

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
April 11, 2017
7pm
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Clermont, Perry Matchinis, Mike Higgins, Rick Matejka, David Fowler, Stan Crawford

Members/Alternates Absent: Nick Brown, Ed Adelman

Staff and Others Present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman Rose Bisson, Superintendent Frank Olah, and Business Coordinator Sally Lehoux, Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez, Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola.

Motion: Perry Matchinis, seconded by Mike Higgins, to seat Dave Fowler for Ed Adelman and Stan Crawford for Nick Brown. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments: Marcia Kilpatrick voiced support for funding the Open Space Account. She reminded the finance board that State properties, such as Goodwin Forest, are not protected, and asked if monies in the Land Acquisition Account could be used for the purchase of open space, as was originally intended. Chairman Clermont stated that the Finance Board has not yet acted on any line item of the Town Government Budget. First Selectman Cahill explained that the Board of Selectmen approved a minimalist budget that eliminated funds from all CNR accounts except the amount required by ordinance for the Land Acquisition Account. He stated that he is confident, based on the town's history, that prudent purchases of open space would be approved by taxpayers.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Mike Higgins, seconded by Perry Matchinis, to approve the Minutes of the March 28, 2017 Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations: FY 2017-2018 Budget Proposals

Board of Education: Copies of the proposed Hampton Elementary School budget approved by the Board of Education were distributed. Chairman Bisson explained that the proposal requests the same amount as the current year in order to meet the Minimum Budget Requirement, though it appears as though it has increased .61% because of last year's shortage of \$13,219, and suggested the finance board replenish the shortage prior to the Town Meeting to eliminate confusion. Perry Matchinis asked what the Town's assessment was for Regional District 11's budget proposal. Chairman Bisson said that it was approximately \$7000 less than last year. Mr. Matchinis also inquired as to the student count. Business Coordinator Lehoux said that the school has not yet received the official count from the State, but that the elementary school population increased by four students this year, and the number of Hampton students attending Parish Hill remained the same. First Selectman Cahill said that he would like to change the allocation of workmen's compensation based on the history of the claims and the number of employees. Currently the Town contributes 68% and the school, 32%. Resident Violet Marquis asked why there was an increase in the line item for electricity. Business Coordinator Lehoux explained that payment on the lease of the solar panels, an expense which the school was not previously aware of, is now included in the budget.

Registrars of Voters: Registrar Dayna McDermott-Arriola distributed copies of the Registrars' budget request, which has decreased 15% due to fewer anticipated voting events for 2017-18, less statutorily mandated hours, the completion of 25% of the certification requirements, and new technology that eliminates the expense of a dedicated phone line. Mike Higgins expressed concern that the Registrars

would not complete certification requirements to meet the deadline imposed by the Secretary of State. Chairman Clermont clarified that certification requirements were not the purview of the Board of Finance. **Ambulance Corps:** Chief Ben Brockett reported that he is unavailable until the week of May 22 to appear before the finance board and suggested that questions concerning the Ambulance Corps' budget request be forwarded to him. Resident Violet Marquis questioned the need to present the spending plan as the Town contracts the Ambulance Corps to provide their services. Perry Matchinis explained that the finance board has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to oversee the expenditure of tax dollars. Chairman Clermont concurred and encouraged members to develop questions pertaining to the Ambulance Corps' budget.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: Copies of the proposed Town Government Budget approved by the Board of Selectmen were distributed. The proposal reflects a 4.04% decrease in town spending and an estimated 29.14% reduction in State revenue. Selectmen Grindle agreed with First Selectman Cahill that, in the interest of equity, the allocation of contributions to workmen's compensation and insurance needs to be negotiated with Hampton Elementary School officials. By general consent, the finance board decided to schedule a special meeting to discuss the Town Government Budget proposal.

Tax Collector: Chairman Clermont reviewed the Tax Collector's Report, which reported deposits for the month of March of \$11,288.36, and online payments of \$12,405.34, for a total of \$23,693.70. Year-to-Date, the Town has deposited \$3,751,407.63, and received online payments of \$125,183.45, for a total of \$3,876,591.08.

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Perry Matchinis, to accept the Tax Collector's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Ellen Rodriguez reported six requests for transfers.

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Rick Matejka, to approve the transfer of: \$366 from #7000 Contingency to #6005-04 Treasurer Computer Support, \$1260 from # 6001-02 Tax Collector Assistant to #6001-03 Tax Collection Equipment and Supplies, \$454 from # 6001-11 Tax Collector Expenses to #6001-08 Tax Collector Postage and Legal, \$313 from #7000 Contingency to # 6007-01 Town Hall Photocopier, \$2610 from # 6300-03 Sanitation Tipping Fees to # 6300-00 Sanitation - Transfer Station, and \$250 from # 6300-06 Sanitation MIDNEROC to #6300-05 Sanitation Transfer Station Lease. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Education: none.

Board of Finance Committees:

HR Committee: none.

Fiscal Policy and Procedures Committee: none.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business

Discuss MBR Shortage: tabled. First Selectman Cahill reported that he is meeting with the First Selectmen of Scotland and Chaplin and legislators and will address the State Department's response to last year's request to reduce the MBR by \$13,219.

New Business: none.

Citizen Comment: none.

Suggestions for Next Agenda:

Special Meeting: Discuss Town Government Budget

Regular Meeting: Hear Budget Presentations for the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Town Clerk and the Tax Collector.

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting:

Special Meeting: April 25, 2017 at 7 pm in the Community Room of Town Hall. Rick Matejka requested that Stan Crawford be seated in his absence.

Regular Meeting: May 9, 2017 at 7 pm in the Community Room of Town Hall.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Clerk

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