

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Public Hearing
May 13, 2026
7PM

Call to Order: The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:05 PM.

Budget Presentations and Public Input on Proposed 2026-27 Town Government and Hampton Elementary School Budgets

Hampton Elementary School Budget:

Board of Education Chairman Mark Becker presented the FY2026-2027 budget proposal, a 5.77%, or \$2,393,238, increase over the current year. He explained that the increase is largely due to addressing the school's Special Education needs and includes an additional full-time Special Education teacher and multiple paraprofessionals. He also stated that the budget includes a 10% raise for the Principal, Business Coordinator, and Administrative Assistant, 3.5% of which reflects the raises of all other school employees, with 6.5% representing a market adjustment when compared with other towns, noting that the Principal earns less hourly than some of the teachers, that the Business Coordinator is performing 5 - 6 different roles, and that the Administrative Assistant's salary isn't much more than minimum wage. Mr. Becker also noted that the transportation contract has increased.

Town Government Budget

First Selectman Allan Cahill presented the FY2026-2027 Town Government Budget, a 8.35%, or \$162,730 increase over the current year. He stated that all Town employees, except himself, will receive a 4% Cost-of-Living (COLA) adjustment. He explained that the anticipated grant to partially fund the first three years of a Tax Collection agreement with Canterbury and Scotland was denied, and therefore the budget includes \$50,000 for the collection of taxes. He stated that the Treasurer's and Assessor's offices required IT upgrades. First Selectman Cahill asked the Town Clerk to explain the new Land Record system, which was responsible for the increase in that request, and which was necessary as the current system will no longer operate after this year, and the Registrar of Voters to explain the increase to the Elections Department, due to the probability of both a Democratic and a Republican Primary and mandated Early Voting, which thus far has not been funded even partially by the State. Mr. Cahill reported a 6.9% increase in health insurance, an additional \$4,400 in Town Hall Maintenance to cover deep cleaning, \$6,837 to cover the Public Works Equipment Maintenance due to replacement costs for breakdowns of large equipment this year, a 5% increase in the contracted KB Ambulance Services, \$25,000 to cover the Fire Department's Volunteer Incentive Program, and a reduction of \$10,000 in Legal Services as the Solar Park court hearings and appeals are complete. First Selectman Cahill also explained increases in Transfer Station fees, the need to double the amount in the Contingency line item due to additional Transfer Station costs incurred during the year, and the inclusion of a line item for Transfer Station Equipment totaling \$10,000 in the Capital & Non-Recurring accounts to cover the replacement of materials.

Citizen Comments:

Jessie Samios asked what the mill rate would be with the proposals presented. Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez stated that the mill rate would be 21.81, a slight increase over the current 21.65. First Selectman Cahill noted that the State has also recently awarded the Town additional funding. Chelsey Guilmette asked if re-instituting the Transfer Station Stickers would cover the cost of the needed Transfer Station materials. First Selectman Cahill reported that the stickers generated \$12,000, but entailed costs to employees.

Adjournment: The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Secretary

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