

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2013
7pm
Hampton Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Vice-Chair Margaret Haraghey.

Members present: Stan Crawford, Margaret Haraghey, Penny Newbury, Luciann Norton, Paul Wakely.
Alternates present: Jeff Clermont.

Members/alternates absent: Rheo Brouillard, Dan Meade.

Others present: 1st Selectman Al Cahill as ex-officio member, Selectman Bob Grindle, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Clerk Kathi Newcombe.

Jeff was seated for Rheo.

Approval of Minutes: Penny moved and Stan seconded to approve the minutes of 3/12/13 with the Treasurer's comment under 2013-14 Budget amended to read that the grand list increased by \$1,436,300, leading to an increase in tax revenue of over \$35,000 based upon the current mil rate; motion passed unanimously. Penny moved and Stan seconded to approve the minutes of 3/19/13; motion passed unanimously. Penny moved and Stan seconded to approve the minutes of 4/4/13 amended to correct the time of adjournment to 9:04pm; motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Ed Adelman stated that he was present to observe, as he is interested in how the Board operates.

Presentations: None.

Reports:

- First Selectman:
1st Selectman Cahill distributed copies of the dairy farm abatement request from Clark Woodmansee, the owner of Woodhill Farm. 1st Selectman Cahill stated that this abatement had nothing to do with him and his business, it was for the real estate owned by his ex-partner, for the previous tax year. The revenue effect would be \$3,421.40 which, if approved, would rebate that amount from the total tax levy. There were questions and some discussion of the beneficiary, timing, process, statutory authority and purpose of the abatement. Paul asked why the abatement is done. Penny suggested it showed support for agriculture in town. Selectman Grindle said that the abatement would put farms in Hampton on equal footing with farms in surrounding municipalities which also grant the abatement. **Stan moved and Penny seconded to approve the dairy farm abatement; motion passed with Stan, Penny, Margaret, Luciann, and Jeff voting Yes, Paul voting No.**
- Tax Collector:
The monthly Tax Collector's reports had been distributed previously to members via email. There were no questions.
- Treasurer:

The monthly Treasurer's reported had been distributed previously to members via email. There were no questions.

- Transfer request.

Treasurer Rodriguez requested three transfers to cover cost overruns.

Penny moved and Paul seconded to transfer \$20 from account #6005-04 Treasurer Computer Support, to #6005-02, Treasurer Computer Supplies, \$80 from account #6013-03 Town Hall Electric to #6013-12 Street Light, and \$4,300 from account #6201-03 Road Maintenance – Payroll Overtime to #6015-00 Health Insurance; motion passed unanimously.

- Board of Education:

The monthly Board of Education reports had been distributed previously to members via email. No one was present from the HES Board of Education. Margaret noted that representatives from HES and the Board will present at the budget session on Thursday, April 18th. Any specific questions about the budget should be sent to Rheo for forwarding to Superintendent Graseck, in order for him to prepare responses in advance of the 4/18 meeting. There was some general discussion of the purpose of line items on the HES BoE budget, particularly a Maintenance line item, and several other line items with significant increases. Several questions arose which Margaret suggested be sent to the Superintendent.

- Board of Finance Committees

- HR Committee: Penny reported that the Public Works Supervisor job description with his help; the next to review are those of the other Public Works employees. Paul asked if the Town Attorney had ever been consulted as to whether it was proper for the BoF to be looking into HR issues and personnel policies; Penny responded that she did a search of other Boards of Finance in other towns as to how they have dealt with the issues. Paul talked about the hard feelings in town; Penny responded that meetings were held specifically to hear concerns and allay any fears about what was being done. She also said it would obviously be wonderful to have an HR department and an attorney on staff, but that is not feasible for a town this size. Penny pointed out that the BoF is not making any decisions regarding the job descriptions and salary scales, that it would be the Board of Selectmen that would be the body to approve the job descriptions and institute the salary scales. Paul said that there was nothing in the statutes that seems to give the BoF the authority to review job descriptions, and asked from the beginning to have the Town Attorney give an opinion on the issue. The item will be added to the list of items for the Town Attorney to review; Rheo will be in charge of contacting. It was stated that the only money spent on this effort so far is the cost of a recording clerk to post agendas and takes minutes.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:

- Annual Report update: A copy of the finalized annual report was distributed. About seventy-five copies of the report will be made at the Town Hall and bound at the elementary school within the next week, for distribution to the public. It will also be made available on the town website.
- Request for Ordinance Change: Margaret made a suggestion that “no salaried employee of the town” be replaced with “no person receiving a recurring paycheck from the town” in the section about limitations on Board of Finance members; there was general consensus in agreement with this. There was discussion about whether there was statutory authority to put some of the

changes into the ordinance. It was agreed that all the suggested changes would have to be run past the Town Attorney.

- Other: Paul asked if the Building Office had been asked to give a presentation; the response was not yet. Jeff asked if the Board had ever heard back from Youth Sports; the response was no. It was agreed that both entities would be asked to present, perhaps as soon as the June monthly meeting.

New Business: None.

Citizen Comments: Ed Adelman said that he thought it was unusual for a Board of Finance to be involved in HR issues. Selectman Grindle made the point that as the entity responsible for HR issues, the Board of Selectmen could assign the task of assisting with HR issues to the Board of Finance; in fact, the BoS had considered asking EastConn's HR department to assist with some issues.

Suggestions for Agenda of next monthly meeting:

- Town Attorney opinions

Set the Date, Time and Place of next meeting: The next meeting, a budget worksession at which the Hampton BoE will present, will be held on Thursday, April 18th at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Newcombe,
BoF Recording Clerk