

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2025
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Joan Fox, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown (7:15), Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustaveson.

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola
Regina DeCesare was seated upon request for Judy Buell, and Fran Gustavson was seated upon request for Diane Gagnon.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Ed Adelman, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Ed Adelman, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the Minutes of the Budget Workshop session of May 21, 2025 as amended to strike Joan Fox from the list of those in attendance. Motion carried unanimously, Joan Fox abstaining.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the Minutes of the June 5, 2005 Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kathy Donahue, seconded by Fran Gustaveson, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2025. Motion Carried unanimously.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: First Selectman Cahill reported that the Board of Selectmen at their last meeting voted unanimously to appeal the Connecticut Superior Court decision, which ruled in favor of the plaintiff Solar Park. He also announced the recent surprise inspection by OSHA which will continue for several weeks for Town owned facilities. The Town has been awarded a \$500,000 STEAP grant for the repaving of Windham Road; the town will repave Bigelow Road this year. The call for the Annual Town Meeting on June 20, amended to reflect the \$50,000 reduction to the Town Government budget for the contribution to the Fire Department's LOSAP fund, which is listed as a separate referendum question, and the referendum to follow on June 27, have been legally noticed. Mr. Cahill also noted that the Town Hall solar arrays are in the process of a partial replacement, and that there are still outstanding questions regarding State revenue to Towns.

Tax Collector: Chairman Donahue received and distributed the Tax Collector's report, which reported a net collection of \$4,394,723 as of May, 2025. The 104.5% collection rate is the result of the collection of back taxes, interest and fees.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez sent a correction on the amount in the Contingency she quoted, \$5,000 remaining, at the June 5 meeting. The Contingency line item has been overspent this year, and will be discussed under New Business.

Boards of Education:

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue reported that the RD#11 Board of Education is meeting June 12 to discuss a revised budget and set a referendum date.

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue relayed the positive comments of those who attended the school's recent graduation program. She also reported on the school's surplus of \$177,000 (attached).

Policies and Procedures Committee: none.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of financial reports from the schools and the monthly report from the Tax Collector.

New Business:

a. Discuss and Update on Contingency Overage

Chairman Donahue announced that the overage, currently \$4,482, occurred in March with the transfer of funds. First Selectman Cahill said this was due to the legal fees for litigation with the Solar Park, the cost of electricity and oil, and additional transfer station expenses due to the replacement of materials. He raised the question of creating a separate Capital-Non-Recurring Account for the Transfer Station.

Chairman Donahue listed the following line items which have been overspent and will require transfers: Legal Counsel, the Tax Collector's Collection Agency Fee, noting that this resulted in revenue exceeding the expense, poll workers' pay, utilities, telephone, the Fire Department, due to mechanical issues with the heating system, and the Transfer Station's tipping, trucking, and MINEROC fees. She explained that she would meet with Treasurer Rodriguez to determine which of these are department transfers and which will require transfers from the General Fund.

Old Business

a. Update on Requests for Contributions to Annual Report

Chairman Donahue reported that the finance board is still waiting for reports from the Conservation Commission, Green Energy, the Fire Marshal, the Seniors, and both schools.

Additions to the Agenda

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Ed Adelman, to add to the Agenda approval of the Town Government and Hampton Elementary School FY2025-2026 budgets, and the renewal of the Town Auditor's contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Town Government and Hampton Elementary School Budget

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the \$1,949,439 FY2025-26 Town Government Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Donahue recommended a reduction of \$6,826, the balance of the school's non-lapsing account.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the \$2,262,603 FY2025-26 Hampton Elementary School Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to reappoint Stephen Hopkins as the Town Auditor at a salary of \$20,500 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: none.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Discussion of contingency overage and transfers. Members are encouraged to send any other suggestions for discussion to the Chairman.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: July 9, 2025 at 7PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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