

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
June 12, 2024
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Ed Adelman, Judy Buell, Kathi Newcombe, Stan Crawford, Regina DeCesare.

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola

Kathi Newcombe and Stan Crawford were seated for Diane Gagnon and Joan Fox respectively at their request.

Motion: Judy Buell, seconded by Ed Adelman, to seat Regina DeCesare for Nick Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2024 with the following amendments: under Regional District #11: “Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Vice-Chairman *Mark Becker* clarified that the appointment was for a .8, or four day, position”; under Preliminary Budget Discussion: “It was decided to fund the \$50,000 for fire Department Volunteer Incentive and remove that amount from the *proposed Fire Department budget*”. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell, to approve Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 15, 2024 with the following amendments: under Discussion and Possible Action on FY2024-2025 Budget: “She questioned the need for an administrative assistant, reading from the *Superintendent’s Report that stated the secretarial position assists the school’s principal and superintendent*”; and removed *and the line item itself* from “the removal of \$3000 for the finance board’s legal counsel”. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 29, 2024 with the following amendments: under Discuss and Possible Action on FY2024-2025 Budget: “Ms. Donahue expressed concern that *the proposed budget compensating Ms. Rodriguez with full insurance would set a precedent for part-time employees*”; “11 students tuitioning to the STEM Academy *and an outplaced educational setting*”; “the last figures from the State Department showed a per pupil cost of \$30,364 *for 2024-2025*”; “She stated that the school *should have the documentation she requested as the budget is built upon that information*”; “There was some discussion concerning the removal of the Solar Park from the Grand List as there is *1.1 million owed to date.*” Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell, to approve the Minutes of the Public Hearing of June 5, 2024 with the following amendments: under Budget Presentations and Public Input on Proposed 2024-25 Town government and Hampton Elementary School Budget: “*At Dayna McDermott-Arriola’s request, Chairman Donahue also explained that the mill rate’s decrease to 21.83 is the result of revaluation*”; “Officials did not have the answer to Dick Brown’s question on whether or not *Huntington National Bank* has sufficient funds to cover the amount”. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kathi Newcombe, seconded by Judy Buell, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 5, 2024 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: First Selectman Cahill announced that the Town Meeting is on June 20th and the referendum is June 27th. The call has been noticed and the ballot contains six questions. Mr. Cahill reported that he and Kathy Donahue met with the Regional District #11 Superintendent regarding various issues, including enumeration. He also announced that the Conservation Commission received a \$218,000 Trail Grant, that the bridge construction on Route 97 is reportedly on schedule, and that speed bumps have been installed on Station and North Bigelow Roads. Mr. Cahill also reported that court rulings on the Solar Parks are trending against us, with three cases ruling against the Towns of Barkhamsted, Griswold, and New Hartford. At Kathi Newcombe’s request, Mr. Cahill explained that the Solar Park question is whether or not it is protected from taxation, or considered a commercial or industrial generation facility.

Tax Collector: The monthly report was received and distributed. The net collection amount is \$3,863,518.72, a rate of 95.6%.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez requested several transfers.

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the following transfers, with a request for \$2,400 from Contingency: \$364.00 to #6001-06 Tax Collector Computer Support from #6001-07 Tax Collector Professional; \$2,400.00 to #6001-12 Tax Collector Miscellaneous from #7000 Contingency; \$942.00 to #6003-03 Town Clerk Assistant from #6003-04 Town Clerk Assistant Training; \$158.00 to #6003-08 Town Clerk Conference & Education from #6003-04 Town Clerk Assistant Training; \$12.00 to #6005-06 Treasurer Postage from #6005-04 Treasurer Computer Support; \$585.00 to #Election Training/Mileage from #6009-02 Election Other Workers Pay; \$94.00 to #6009-04 Election Postage & Supplies from #6009-02 Election Other Workers Pay; \$236.00 to #6010-04 DEP Land Use Fees from #6010-06 Planning & Zoning Training; \$800.00 to #6013-06 Town Hall Telephone from #6013-03 Town Hall Electricity; \$300.00 to #613-09 Town Garage Telephone from #6013-03 Town Hall Electricity; \$200.00 to #6013-10 Community Center Electricity from #6013-03 Town Hall Electricity; \$56.00 to #6201-06 Safety from #6201-03 Road Maintenance Payroll Overtime; \$500.00 to #6201-07 Town Garage & Generator Maintenance from #6201-03 Road Maintenance Payroll Overtime. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Rodriguez also reported that the bank has still not changed the direct deposit account; she will cancel it and start anew if it isn't resolved promptly.

Boards of Education:

Regional District #11: Chairman Donahue reported that the Regional District #11 revised budget has been sent to referendum.

Hampton Elementary School: Chairman Donahue reported that she has not received any of the documents she requested of Hampton Elementary School.

Board of Finance Committees

Policies and Procedures Committee: none.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of financial reports from the schools. She also discussed the mill rate situation with the Tax Collector and will have suggestions for the Treasurer prior to the next meeting.

Old Business

a. Update on Annual Reports

Chairman Donahue reported receipt of all contributions with the exception of Regional District #11. The Annual Report will have to be printed and proofed prior to the Town Meeting next week.

Citizen Comments: none.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Members were encouraged to send suggestions to the Chairman.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: Special Meeting on June 27, 2024 at 8:15PM in the lower level of Town Hall to set the mill rate.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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