

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
March 10, 2003 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: James A. Workman, Chairman, Brian C. Warburton, Bonnie B. Searle,
Virginia Bridle, William Sullivan
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge was led by Nancy Rineman

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Town Election

Mr. Sullivan announced that the Professional Firefighters of Hampton are offering rides to the polls, anyone interested may call 926-1897 or 531-0111.

Mrs. Searle cautioned voters to remember that there are three ballots, with articles on both sides of some of them.

Mrs. Bridle announced that the local food pantries are still in dire need of non-perishable food items.

Mrs. Searle told the Board that it has been no secret that she has been putting up and maintaining signs for the Open Space article and she is very disappointed to see that people are ripping the signs up and throwing them on the ground. She noted that one candidate was seen taking down a sign and using the same hole to put up their own sign. Mrs. Searle said that with this type of activity she is glad she is not running this year. Mrs. Searle said that some candidates have no respect for town property and are putting their signs up on town property and private property without permission. Mrs. Searle cautioned the public that it is against the law for anybody, other than a town code enforcement official, to touch, move or remove any political sign. Mr. Sullivan asked if it was just the Open Space signs that she has seen the problem with. Mrs. Searle said that she had heard from another candidate that their sign had been moved.

Mr. Sullivan said that it was his hope that there is a good turnout for the election as there are several important items to consider.

Mrs. Searle thanked the public for the confidence they have shown in supporting her for six years, and while she admits she has been on the losing side of some votes, and there have been a lot of 4-1 votes that have been a joke; she is not ashamed and has never sold out to anyone or any cause and voted with her head. Mrs. Searle said that she will always stand up for what she believes. Mrs. Searle said that when she never gave much thought to what happens when she leaves office, but said that it has been an absolute honor to sit as a Selectmen in Hampton for six years and it has meant a lot to her. It has provided her with many new friends and memories that will be cherished for a lifetime. Mrs. Searle said that she hopes Hampton can find a way to continue to grow without forcing people out for financial reasons; it is a huge concern for her and a lot of people. She has confidence that the town will survive and she has appreciated being a part of the process for so many years.

Rotary Auction

Mr. Warburton commended the Hampton Rotary for the annual auction, noting that he found the Internet portion very easy to do.

Junior High Mystery Theater

Mr. Warburton announced that the Junior High Drama club will be presenting a mystery dinner theater on March 20 – 22 at the Hampton Academy Junior High.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington thanked the many people that took part in the Rotary Auction. He noted that his beard was removed as a result of a fund-raiser for polio eradication.

Marston School Traffic

Mr. Barrington reminded voters and parents of Marston School students that the school is open on election day and parents are to drop students off on High Street, adjacent to Marston Way. The teachers and faculty will be parking at Hobbs House and busses will be using Hobbs Road. The parking lot and Marston Way will be used for the voters. Candidates are asked to park off site.

Rescue Boat

Mr. Barrington reported that the hull is completed on the rescue boat and Winninghoff has reported good progress on the construction.

Stormwater Notice of Intent

The Stormwater Compliance Act - Notice of Intent documents arrived today and will be reviewed before being mailed to the EPA on Tuesday.

NRC Safety Report

Mr. Barrington announced that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will be holding an assessment of the Seabrook Station's safety evaluation next Monday, March 17th. Mr. Barrington said he will be requesting a staff member to attend.

Town Center Lighting

Mr. Sullivan told the Board that he has asked Mr. Barrington to inquire of Unitil if some different light bulbs could be put in the lights in the town square to see if it could be brightened up some. Mrs. Searle said she thought Unitil had changed some fixtures in areas of town to improve lighting. She agrees that the lighting in the center should be improved.

Political Signs

Mrs. Searle asked if candidates have 24 or 48 hours to remove political signs after the election. Mr. Barrington confirmed that signs have to be removed within 24 hours.

