

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Special Meeting
March 3, 2021
7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Roll Call: Members/Alternates Present: Kathy Donahue, Ed Adelman, Judy Buell, Diane Gagnon, Jessie Samios, Nick Brown, Kathi Newcombe, Stan Crawford.

Others Present: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Library Board Chairman Bonnie Cardwell, Assessor Jody Heon, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Citizen Comments: none.

Budget Presentations

Fletcher Memorial Library: Library Board Chairman Bonnie Cardwell presented the library's FY2021-22 spending plan of \$52,005, which includes a \$34,680 request from the Town, an amount level with the current year. Chairman Cardwell explained that while the library's revenue was negatively impacted by the lack of fundraising due to the Covid pandemic, substantial donations for programs were received. She noted slight increases in the costs of books, the website fee, dues and subscriptions, insurance and utilities, largely due to oil, explaining that the building is old and therefore less than energy efficient. The librarian's salary remains level. The maintenance increase reflects two projects: the replacement of rotting wood on the south side of the building; and the removal of asbestos from pipes and an unused furnace in the cellar, both of which are included in the 5-Year Plan. Chairman Cardwell answered in the affirmative to Diane Gagnon's questions on whether or not bids were being secured and local contractors were being considered. Jessie Samios offered assistance in identifying asbestos abatement contractors.

Assessor's Office: Assessor Jody Heon presented the FY2021-22 budget request, with increases in computer support, web hosting, office supplies, and professional expenses resulting from an increase in membership dues which ultimately reduce the cost of mandated education. There is also an increase in the Assessor's salary, which Nick Brown questioned. Ms. Heon explained that, as well as the 2% cost of living adjustment the Selectmen are recommending for appointed positions, she has assumed additional responsibilities, namely responding to the special requests of revenue collectors and an increase in the issuance of building permits. She also suggested that the line item for Assessor Assistant remain as protection against a potential, unexpected absence. Jessie Samios asked if the actual numbers for the current budget were available; Treasurer Rodriguez can provide those for all departments.

Treasurer's Office: Treasurer Rodriguez presented the Treasurer's FY2021-2022 budget, which remains level with the current year with the exception of two changes: the replacement of the office computer for \$750; and a 5% increase in IT support, maximally, as a lesser amount might be negotiated.

Citizen Comments: At Bonnie Cardwell's request, Chairman Donahue explained the budget process, specifically that after all department proposals are presented, the Treasurer will include them in the municipal budget, which will be reviewed, along with the schools' budgets, at a public hearing. After receiving public input at the hearing, the Board of Finance may make adjustments before adopting the budgets that are sent to Town Meeting or Referendum for approval by the legislative body.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Clerk

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