

Town of Hampton
Board of Finance
Regular Meeting
September 12, 2017
7:00 pm
Hampton Town Hall Community Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members/Alternates Present: Jeff Clermont, Nick Brown, Mike Higgins, Ed Adelman, Rick Matejka, Stan Crawford, Dave Fowler

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

Chairman Clermont appointed Dave Fowler to be seated for Perry Matchinis, as requested.

Citizen Comments: none.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Ed Adelman, seconded by Rich Matejka, to approve the August 8, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes with an amendment noting that the Treasurer's transfer requests were for FY2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations: none.

Reports/Actions

First Selectman: First Selectman Cahill informed the Board that he and the Treasurer responded to the Office of Policy and Management's request for the total and unassigned fund balances estimated as of June, 30, 2017 and projected amounts for June 30, 2018, along with a letter detailing the Town's efforts to reduce spending. A letter has been sent to property owners on Route 6 inviting them to participate in a discussion at the October 2 meeting with members of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning & Zoning Commission regarding development of the Business District. First Selectman Cahill also reported that the Auditor recently initiated the annual audit, and that the Fire Department is developing another proposal for expansion of the Fire House which involves use of the original building to construct a steel structure with four bays, rather than building an addition. This proposal is estimated at less than \$500,000. The Selectmen intend to apply for the next STEAP grant for funding of the project.

i. Update on State Budget/Executive Order

According to First Selectman Cahill, there is nothing new to report on the State budget. He explained that the Minimum Budget Requirement expired, and that the MBR will not be set until the State budget passes. He concurred with Board members that decisions on reducing allocations to the schools should be delayed until there is more information.

Tax Collector: First Selectman Cahill reported that the Board of Selectmen at their meeting approved reimbursements made as a result of re-calculations on motor vehicle taxes totaling \$1920.56.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Dave Fowler, to endorse the Board of Selectmen's approval of the Tax Collector's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer: Treasurer Rodriguez reported on the purchase of two, rather than three, Certificates of Deposit, because of the requirement of \$100,000 in each CD. Therefore, \$126,000 has been deposited into both the six month CD and the nine month CD. Interest earned last year totaled \$2,421, and the interest rate this year is approximately 1%. She also reported that a meeting with the Financial Coordinator of the

Hampton Elementary School clarified what was previously considered a discrepancy in the reporting of the school cafeteria budget.

Treasurer Rodriguez also reported a \$242,893 surplus of unspent funds from the FY 2016-2017 budget; after the proposed \$167,000 is applied to this year's budget to maintain the mil rate, approximately \$850,000 will be left in the General Fund, an amount that represents 16% of the budget. Mike Higgins expressed concern that the town had over-budgeted to that degree. Treasurer Rodriguez explained that last year's budget compensated for an anticipated loss of State funds.

Treasurer Rodriguez also reported that the Town Auditor suggested that the \$167,000 applied from the General Fund to the FY2017-2018 budget be presented as a deficit at the bottom of the budget as it was when the budget was passed.

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Dave Fowler, to present the \$167,000 as a deficit rather than as an income line on the budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed Adelman asked if the Board was committed to continue to dip into the reserve fund depending on the shortfall in order to retain the level mil rate. Chairman Clermont stated that the Board will wait for the total impact prior to committing additional funds.

Board of Education: Chairman Bisson reported that the Hampton Elementary School Board of Education has its first meeting of the school year next week.

Board of Finance Committees:

HR Committee: none.

Fiscal Policy and Procedures Committee: none.

Other: Approval of Minutes

Motion: Nick Brown, seconded by Rick Matejka, to approve the July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes with an amendment noting that the Treasurer's transfer requests were for FY2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Nick Brown informed the Board that if he were to lose his seat on the Board of Finance as a result of the November Municipal Election, another member would need to be seated on the Dissolution Committee in his stead. He reported that the Committee is updating the 2009 study of dissolution with current numbers, and that no decisions will be made until the report is completed by the December deadline. Dissolution Committee member Rose Bisson added that a draft version of the report might be completed by their next meeting. Mr. Brown also stated his personal opinion that the district should dissolve in order for the Town to maintain local control. He pointed to problems with the prior Central Office Committee, Hampton's fiscal prudence compared with the other district towns, and the possibility of better options for partnering with other area schools as his rationale. Mrs. Bisson noted that there is a difference between the former Central Office and the plan advocated by the Addition and Withdrawal of Grades Committee, which includes only one district Board of Education and one Superintendent. She added that the Committee would conduct at least one public hearing prior to the tri-town vote on the recommendation of the Committee, which will be scheduled as required by Statute. Chairman Clermont added that the report of the Addition/Withdrawal of Grades Committee is available on each of the towns' websites and at each Town Hall.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business

Review Board of Finance By-Laws: tabled.

New Business: none.

Citizen Comment:

Stan Crawford suggested that, as part of the reconstruction of the Fire House, the solar panels be relocated to a Solar Panel Field behind Town Hall. First Selectman Cahill explained that adjustments would be made to the Fire Department's budget to compensate from their loss of revenue. In response to Ed Adelman's suggestion that the Green Energy Committee be involved in the decision, First Selectman Cahill said that they were apprised earlier.

Suggestions for Next Agenda:

Update on State's budget under First Selectman's Report

Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting: October 10, 2017 at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at Town Hall.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dayna McDermott Arriola
Recording Clerk

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