Police Facility

Mrs. Searle asked if there are plans for the new police "palace". Mr. Barrington said that the draft wetlands permit has been delivered and will be submitted to the State within the week. The final building plans are being finished up. Mr. Barrington noted that Attorney Gearreald will be reviewing the contractual documents and there will be a pre-qualification process for the bidders. Mrs. Searle said wetlands applications generally have the plans included. Mr. Barrington said that the site plan is complete, what is not complete are the interior details.

Local Military Personnel

Mrs. Searle said that a few weeks ago she brought up the suggestion that the town honor those local individuals that have been called to serve our country in this war on terrorism. She has had some military people say they thought it was a good idea, and she had read that the city of Laconia is honoring the men and women in their town by setting up a fund to help families. Mrs. Searle said that she will not be on the Board but feels that the Town would be absolutely derelict if something is not done to honor these people who are serving. Mrs. Bridle said that, at that same meeting she asked neighbors to watch for ways they may be able to assist their neighbors that may have been called to duty. She noted that the neighbors are the ones that will know who has gone, and the town can't do anything unless people come forward. Mr. Sullivan said that we all need to pray they all come home safe. Mr. Sullivan said that the American Legion or other retired military residents may come forward to put something together.

Truck Bid

Mrs. Searle said she appreciated seeing the invitation to bid for the dump truck for the recreation department, but in reviewing it didn't find any reference to the fact that it was a lease/purchase with an escape clause. Mr. Barrington explained that the financing is a separate process to insure that the best financing is obtained. He added that in recent years, the town has found better leasing rates with banks, rather than with dealerships. Mrs. Searle asked if the budget item for the second year payment is removed, who gets the truck. Mr. Barrington said that the banks have governmental leases with escape clauses and if voters do not approve subsequent payments, the bank gets the vehicle and recoups their costs.

Political Signs

Mrs. Bridle asked if, for the next election, there can be a sheet handed out to candidates with the regulations regarding signs. Mrs. Bridle said that there is one group of candidates that appeared not to know the rules. Mr. Workman said that when a candidate signed the sign regulations were included with the informational packet.

V. NEW BUSINESSMill Pond Dam

Mrs. Searle said she came across a January 13th letter from the Department of Environmental Services about the old Mill Pond Dam, pointing out that it had been breached since 1980 and needed to be corrected. Mrs. Searle asked if the town was doing anything about that. Mr. Barrington said he recalls that it had been considered unsafe in the past and the town had decided to breach the dam so it would not remain a hazard. Mrs. Searle said that she looked at the area last summer and thought it was all grown in. This letter says that it needs to be maintained and the level of water is to be drawn down in the Fall. She asked if the town does anything like that. Mr. Barrington said that he does not believe it does. Mr. Barrington will review the letter and determine if any action is required.

VI. MINUTES

The minutes of March 3, 2003 were reviewed with no changes made.

Recognitions

Mr. Warburton said that as Vice Chairman for 2002-2003 he is proud to present gifts to two selectmen. He pointed out that Mrs. Searle came on the board in 1997, but the work she was involved in began in 1996 with the adoption of SB 2. In 1997, when she and Fred Rice came on the board it was a 13-month term and the voters came forward in strong numbers as a result of the new system Mrs. Searle worked hard to put in place. Mr. Warburton said that in her own right, and he has certainly been in disagreement with her for 6 years, she has worked hard for her causes and for the town. He noted that Henry Thoreau wrote about the "majority of one", and said that the Board should never forget that a person represents a set of values and views that they bring forth to any board. A gift certificate was presented to her. Mrs. Searle said she holds no ill will toward anybody and the pleasure has been all hers.

Mr. Warburton told the Board that he met Mr. Workman in 1997 when he was elected to the Planning Board, and commended him on the great job he did on that Board. Mr. Warburton said that for the past three years Mr. Workman has shown that he is a class individual, with a character of the highest level, and really cares about the community. The Board presented Chairman Workman with a gavel. Mr. Workman thanked the Board and the public and said that it has been a very fast three years. He said his term has been very educational and entertaining and he wouldn't give it up for anything in the world.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Warburton MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (7:45 PM)

Mrs. Searle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman

