

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
May 13, 2026
7PM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:16PM.

Roll Call: Kathy Donahue, Ed Adelman, Nick Brown, Kate Donnelly Colt, Joan Fox, Regina DeCesare, Fran Gustavesen, Kathi Newcombe, Selectmen Allan Cahill, Bob Grindle, and John Tillinghast, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman Mark Becker, members and staff, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Town Clerk, Kaye Johnson, Conservation Commission Chairman Mark Samios, Recording Secretary Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Regina DeCesare was seated, upon request, for Judy Buell

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Kate Donnelly Colt, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 8, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Kate Donnelly Colt, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 8, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: First Selectman Cahill had nothing further to report.

Tax Collector: none received.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez requested several transfers.

Motion: Ed Adelman, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to approve the following transfers:

\$2183 from #6000-08 Selectman Communications to #6000-07 Selectman Computer Support; **\$400** from #6000-05 Selectman Mileage to #6000-07 Selectman Computer Support; **\$232** from #6000-04 Administration Assistant to #6000-07 Selectman Computer Support; **\$223** from #6003-03 Town Clerk Asst. to #6003-08 Town Clerk Conference; **\$18** from #6006-02 Assessor Clerk to #6006-03 Assessor Mileage; **\$435** from #6609-02 Election Other Workers Pay to #6009-01 Election Registrars Pay; **\$62** from #6010-07 P & Z Supplies to #6010-04 DEP Land Use Fees; **\$528** from #6013-06 Town Hall Telephone to #6013-03 Town Hall Electricity; **\$632** from #6013-19 Comm. Center Elevator to #6013-04 Town Hall Oil; **\$27** from #6013-09 Town Garage Telephone to #6013-04 Town Hall Oil; **\$1800** from #6013-06 Town Hall Telephone to #6013-08 Town Garage Oil; **\$276** from #6013-12 Street Lights to #6013-08 Town Garage Oil; **\$1521** from #6013-17 Comm. Center Maintenance to #6013-13 Fire Dept. Oil; **\$128** from #6013-01 Transfer Station Electricity to #6013-14 Comm. Center Water; **\$70** from #6201-06 Safety to #6201-07 Town Garage and Generator Maintenance; **\$2623** from #6201-01 Road Maintenance to #6201-09 Equipment Maintenance; **\$888** from #6300-01 Sanitation Payroll to #6300-00 Sanitation Transfer Station. Motion carried unanimously.

Boards of Education:

Hampton Elementary School: nothing further to report.

Policies and Procedures Committee: The committee did not meet.

Correspondence: Chairman Donahue reported receipt of the schools' financial records and a correspondence from Stan Crawford requesting that the Dairy Abatement be increased to the prior amount of 50%.

Old Business

a. Update on Submissions for Town's Annual Report for FY2024-2025

Chairman Donahue reported that only two reports are missing.

New Business

a. Discussion and Possible Action on Town Government FY2026-2027 Budget

Finance Board members conducted a line item review of the Town Government proposal.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Kate Donnelly Colt, to transfer the \$1,681 in the line item for First Selectman's salary to the line item for Selectmen Computer Support. Motion carried unanimously.

At Ed Adelman's request, Town Clerk Kaye Johnson explained the need for a new Land Records System.

There was discussion regarding the Conservation Commission's \$20,500 request, a \$9,150, or 80.62% increase over the current year. Chairman Donahue reviewed the expenses listed in the request. Chairman Mark Samios explained that the delay in utilizing the construction grant, which has resulted in an increase in the cost of materials, was due to the State mandate to conduct an environmental study on the area's turtles. To Nick Brown's suggestion that the Commission raise funds, Chairman Samios responded that there were fundraising plans for the coming year. Regina DeCesare suggested that the signs could be an Eagle Scout project. Hampton Elementary School Principal Victoria Smith volunteered to donate the \$400 budgeted for Arbor Day due to the school's involvement.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to reduce the Conservation Commission's request by \$4,000.

In Favor: Ed Adelman, Joan Fox, Nick Brown, Kathy Donahue, Regina DeCesare.

Opposed: Kate Donnelly Colt.

Motion carries, 5 – 1.

Chairman Donahue suggested that the \$625 be returned to the Board of Finance Administration line to cover the costs of the production of the Annual Report and Legal Notices.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to return \$625 to the Board of Finance Administration line. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Donahue inquired as to a Town policy on Medicare eligible employees receiving this federal benefit rather than taxpayer contribution to their insurance, which is 50% of the coverage cost; however no such policy currently exists.

Chairman Donahue reported on the Fire Department Volunteer Incentive Program funds, explaining the program and that a review of the account's status indicates that the amount allocated this year, \$25,000, at 77% , is sufficient to cover the town's contribution to the beneficiaries this year.

Treasurer Rodriguez reported that there is \$4,200 to date in the Recreation Commission's checkbook. With only two remaining events in this fiscal year, youth baseball and tickets for the Woo Sox game, the decision was made to reduce the budget request of \$10,000.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Regina DeCesare, to reduce the Recreation Commission's budget request to \$8000. Motion carried unanimously.

