

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2016  
7pm  
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jeff Clermont, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Perry Matchinis, Mike Higgins, Rick Matejka, David Fowler, Stan Crawford  
Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectmen Bob Grindle and Michael Chapel, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson and members Mark Becker and John Burnham, Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux, and Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

**Citizen Comments:** none.

**Approval of Minutes:** tabled.

**Reports/Actions**

**First Selectman:** none.

**Tax Collector:** Chairman Clermont reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, which reported deposits for the month of April totaling \$17,345.60. Year-to-Date, the Town has deposited \$3,691,392.88, received online payments of \$119,860.49, and refunded \$3,525.68 for a net collection of \$3,811,253.37.

**Motion:** Ed Adelman, seconded by Nick Brown, to table approval of the suspense list. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer:**

**Motion:** Nick Brown, seconded by Mike Higgins, to transfer \$260 from # 6007-03 Town Hall Maintenance to #6007-02 Town Hall Water, \$1511 from # 6201-03 Road Maintenance Payroll/OT to # 6201-01 Road Maintenance, \$300 from # 6201-00 Road Paving to # 6201-07 Town Garage Maintenance, \$10 from # 6300-00 Sanitation - Transfer Station to # 6300-05 Transfer Station Lease, and \$240 from #6300-00 Sanitation – Transfer Station to #6300-06 Sanitation MIDNEROC. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Mike Higgins, seconded by Rick Matejka, to appoint Stephen Hopkins as the town's auditor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board of Education:**

Business Coordinator Lehoux clarified that, if the Regional District #11 Budget that was defeated on May 2 passes on a subsequent attempt at the level of the initial proposal, the elementary school budget must be increased by \$12,552 in order to meet the Minimum Budget Requirement. She explained that if the RD#11 budget decreases, the elementary school budget would have to increase proportionately in order to reach a total assessment of \$3,862,013, and that the penalty for failing to meet the MBR is a fine that is twice the amount of the shortage. Chairman Bisson suggested that money could be added to the budget to hire a clerk to update board policies, or by compensating for the reduction in school readiness funds. Nick Brown suggested that the projected expenses for fuel could be increased, and Stan Crawford suggested raising the Building and Grounds line item to last year's level, noting that a surplus could be applied to a future capital project, such as the repaving of the parking lot. First Selectman Cahill agreed that the line items for fuel oil and for building and grounds could increase. Perry Matchinis asked if school officials could appeal to the State to lower the MBR, noting that legislation had broadened to include increased efficiencies and a decline in student enrollment as reasons to reduce the MBR. He suggested the town

seek legal advice on whether or not to pursue this course, but both Chairman Bisson and First Selectman Cahill expressed reluctance due to the unlikelihood of success based on the past experiences of other towns. Mike Higgins advocated for increasing the elementary school budget by \$25,751, which would bring the bottom line to last year's level and the amount necessary to meet the MBR regardless of the RD#11 Budget in order to avoid a penalty. After several members expressed concern over the potential fine, John Burnham explained that, according to statute, if the elementary school's budget did not allocate enough to meet the MBR in the event that the RD#11 budget decreased, subsequent to the passage of the budgets the town could appropriate funds to reach the MBR and avoid penalty. Perry Matchinis urged the finance board to approve the amount required, and to appropriate funds later if the need were to arise. Selectmen Grindle agreed with this approach.

**Motion:** Perry Matchinis, seconded by Nick Brown, to authorize the Board of Education to add \$12,552 to their 2016-2017 Budget in order to meet the Minimum Budget Requirement. Motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** none.

### **New Business**

#### **Discuss and Approve Hampton Elementary School 2016-2017 Budget Proposal**

**Motion:** Perry Matchinis, seconded by Rick Matejka, to approve the Hampton Elementary School 2016-2017 Budget Proposal of \$2,161,750. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Discuss and Approve Town Government 2016-2017 Budget Proposal**

Mike Higgins again challenged the Registrars of Voters' budget request, questioning the certification requirements, registrars' salaries, mileage, and mathematical calculations. First Selectman Cahill explained the state mandated certification process. Nick Brown objected to the election officials earning the minimum wage increase, which won't take effect until January 2017, for the November 2016 election. He also reiterated his concern that the Registrars' Offices in Scotland and some other towns spend less than in Hampton. First Selectman Cahill again explained that many towns decide issues in Town Meeting rather than Referendum, which is Hampton's custom.

**Motion:** Ed Adelman, seconded by Rick Matejka, to approve the Town Government 2016-2017 Budget Proposal.

In Favor: Chairman Clermont, Nick Brown, Ed Adelman, Rick Matejka, Mike Higgins

Opposed: Perry Matchinis.

Motion carried: 5-1.

Chairman Clermont clarified that, with the adjustments made, the total of all expenditures would be \$5,472,725.

**Citizen Comment:** none.

#### **Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:**

June 14, 2016 at 7 pm in the Community Room of Town Hall.

#### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola  
Recording Clerk

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

