Discussion ensued. Ms. Donnelly explained the process through which the plan is developed. The Board of Selectmen receives input on projects needing attention and reviews the previous year’s plan and prioritizes accordingly. Moderator Brown called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

9. To hear discussion on the General Government for FY July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 as submitted by the Board of Selectmen, and to appropriate sums of money as required.

First Selectman Donnelly reviewed the budget and outlined the major differences between last year’s and the proposed budget. She announced that the Town received a grant from the Last Green Valley for a solar thermal system for Hampton Elementary School. She also stated that should the budget be adopted, the mill rate would remain unchanged at 24.85 mills – unless the Town Garage Project passes.

10. To hear discussion on the Hampton Elementary School Education Budget for FY July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 as submitted by the Board of Education, and to appropriate sums of money as required.

Board of Education Chairman John Burnham presented the budget and explained the major changes from the previous year. Questions were asked about the impact of the early retirement, increase in insurance premiums, and shifts in insurance plan enrollment, and a summer school out-placed tuition cost.

11. To hear discussion on the Town Garage Building resolution and to appropriate sums of money as required.

Dan Meade, Chair of the Town Garage Building Committee, reviewed the proposed building project. Barbara Andersen asked what was planned for the existing garage building. It will be cleaned up and used for storage, and the diesel fuel station will remain there. Gary DeCesare and Gay Wagner spoke on the STEAP grant requirement for union wages. First Selectman Donnelly explained the financing. Bob Burgoyne spoke in favor of the project, but against the use of Land Acquisition fund to reduce the cost (see below).

12. To hear discussion on, and to authorize, the transfer of funds from the Land Acquisition Account to the Garage/Land Account.

Harry Baum

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spoke in favor of the transfer indicating that the funds should have been used for the land purchase last year. Bob Grindle asked for a clarification of the two land funds. Ms. Donnelly explained that Account A – Land Acquisition – is set aside for the Town to use for the purchase of land for town purposes. Account B – Open Space Acquisition – is to be used expressly for the purpose of obtaining land to preserve for open space, recreation and to purchase appropriate conservation easements. Bob Burgoyne reiterated his opposition to the transfer pointing out that should the funds be used for the Garage Project, the ability of the Town to act on a subsequent need to purchase land would be jeopardized.

13. To transact any other business proper to come before the meeting. None heard.

Adjournment. Bob Grindle/Harry Baum moved/seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m., with items #9 through #12 of the call to referendum to be held May 25, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Wertam, Town Clerk