

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Regular Budget Meeting  
Monday, June 17, 2013  
8:30 pm  
Hampton Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Chairman Rheo Brouillard.

Members/alternates present: Chairman Brouillard, Jeff Clermont, Stan Crawford, Margaret Haraghey, and Luciann Norton.

Members/alternates absent: Dan Meade, Penny Newbury, and Paul Wakely.

Others present: First Selectman Al Cahill, Selectmen Bob Grindle and Michael Chapel, Hampton Elementary School Board of Education Chairman John Burnham, Board of Education Members Rose Bisson, Maryellen Donnelly, Joan Fox, Anne Gruenberg, Carol Misak, and Catherine Wade, Hampton Elementary School Superintendent Paul Graseck, Substitute Recording Clerk Dayna McDermott-Arriola, and audience members.

**2013-2014 Budget:**

Chairman Brouillard reviewed the options before the Board of Finance: to recommend the budget as presented by the Board of Education; or to change the budget based on the May 23 referendum vote and the information from the State Department of Education.

Luciann Norton said that when the townspeople discover that \$173,000 can be legally cut from the budget, there would be a different attitude toward the bottom line. She noted that there were specific areas that concerned taxpayers, for example the increase in the business coordinator's compensation. Stan Crawford stated that the maximum amount seemed too steep a reduction and suggested that the Board of Finance request the Board of Education to reduce its budget by 20-25% of the potential \$173,000 reduction, a range which translates to \$34,600 - \$43,200.

Jeff Clermont agreed that the amount would cripple the school, adding that the elimination of one of the buses would hurt the chances of families moving to town.

Margaret Haraghey echoed Chairman Brouillard's previous remarks that this was perhaps the only chance to lower the MBR, a concern of taxpayers for the last few years. She thought that at least an amount equal to one half of a mil might be considered as a reduction. She added that salary increases to off-set insurance costs were another example of compensation packages that did not parallel the real world and the realities of most taxpayers.

First Selectman Al Cahill urged officials to attain written documentation from the State Department verifying that the MBR could be decreased in this manner with no financial consequences. He also said that cutting line items is not the answer, suggesting that the education models need to be reviewed and altered.

Chairman Brouillard agreed, stating that the board might consider looking at personnel.

Chairman Burnham said that the rationale for reducing a budget ought to be that we should, rather than that we can, reminding everyone that the board based its initial proposal, not on the MBR, but on the school's needs.

Chairman Brouillard said the school board's challenge was to implement both fiscal and educational concerns, and that while the board had done a commendable job producing a reasonable budget for the last few years, the taxpayers were experiencing an increase in taxes this year.

**Motion:** Stan Crawford, seconded by Margaret Haraghey, to reduce the Board of Education's budget by 20% of the \$173,000, or \$34,600.

In favor: Rheo Brouillard, Stan Crawford, Margaret Haraghey, Luciann Norton

Opposed: Jeff Clermont

Motion carried: 4-1.

**Next Meeting: Date, Time & Agenda:**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Finance is scheduled July 9 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room of Town Hall.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayna McDermott-Arriola  
Substitute Recording Clerk