

Town of Hampton  
Board of Finance  
Special Meeting  
Thursday, May 23, 2013  
8:15pm  
Hampton Town Hall Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:19pm by Chair Rheo Brouillard.

Members present: Rheo Brouillard, Margaret Haraghey, Penny Newbury, Luciann Norton, Stan Crawford.

Alternates present: Dan Meade.

Members/alternates absent: Paul Wakely, Jeff Clermont.

Others present: 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Al Cahill, Selectmen Bob Grindle, and Recording Clerk Kathi Newcombe.

Dan was seated for Paul.

**2013-14 Budget:** Rheo announced that the general government budget passed at referendum and invited discussion on the elementary school budget which did not pass. Members shared the comments and thoughts passed on from community members. Rheo stated that the BoE has the ability to drop their budget by .5% (\$11,281) and still meet the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR), if the criteria were met. Members expressed surprise that no BoE members were present at the meeting to hear comments and share thoughts.

Stan said that he talked to several people who would have supported the school budget if the allocation of the budget were different, if the BoE had not cut so many line items to support a 2% increase in salaries for administration and the increase in salary vs the premium cost share of the non-certified staff.

The other two criteria spoken of most were the drop in the elementary school census (from 133 to 117) and increased efficiency by removing one of the three buses.

Luci reported that the BoE had discussed the bus situation and felt that if every student were to take the bus, there would not be enough time to complete the route while coordinating with the pickup/dropoff times at Parish Hill. Members felt that the BoE was not making enough of an effort to make the two-bus concept work; they felt that when there were almost double the students at the school, three buses made the trip in the same time as two buses could given the current number of students who actually take the bus, both at the elementary school and at Parish Hill.

Rheo and Al both think that based upon what is happening in other school districts, transportation may be able to be excluded from the MBR which would allow the BoE to drop their budget another \$60,000. There was some frustration with the fact that the Superintendent did not have the information on what was included in the MBR and what criteria must be met in order to lower the MBR. Other concerns were expressed about the impact contract negotiations would have on next year's budget and the fluid condition of the State budget.

The general consensus was that Rheo would get some legal advice from the State Department of Ed and would communicate to the BoE some of the feedback from the community. The Board of Finance will wait to hear from the BoE and the Superintendent on their intentions before taking further action.

**Date, Time and Place of next meeting:** The next meeting will be the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Town Hall Community Room.

**Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathi Newcombe,  
BoF Recording Clerk