

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE PRECINCT  
MEETING  
November 9, 2011**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner  
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner  
Gary Kubik, Commissioner  
Steve LaBranche, Treasurer

Chairman Rage called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Fireworks

Chairman Rage explained the fireworks schedule.

Kristen, Shawn Connors and Rob LaVoise of RS Fireworks gave a presentation on their company.

Kristen said they were very excited to put in a proposal. Their company is based in Hudson, NH and has been in business for eight years. Mr. Connors said they want to bring an excitement to the shows with more of a Disney theme which would be very unique and special. Mr. Connors spoke about the shows they have done and said they do 50-60 shows per year. RS Fireworks has a 100% safety record. Mr. Connors said he felt they could deliver a much better show than what has been at the beach in the past. RS hand selects every show, designs every show and is present at every show.

Chairman Rage asked if there would be any problem with the Friday rain dates if needed. Mr. Connors said it would not be a problem.

Mr. Connors said for first time customers there would be a \$5,500 show for \$3,500 for the first year.

Chairman Rage asked where the shells come from. Mr. Connors said they use Italian, Japanese and Spanish shells.

Kristen said they have a "No Dead Sky" policy. The only pause would be three to four seconds before a major display. Commissioner Kubik said the Precinct is looking for an intense 15-minute show.

Commissioner Buckley asked if RS does musical coordination. Mr. Connors said it could be done.

Ms. Buckley said coordination with the Fire Department is necessary. Mr. Connors said they would respect all Fire Department guidelines.

Chairman Rage thanked RS Fireworks for their fine presentation.

Gene Raynor from Pyrotechnico came forward. He gave a history of the company. They are all over the country and in the last year have had a presence in New Hampshire. The company is family-owned and 120 years old. There are 12 design offices across the country and they also work in the Caribbean and Europe. They can address all budget ranges and venues. Special effects can also be offered (fog, flames, etc.).

Mr. Raynor said all of their technicians are fully certified and well trained. Safety is a top priority and they have a great record. Mr. Raynor discussed the many awards the company has won. He said the company provides full service and assists with permitting.

Mr. Raynor asked what was the most important part of the display for the Precinct. Chairman Rage said it is a little bit of everything – tourist draw and enhancement of the businesses. Chairman Rage asked if there would be any problem with the Friday rain dates. Mr. Raynor said it would not be a problem. Mr. Raynor asked if \$3,500 was the range wanted. Chairman Rage said the Precinct would like to stay in that range.

Mr. Raynor said the shows could be musical and they could utilize rope lighting and cryojets to set off mini fog. The Precinct could choose the music for every show.

Chairman Rage thanked Mr. Raynor for his fine presentation.

### **Hampton Chamber of Commerce**

Doc Noel, President of the Chamber, and Dean Merrill, Chairman of the Board, came forward. Mr. Noel discussed and presented the publication “Tidings”. This publication has a great deal of information about the beach. This was done in-house and the Chamber is very proud of it.

Mr. Merrill said it has been an interesting year with all of the construction. It was also a good year. All of the events were very successful. During the year approximately 30,000 people came to the Chamber office for information. 35,000 Vacation Guides were printed and 10,000 were mailed, many to Canada.

Mr. Merrill said the Chamber has had a good relationship with the Precinct and they are trying to build bridges between the Town, the State, the Precinct and the Chamber.

Mr. Merrill said he had spoken to DRED last week. No decision has been made on fees. Chairman Rage asked if DRED has said anything about a Memorandum of Understanding regarding fees. Mr. Merrill said they have not. Mr. Noel said it is important to point out that this is not just a beach Chamber. It is a State of NH Visitors Center. Richard Reniere,

29 Highland Ave., asked how many members of the Chamber are from the Precinct. Mr. Noel said approximately 35% are from the Precinct.

### **Beautification**

Linda Gebhart said the water has been turned off on all garden locations. Meters were taken out. The Committee has been working on bulbs and the cleaning up of gardens.

The Grandmaisons rock is in place. Ms. Gebhart thanked Vic Lessard and Ed St. Pierre for their help.

Ms. Gebhart thanked everyone who helped with the Haunted Firehouse. It was a huge success. Ms. Gebhart said this event was funded privately.

Ms. Gebhart said Mary LaMontagne gave her a check for \$400 for flowers that would be in memory of Diana LaMontagne. Ms. Gebhart presented the receipts for her purchases.

Chairman Rage said when money is donated it has to go into the Beautification account. However, he made it clear that Ms. Gebhart did not do anything wrong as she was unaware of this.

Mr. LaBranche explained that once money ends up in the budget, distribution can be changed according to need.

Commissioner Kubik congratulated Ms. Gebhart on the success of the Haunted Firehouse and thanked her for all the work she does.

Geannina Scanlan said she did not like the fact that donations to the Beautification Committee would go into the revenue section of the budget, which goes to Culture & Recreation. Mr. LaBranche said this is how the budgeting process works. He suggested the creation of a non-profit so this could be avoided.

Mr. LaBranche discussed the motion passed last month that the garage revenues will be applied to all expenses in order to set the tax rate for exempt and non-exempt taxpayers. He said he has now found out that this has to be approved through legislation and the annual meeting as well.

Ed St. Pierre said if he wanted to donate money for flowers at the beach, he would never write a check to the Precinct and have it go into a general revenue fund. Mr. St. Pierre said he would be in favor of a non-profit.

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Kubik said he has not yet made a call to take the banners down and asked if there were enough funds to do this. Chairman Rage said there were and the banners should be taken down for the winter.

Mr. LaBranche said there is an unanticipated bill coming in and it is important to watch the bottom line at this time. The Commissioners should be consulted before any money is spent.

Mr. LaBranche said he received a letter from Assessor Ed Tinker regarding exemption forms. Mr. Tinker would like permission from the Commissioners to add a new category on the form below the space for "Name". This category would be "E-Mail Address". Filling in this information would be optional.

**Moved** by Commissioner Buckley, seconded by Commissioner Kubik, to allow the Assessor to add a new category, "E-Mail Address", to the exemption form. This would be noted as optional.

**Vote:** 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

Chairman Rage said he is meeting with John Nyhan, Hampton Beach Area Commission, regarding the stage opening. The goal is to get some type of sponsorship.

Chairman Rage said Sacred Heart School has some playground equipment worth \$2,000 that they can no longer use. They are willing to give it to the Precinct for a donation of \$275.

**Moved** by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to make a donation of \$275 to Sacred Heart School for playground equipment to be transferred to the Precinct.

**Vote:** 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Scanlan said she has one year left as a member of the Hampton Beach Area Commission and she has been asked if she intends to continue as a member. She said that she will continue.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Moved** by Commissioner Buckley, seconded by Commissioner Kubik, to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2011.

**Vote:** 3-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

June White discussed the motion passed last month about the garage revenues. Mr. LaBranche again explained that he had originally been told by DAR that a motion passed by the Precinct Commissioners would suffice. Now the DAR is saying otherwise. Chairman Rage said this will be sent to the Precinct Counsel for review.

Ms. White said Greg Grady did not have a contract this past year. Chairman Rage said he had a verbal contract. Mr. LaBranche said he received a call from Mr. Grady yesterday. There is some money he owes the Precinct which he will immediately pay. Mr. LaBranche suggested a formal contract for next year so there would be no misunderstandings.

Ed St. Pierre showed a sample of part of the bench to be dedicated to Jack Knox. Mr. LaBranche asked Mr. St. Pierre to hold off until the amount of the bill for the tent is known.

**Closing Comments**

Chairman Rage thanked all veterans for everything they have done for our country and wished all a happy Veterans Day.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice  
Secretary