

Hampton Board of Selectmen Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2024

6:00 PM

Town Hall Community Room

The special meeting of the Hampton Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 PM by First Selectman Allan Cahill. Also present was Selectman Bob Grindle, Board of Finance Chair Kathy Donahue, members of the public, and Jennifer Nelson, administrative assistant. Unable to attend was Selectman John Tillinghast.

2. Audience for Citizens: None

3. Acceptance/Approval of Minutes of Dec 4, 2023 and Jan 4, 2024: **Bob Grindle moved to accept the minutes Dec. 4, 2023 and Jan 4, 2024. Allan Cahill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

4. Communications:

E. First Selectman's Report: The Department of Public Works has been busy fixing eroded flood washouts, regular winter maintenance including plowing and filling pot holes, and noticed one way traffic is installed on Route 97. Hampton has stop lights.

First Selectman Cahill got an award letter from the CT DOT for a grant through TRIP (Transportation Rural Improvement Program) applied for with the assistance of NEECOG for improvements to the Airline Trail (\$822,250). This amount won't likely cover all the repairs necessary, but a good portion of improvements will be made, but First Selectman Cahill is hoping to resurface sections of the trail.

5. Financial Report: No questions.

6. Tax Collector's Report: Still in arrears of over \$400,000—mostly the solar park, so it's showing about 90% collection rate. Selectmen would like to see the reports with the solar park segregated from collections if possible since it shows closer to a 98% collection rate. **Bob Grindle moved to approve the tax collector's report. Allan Cahill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

A. Refunds: **Bob Grindle moved to approve a tax refund of \$168.23 to Paul and Annie Pribble. Allan Cahill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

7. Appointments: **Bob Grindle moved to appoint Bruce Spaman regular member to Recreation and Community Activities Commission for a 4-year term. Allan Cahill seconded the appointment, and it passed unanimously.**

8. Board/Committee/Commission Minutes/reports for review: None

9. Old Business:

A. 2024 Budget: Budget requests were sent to the commissions/committees/and boards. They are starting to arrive. The fire department request was received today—it is a slight decrease, conservation commission came in, but there's still a lot of work to do. First Selectman Cahill just came from the insurance presentation at Parish Hill, and it's likely between a 6-8% increase. The trend for claims has been smaller. The large claim pools are also lower.

10. New Business:

A. Discuss and Act on Rescinding Letter of Withdrawal from NDDH:

First Selectman Cahill recently attended a meeting with the deputy commissioner, and they are going to collaborate with us. Currently there is no executive director, who was asked to leave, so the state is willing to put forth an MOU if all the towns will rescind the withdrawals and the state will fund a new director for a year. First Selectman Cahill noted the state may need to consider structural reform with the health departments. We are still part of the health district until July 1st because of statutory regulations, and Plainfield who is one of the largest members of this district has already withdrawn their rescission. **Bob Grindle moved to rescind Hampton's letter of withdrawal. Allan Cahill seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

B. Discuss and Act on Fire Company Purchase Order of New Engine: First Selectman Cahill received the quote for the new fire truck engine on Tuesday. Board of Finance Chair Donahue asked for the details of the quote for their board to look at. The quote is for \$1,088,000. The board discussed the prices and manufacturers, and noted the costs have increased significantly. There are various funding sources available for the purchase, and the town is eligible for a 5% reduction with up-front funding. Jessica Samios asked what interest rates the town currently gets on town funds, and BOF Chair Donahue responded the town makes about 5% on interest which would be offset by the 5% reduction in cost.

C. Set Town Meeting Date: First Selectman Cahill asked the registrars for dates that wouldn't interfere with election dates, and Mr. Cahill suggested a special town meeting before the next selectmen's meeting of March 4, 2024, and a referendum the next week. **Allan Cahill moved to have a special town meeting on the 4th of March, 2024 to talk and discuss the purchase of a fire truck at a purchase price of \$1,088,000, with a referendum on March 12th. Bob Grindle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.** Mrs. Samios wanted to know if that would be at 6:00 PM? First Selectman Cahill responded most likely.

11. Audience for Citizens: Board of Finance Chair Donahue attended the most recent elementary Board of Education meeting, and the budget currently is considering a 2.49 increase, but everyone is waiting for the final insurance numbers.

Mrs. Samios asked what the intent was for the Airline Trail improvements, and Mr. Samios hoped to avoid clear cutting of trees. First Selectman Cahill noted that most recent flooding there is a lot of rebuilding that is needed. Mrs. Samios also asked if the town would be on the hook for providing any work for the project, and it will most likely be done next year. There was a great deal of work not done before COVID hit, and then work was halted in Hampton.

Bob Grindle moved to adjourn at 6:25 PM. Allan Cahill seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson

Administrative Assistant