

Hampton Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3, 2025

The regular meeting of the Hampton Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:02 PM by First Selectman Allan Cahill. Also present were Selectmen Bob Grindle and John Tillinghast, members of the public, and Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant.

2. Audience for Citizens: None

3. Acceptance/Approval Minutes of January 6, 2025: **Selectman John Tillinghast moved to approve the minutes of Jan. 6, 2025. Selectman Bob Grindle seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

4. Additions to Agenda: None

5. Communications: Selectman Cahill received a letter from Fran Gustavesen seeking to serve as alternate of the Board of Finance. Selectman Cahill wanted to remind the public of the Super Bowl Grinder sale next weekend, he will meet with the RD11 insurance consortium tomorrow since the current increase 20% so the agent will send out bids. He will also meet with the new Eversource representative on Thursday to discuss power outages on S. Brook Road. The audit is ongoing and an extension has been filed to complete gathering all the information from the school. DPW is working hard to sustain the roads.

6. Financial Report: No questions.

7. Tax Collector Report: No questions on the quarterly report.

A. Tax Refunds: **Selectman Grindle moved to approve the tax refunds for:**

Robert Quackenbos:	18.48
CORELOGIC Centralized Refunds:	2036.24
	2536.99
Toyota Lease Trust:	131.69

Selectman Tillinghast seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Appointment(s): First Selectman Cahill invited Mr. Waite to discuss his vision for children of Hampton in recreation activities in Hampton. **Selectman Grindle moved to appoint Ben Waite as a regular member for 3 years to the recreation commission. Selectman Tillinghast seconded the appointment, and he was unanimously appointed.**

Steve Donahue has volunteered to serve on the Board of Assessment Appeals. **Selectman Grindle moved to appoint Steve Donahue to the Board of Assessment Appeals. Selectman Tillinghast seconded the appointment, and it passed unanimously.**

First Selectman Cahill moved to appoint Fran Gustavesen as alternate on the Board of Finance. Selectman Grindle seconded the appointment, and the appointment was unanimously approved.

First Selectman Cahill reminded all who were appointed they needed to be sworn in by the town clerk before they could act on any board business.

9. Board/Committee/Commission Minutes/reports for review: None

10. Old Business: None.

11. New Business

A. Rental Agreement with Mennonite Community for the Lower Level: First Selectman Cahill presented the board with the renewal agreement for the Community's use of the Lower Level of the town hall. It is essentially the same agreement with dates retroactive to January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. Selectmen briefly discussed the use of the space and terms. **Selectman Grindle moved to approve the new agreement with the Mennonite Community. The motion was seconded by Selectman Tillinghast, and it passed unanimously.**

B. Fin, Fur, Feather Club Request: The Fin, Fur, and Feather Club has requested to Town consider their application to establish a preserve on property they own on Drain St. A question on the preserve application includes a statement regarding hunting on the property. Mr. Halloran and Mr. Jones of the FFF club were in attendance to explain the question and answer questions. After a brief discussion of the process, the selectmen declined to move forward with the request.

C. 2025 STEAP Applications: Edwin Teale Audubon Trail Woods, So. Bigelow Repave:

Sarah Hemmingway was in attendance to request using a portion of Hampton's STEAP grant to improve Trail Woods. It is her intent to build a small welcome center that can provide learning experiences and information to visitors. She does have a match from donors to help defray her costs. She is requesting an application of \$350,000. Selectman Cahill noted the STEAP grant is open to applications that help build the town's community. Ms. Hemmingway commented the Audubon Society also received a small grant from EVERSOURCE from the Neighborhood Assistance Grant Program which provides tax incentives to C-Corporation businesses to fund requests.

First Selectman Cahill also noted the town would like to use the grant opportunity to repave Windham Road. He and DPW foreman Don Sholes are considering how much a Windham Road to repave. He would like to run the entire length of the road, but is considering a smaller portion depending on the final cost. The town also has matching funds to offset the final cost.

Selectman Grindle moved to approve the STEAP application for \$500,000 for Windham Road repave, and a STEAP application of \$350,000 for the Edwin Teale Audubon Preserve. Selectman Tillinghast seconded the motion to approve applications for the STEAP applications. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Start Budget Discussion: Nothing yet to present, the budget requests are starting to trickle in. First Selectman Cahill and DPW foreman are working on the DPW budget, Mr. Cahill also went to HES and they are presenting a 3% COLA increase and Mr. Cahill thought the town could do the same. As for capital expenses, he is investigating a road tractor and mower.

12. Audience for Citizens: Steve Donahue added questions he would ask the board to consider regarding shooter population when thinking about pheasant hunting.

Selectman Grindle moved to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Selectman Tillinghast seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson
Administrative Assistant