

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Regular Meeting  
March 9, 2022  
7:00 PM

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

**Roll Call:** Kathy Donahue, Diane Gagnon, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Joan Fox, Judy Buell, Kathi Newcombe  
Staff and Others Present: Selectmen Allan Cahill, Bob Grindle and John Tillinghast, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

**Citizen Comments:** none.

**Presentations:** none.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Diane Gagnon, seconded by Ed Adelman, to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting. Motion carried unanimously, Judy Buell abstaining.

**Reports/Actions**

**First Selectman:** First Selectman Cahill reported that the Audit has been completed and a video conference system is being installed at Town Hall. He also announced that the report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Interdistrict Cost Sharing is nearing completion and will soon be presented to the public in both Hampton and Scotland.

**Tax Collector:** The Tax Collector reported a net collection of \$2, 923,612.86, or 75%, in January's report.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Rodriguez sent a request for five transfers and notification that one of the Certificates of Deposit has matured.

**Motion:** Nick Brown, seconded by Diane Gagnon, to approve the transfer of: \$50 to #6003-07 Town Clerk Professional from #6003-08 Town Clerk Conference & Education; \$1250 to #6004 Town Counsel from #7000 Contingency; \$70 to #6009-04 Election Postage & Supplies from #6009-01 Election/Registrars Pay; \$208 to #6010-08 P & Z Legal/Engineering from #6010-06 P & Z Training; \$241 to #6013-16 Community Center Alarm from #6013-19 Community Center Elevator Maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Diane Gagnon, seconded by Ed Adelman, to invest \$125,000 in a three month CD at Webster Bank. Motion carried unanimously.

**Boards of Education:**

**Regional District #11:** Joan Fox reported that the board has been working on the budget, impacted by the increase in health insurance and the cost of special education, which members are planning to discuss with legislators in terms of reimbursement. Chairman Donahue added that Regional District #11 Superintendent Ken Henrici has reported a 2.43%, or \$158,056, increase in the 2022-2023 proposed budget, and lent her support for discussions on reimbursement for special education.

**Hampton Elementary School:** Chairman Donahue reported that Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson sent the school's proposed budget with a 1.54%, or \$31,152, increase.

## **Board of Finance Committees**

**Policies and Procedures Committee:** Chairman Donahue reported that the committee is still waiting for the information requested of the Hampton Elementary School.

**Ad Hoc Committee for Inter-district Education Cost Sharing:** Chairman Donahue reported that the cooperative agreement developed by the committee is almost complete and will be presented first to the Boards of Education in both towns and then to the general public with meetings in Hampton and in Scotland. Ed Adelman requested that the Minutes of the committee meetings, currently on the committee's webpage, be posted on the Town's website as well. Chairman Donahue will request that the link to the committee's webpage be available on the Town's website.

**Correspondence:** Chairman Donahue received from the Tax Collector the January Tax Collector's Report and the documentation for the Dairy Farm Tax Abatement, which will be added to the Agenda. She also announced that the Board of Selectmen at their March 7 meeting re-appointed Kathi Newcombe to serve as alternate on the Board of Finance.

## **Old Business**

### **a. Update and Possible Action on Fire Department Length of Service Award**

Chairman Donahue relayed that the Board of Selectmen intend to ask taxpayers to fund the account, at an approximate rate of 75%, as a separate question at the Municipal and Elementary School budget referendum. To Ed Adelman's question, Chairman Donahue responded that the letter to Wilcox and Reynolds Insurance will be sent as soon as both she and First Selectman Cahill sign it. Nick Brown suggested that the Board of Finance discuss the investment of the funds.

### **b. Discussion of FY2022-23 Budget**

Chairman Donahue reported that the finance board is waiting for budget submissions from many departments. Both the Building Inspector and the Town Clerk plan on presenting at the next meeting. She and First Selectman Cahill have discussed using some American Recovery funds for qualifying expenses, including for KB Ambulance. Mr. Cahill explained that the cost of this service will increase by \$30,000 this year to cover the cost of insurance, previously absorbed by another participating town. This amount, he said, is more in line with what we should expect to pay in the future.

## **Additions to the Agenda**

**Motion:** Nick Brown, seconded by Diane Gagnon, to add consideration of Dairy Farm Tax Abatements for Eva South Farm LLC and Clark W. Woodmansee III Trust. Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **a. Discuss and Act on Dairy Farm Tax Abatement**

Chairman Donahue reported that the Board of Selectmen, in a 2-0 vote with First Selectman Cahill abstaining, approved a 25% tax abatement for the two applications. If approved, both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance must send copies of the Minutes with the Motions approving the tax abatement to the Tax Collector.

**Motion:** Nick Brown, seconded by Diane Gagnon, to approve the Dairy Farm Abatement for both applications at the rate approved by the Board of Selectmen. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Citizen Comments:**

To Kathi Newcombe's question, Chairman Donahue said she will check on the status of the department submissions for the Annual Report.

Nick Brown inquired as to when in person meetings will resume. By general consent, it was agreed that the next budget work session and subsequent meetings will occur in person.

**Suggestions for Next Agenda:** Committee reports and budget presentations and discussions will continue. Chairman Donahue will distribute the Audit and invite the Auditor to a meeting.

**Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:** Budget Work Sessions on March 17 and 24, 2022 at 7PM; Regular Meeting on April 13 at 7PM.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 7:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola  
Recording Secretary

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