After a discussion on the rising costs of fuel, it was decided to retain the \$50,000 in Contingency. An additional \$68.10, per the Assessor's recommendation, was included for Revaluation in the Capital & Non-Recurring Account.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the FY2026-2027 Town Government Budget of \$2,121,358. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Discussion and Possible Action on Hampton Elementary School FY2026-2027 Budget

Chairman Donahue reported on her discussion with the Superintendent. There was discussion regarding the capital and non-lapsing accounts which currently have \$48,574 and \$50,418 respectively, which could be used to off-set this year's budget. Chairman Donahue also suggested that capital projects could be included as separate referendum questions, although she has not received the amounts she requested for projects, and noted that the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) grant has been received and can be used toward capital projects. Board of Education Chairman Mark Becker stated that the DRIP funds were considered for paving repairs and the telephone system. He also reported that the tanks need to be replaced for the water system, repairs are needed for the ventilation system, and that the septic system is being evaluated for a cost of \$8,000, which does not include potential repairs. Chairman Donahue reminded members that last year, surplus funds in the non-lapsing and capital accounts were applied to the budget to off-set the cost of additional staff, noting that the proposed budget includes an additional Special Education teacher, multiple paraprofessionals, and a part-time Behavioral Interventionist.

Motion: Regina Decesare, seconded by Kathy Donahue, to use the \$50,418 in the non-lapsing account to reduce the FY2026-2027 Hampton Elementary School Budget.

In Favor: Kathy Donahue, Regina DeCesare

Opposed: Ed Adelman, Kate Donnelly-Colt, Joan Fox, Nick Brown

Motion failed, 2-4.

Chairman Donahue stated that she has not received the details justifying the need for the additional Special Education staff that she requested from the Superintendent. She also reported that she discussed the 10% raises with the Superintendent, and that her review of market comparisons with other towns revealed the size of the district, the ability of the town to pay, and the length of the employee's service were considered in salary awards. Nick Brown noted that the school's non-contractual employees are only receiving a 3.5% increase while town employees are receiving 4% this year, and that last year these school employees received a 2.5% increase while town employees received 3%. Chairman Donahue stated that she suggested that both the town and the school employees should be closer to the 2.8% COLA that many seniors in town are receiving.

Motion: Joan Fox, seconded by Kate Donnelly Colt, to accept the Hampton Elementary School FY2026-2027 budget of \$2,393,238 as presented.

In Favor: Ed Adelman, Kate Donnelly Colt, Joan Fox, Nick Brown

Opposed: Kathy Donahue, Regina DeCesare.

Motion passed: 4 – 6.

Additions to the Agenda:

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Joan Fox, to add Discussion and Action on Dairy Farm Abatement to the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Action on Dairy Farm Abatement

Information on the abatement at the 25% rate was distributed. Chairman Donahue shared Stan Crawford's suggestion to raise the abatement to 50%, which was the prior amount, and that the Board of Selectmen had approved the abatement at 25%. There was some discussion on the different levels as well as a 35% compromise.

Motion: Kate Donnelly Colt, seconded by Joan Fox, to approve the Dairy Farm Abatement at 25%.

Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Jessie Samios asked when the revenue section of the budget would be reviewed. Chairman Donahue said that it would be discussed at the Town Meeting with up-to-date information. Mark Samios asked for the amount of the rental income. First Selectman Cahill reported that the 2-year contract with the Mennonite Believers Church for use as a school during the week for nine months of the year, and for religious services on Sunday throughout the year, was negotiated for the same rate as the prior year, \$1,000 per month with approximately \$250 in-kind services monthly. He explained that the lower level of Town Hall is maintained by the renters, noting the cleanliness of, and improvements to, the space, and that other large municipal projects have been completed, such as paving, the pavilion, and currently a shelter for the barbecue at the Community Center. He also noted the flexibility of the renters, as several residents and groups regularly use the space, and it also serves as the Town's emergency shelter.

Kate Donnelly Colt countered that many residents do a lot for the town, and Joan Fox reminded members that she raised concerns on the amount of the rental income last year.

Nick Brown stated that the rental income should at least cover the cost of heating the building, which is over \$10,000. Mr. Cahill reminded members that a portion of the heat and electricity costs are for the Town Offices as well, and that the lower level would need to be heated whether or not anyone was renting the space. Chairman Donahue reminded members that the cost of heating the Community Center is over \$4000 and that building is rarely used.

To the question on whether anyone has ever inquired as to renting the lower level of Town Hall, and whether the space has ever been rented, First Selectman Cahill said that no other entity has inquired as to renting the space, which was only rented as a school a number of decades ago. It was noted that the space has not been advertised.

Suggestions for Next Agenda: Members are also encouraged to send suggestions for discussion to the Chairman.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: June 10, 2026 at 7PM.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board, the Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM.

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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