

TOWN OF HAMPTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – SEPTEMBER 17, 2026
MINUTES

The Legal Voters and those qualified to vote in Town Meeting assembled in Town Meeting at the Hampton Town Hall, lower level, 164 Main Street Hampton, Connecticut on September 17, 2026, at 7:00 PM and transacted the following business:

1. Call to order: First Selectman Allan Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.
2. To elect a moderator for said meeting. Bob Grindle/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded to elect Allan Cahill moderator. There were no other nominations. Allan Cahill was elected moderator unanimously by voice vote.
3. To hear discussion and act on the Hampton Elementary School Budget for the year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, as recommended by the Board of Finance, and to appropriate sums of money as required. Bob Grindle/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded to open discussion.

Mark Becker, Chair of the HES Board of Education, reviewed the changes made to the budget after its defeat at referendum on June 9, 2026. The budget is now \$2,357,400, an increase of 4.19% over FY2026.

Kathy Donahue, Chair of the Finance Board asked several questions regarding student count, children receiving special education and intervention services, the step placement of new staff and follow up to information requested from the superintendent and business coordinator back in July 2026. Chair Mark Becker stated the superintendent evaluation for 25/26 has been completed.

To questions regarding availability of the business coordinator, Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski stated that she has a role without public facing hours and has been very busy completing year-end reconciliations.

The vote on this matter will take place in a referendum.

4. To hear discussion and act on approving an additional appropriation of \$75,000 from the undesignated fund to complete the South Bigelow Rd. paving project. Kathy Donahue/Juan Arriola moved/seconded to open discussion.

Mr. Cahill reported that the Town's annual paving budget averages \$220,000. Two bids were received and the Selectmen chose the lower bid. However, the 2027 budgeted amount fell short due to increased material prices and the cost of improvements, such as additional milling required to address rough patches on South Bigelow Road. Mr. Cahill requested that the Town approve additional funding needed to complete the project.

No questions were asked. The vote on this matter will take place in a referendum.

5. To hear discussion and act on a proposal to hire an additional public works employee. Bob Grindle/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded to open discussion.

Mr. Cahill explained that the Department of Public Works (DPW) needs additional help. Hampton's DPW is currently overstretched; with approximately fifty miles of roads to maintain, as well as responsibility for management of the transfer station, snow removal and other projects at the Elementary School, Little River Preserve and other conservation projects, as well as maintenance of

the Town Hall campus. Mr. Cahill commended the current DPW employees for their ability to make equipment repairs in-house, noting that this has resulted in savings for taxpayers.

Nick Brown asked for additional details regarding the amount requested. The Selectmen indicated that they anticipate paying approximately \$30 per hour, in addition to insurance, overtime and other associated costs. In response to a question from Bruce Spaman, it was clarified that DPW employees are not represented by a bargaining unit. Mary G. White commended Hampton's DPW for its diligent work, noting that the Town's roads are well-maintained because of their efforts.

The vote on this matter will take place in a referendum.

Allan Cahill read the following information:

At its meeting held on September 8, 2026, the Board of Selectmen voted, pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that items 3, 4, and 5 on the call of the September 17, 2026, Special Town Meeting be submitted to referendum vote on October 1, 2026, between the hours of Noon and 8:00 PM at the Town Hall, 164 Main Street, Hampton, CT.

The designation of the questions on the ballot for said referendum vote shall be as follows:

1. "Shall the Town of Hampton appropriate \$2,357,400 for the Hampton Elementary School for the 2026-2027 fiscal year?"
2. "Shall the Town of Hampton appropriate an additional \$75,000 from the undesignated fund to complete the South Bigelow Road paving project?"
3. "Shall the Town of Hampton approve the proposal to hire an additional public works employee at a cost of \$120,000?"

6. Adjournment: Bob Grindle/Kathy Donahue moved/seconded to adjourn at 7:22 PM.

Dated at Hampton, this 18th day of September 2026

Kaye Johnson, CCTC
Town Clerk