

**HAMPTON BEACH VILLAGE DISTRICT
MEETING
February 10, 2016**

Present

Chuck Rage, Chairman & Commissioner
Maureen Buckley, Commissioner
Robert Ladd, Commissioner
Stephen LaBranche, Treasurer

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Chairman Rage called for a Moment of Silence for Charlotte Preston who recently passed away. Charlotte was a much loved matriarch of Hampton.

Sand Sculpture Competition

Greg Grady discussed the 16th annual Master Sand Sculpture competition. Dates planned are as follows:

Drop sand on June 10th
Competition to take place on June 16th, 17th and 18th
Awards on June 18th
Sand out on July 5th

Mr. Grady thanked the Village District for their support.

Mr. Grady said the competition brings around 15,000 visitors to the beach. If each visitor spends \$25-\$30, that generates \$450,000 for local businesses.

Mr. Grady said there are some increases in the budget. He said he would like to do a 3-year contract so he can lock in sponsors. The contract would be as follow:

2016 - \$75,400
2017 - \$78,400
2018 - \$81,500

This would include everything from the sand drop to the sand removal.

Last year \$38,000 worth of sponsorship was brought in. Mr. Grady said he could increase the level of this with a 3-year contract. Doing the contract year by year means not doing anything about sponsors until after the annual meeting in March. This is much too late as it should begin in November of the previous year.

Commissioner Ladd noted that the numbers noted amount to 4% increase. Chairman Rage said he felt 3-1/2% would be fair. Mr. Grady said he would agree to that.

Commissioner Buckley said she wanted assurance that the theme would be “family friendly”.

Mr. LaBranche said he understands Mr. Grady’s concerns about sponsors because companies plan way ahead on their expenditures.

Moved by Chairman Rage, seconded by Commissioner Ladd, to increase the sand sculpture budget by 3-1/2% for one year and give an answer about the next two years at the August meeting.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Police Department

Chief Richard Sawyer discussed the contracts for patrolmen and sergeants. He said this is very important in order to retain officers. Many go to other towns for higher pay. He said both the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee have approved these contracts. He urged residents to support this.

Chief Sawyer discussed a citizens sponsored petition (Article 42) to prevent closure of roads in Hampton for charity events, races, etc. He said the authority for this actually belongs to the BOS.

Chairman Rage said a great deal of money is brought to the Town by charitable organizations. If these races were banned, there would be a large economic impact to the hotels and restaurants in the Town. It is necessary to work with residents to lessen the impact of the street closures, not ban the races.

Fire Department

Chief Jamie Ayotte discussed the contracts for the Fire Department. He said this increase is very important in order to preserve exceptional service to the Town. Like the Police Department, they have employees doing jobs that command higher pay in other towns. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee have approved these contracts.

Chief Ayotte discussed another warrant article moving the position of Fire Prevention Secretary from part-time to full time. This person does a lot and in order to service public customers, the position needs to have more hours. This person handles the scheduling of all inspections. Fees from inspections brought in \$21,000 to the Town in 2015. The Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee support this article.

Department of Public Works

Jen Hale discussed the scope of work done by the DPW.

Ms. Hale discussed the sewer bond article. This will include an emergency generator for the aeration tanks. This is EPA required. Presently there is no backup power. They have a grant from Homeland Security for \$100,000 to go towards this improvement. This article is for \$2,000,000 and will include the generator, valve replacements, internal yard piping improvements, a septic receiving system and a wash down facility.

Chairman Rage asked what will happen if this article doesn't pass. Ms. Hale said maintenance costs will increase and there is a risk of failures.

Mr. LaBranche said this article is bonded for 20 years. This is very affordable to do right now. Mr. LaBranche said he supports this article.

Ms. Hale discussed the problem of finding a high fecal content in shellfish. Work is being done to resolve this issue.

Annual Meeting

Richard Reniere, HBVD Moderator, discussed the Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on March 25th at the Fire Station. Voting will be from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and the meeting to vote on warrant articles will begin at 7:00 p.m. Residents will vote for the following positions:

- Commissioner (3 years)
- Moderator (1 year)
- Clerk (1 year)
- Treasurer (1 year)
- Supervisor of the Checklist (3 years)

Mr. Reniere said the filing period for any of these positions is February 10-19. Warrant articles must be submitted by February 23rd.

Voter requirements are a valid photo ID, domicile in the Village District and registration in the Village District.

Old Business

There was no Old Business

New Business

There was no New Business.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Ladd, seconded by Commissioner Buckley, to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2016 as amended.

Vote: 3 yes, 0 no. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Charlie Preston said the bill for the State Park plates came out of the Senate committee with a positive vote of 5-0.

Eileen Daboul said she felt some type of plaque should be made in honor of Charlotte Preston. Chairman Rage said they are already looking into that.

Closing Comments

There were no closing comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Rice
Secretary