

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
March 17, 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

**Swearing in of Elected Officials**

Town Clerk Arleen Andreozzi swore in the following elected officials: Selectman – Cliff Pratt, Jim Workman; Library Trustees – Sara Casassa, Barbara Rallis; Planning Board – Tracy Emerick; Municipal Budget Committee – Michael Plouffe, Patrick Collins, Maurice Friedman, Jean Boudreau; Zoning Board of Adjustment – Michael Kennedy.

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge was led by Gerry McConnell

**REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Warburton be appointed Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.  
**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED** **VOTE: 4 FOR**  
**1 ABSTAIN (Warburton)**

**Mr. Warburton MOTIONED** that Mrs. Bridle be appointed Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.  
**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED** **VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Warburton thanked the Board of Selectmen for their support.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mr. Workman thanked the voters for coming out and supporting a lot of important articles.

Mr. Sullivan thanked the voters and agreed that it will be a good year. Mr. Sullivan noted that the President will be on television later this evening and asked God to bless all of the US citizens and soldiers.

Mrs. Bridle congratulated newly elected Hampton School Board members Nancy Serpis and John Bridle and Sue Kepner was congratulated on her re-election to the WHS School Board.

**III. APPOINTEMENTS**

1. Mr. Robert Estey, Assessor

Mr. Estey presented the regular, elderly, veterans, and sewer abatements for 2002.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the regular abatements for 2002 in the amount \$3,954.26.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED** **VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the elderly and veteran's exemptions in the amount of \$9,124.70.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED** **VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen approve the sewer abatements in the amount of \$55,633.77.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED** **VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Special Consideration – Sewer Abatement

Mr. Estey presented a request for special consideration for a sewer abatement at 428 High Street. He explained that sewer is available, but it is level to the street and would require a pump system. Mr. Workman said that because the sewer is available he would vote to deny the abatement. Mr. Sullivan noted that there are other properties that sit back from the street and/or need special pumps to tie in that have been denied abatements. Mrs. Bridle said that if he is not hooked up to the sewer he should be entitled to the abatement. Mr. Estey explained that the abatement is for properties where the sewer is not available, although the Selectmen have authorized waivers on a couple of occasions, such as one that was approved a few years ago for a property on Huckleberry Lane, before the road was completed.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** to deny the sewer abatement for 428 High Street.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR  
1 OPPOSED (Bridle)**

Mr. Estey told the Board that his office has received two or three late applications as of today.

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** to deny late sewer abatement filings.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Historic Barn Tax Incentive Program

Mr. Estey told the Board that a new statute has been passed, RSA 79-D which allows a property owner to convey a discretionary preservation easement of a historic agricultural structure to the town, in exchange for a reduced assessment. He explained that if an owner has a historic barn or other agricultural structure, they may apply to the Board of Selectmen, prior to April 15<sup>th</sup>, for a discretionary easement, providing the structure provides a public benefit such as a scenic view. The owner must agree to maintain the structure in keeping with its historic integrity. The Board of Selectmen must hold a public hearing to consider the applications and decide if they wish to accept the discretionary easement. The easement shall be for a minimum of 10 years. The method of the assessment and renewal terms need to be included in the easement. Mr. Estey told the Board that the method of assessment shall fall within a range which shall be no more than 75% of the full value and no less than 25% of the full value, and that is determined by the Board of Selectmen after the hearing. Mr. Estey said that he has already received one application, and a public hearing will need to be held after the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Mr. Pratt asked if that included barns, even when attached to a house. Mr. Estey said that the barn can be attached to a house, but just the value of the barn is adjusted.

State Assessment Certification

Mr. Estey reminded the Board that this is Hampton’s certification year and the process will begin in April, with the town learning if they are certified in March, 2004. He said that in preparation of the certification process there will be a meeting between the State and the Town and he requested that the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen Chairman or other Selectman representative attend that meeting.

Mr. Sullivan noted that the article for funding the re-measure/re-list failed and asked if the work is mandated to be done, regardless of the funding. Mr. Estey explained that part of the 2003 certification process includes the State examining a random sample of 200 properties to determine the accuracy of the assessments, and if the State sees that they were not very accurate, they will issue a conditional certification and will force the town to do a re-measure /re-list. If Hampton passes the certification they may not require the re-measure/re-list. Mr. Estey said that the last time that was done was 1988 and by the next certification cycle it will be 20 years. Mr. Sullivan said that he would be surprised if too much gets by Mr. Estey. Mr. Estey said that if work is done without a building permit it can get by him.

Mr. Sullivan told Mr. Estey that the Board has received a request from a resident for a projected tax rate based on what has passed this year, and he asked if it would be at all accurate based on the revaluation. Mr. Estey said that he anticipates the tax rate will decrease by about 24%, based on the reciprocal increase in the property valuations. He added that he does not have the information to be able to anticipate the tax rate at this time.

2. Mrs. Ellen Lavin, Town Treasurer

Mrs. Lavin requested permission from the Board of Selectmen to borrow a line of credit through Citizen's Bank in the amount of \$4 Million Dollars at 1.60% in anticipation of taxes. She explained that she usually needs to borrow in May and it is paid back in June. Last year she borrowed \$1 Million. Mrs. Lavin noted that she will also need Attorney Gearreald's consent.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of taxes through a line of credit at Citizen's Bank at the rate of 1.60%.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington expressed his appreciation to the voters for coming to the polls and for their generosity. He noted that the town has a full plate of projects for the coming year. Ongoing projects that will be carried over for completion include revising the parking ordinance for the High Street parking lot, revising the sewer ordinance and the easement at Depot Square around Marelli Park.

New projects that will be getting underway include the beach infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Barrington said that he will be working with Mr. Hangen on this, and early discussions have included the possibility of utilizing a design-build process for this project. Mr. Barrington said that coordination with the utilities will begin as soon as possible. The timing of the issuance of the bonds will be looked at, considering both the low interest rates and the two-year arbitrage rule.

The Kings Highway sewer extension, together with the sewer main from the beach and the update of the 201 Facilities Plan will probably proceed a little faster than the beach infrastructure project. He noted that the project will be SRF eligible and the scope of the project should result in fewer "moving parts" to complicate the matter. That project will remove the final area of town under a sewer moratorium.

##### Police Facility

Jeff McElravy, the architect with Kaestle Boos, has reported that the biddable documents are expected to be ready by March 21; however they will not be sent out until the comments are back on the DES permit applications. Mr. Barrington said that he will be having Attorney Gearreald review the bid document for contractual language before it goes out.

##### Cave Building

Mr. Barrington said that he will be meeting with Ms. Lassonde next week to begin developing a schedule for the new Cave Building.

##### Eel Ditch

An RFP for the Eel Ditch engineering will need to be prepared so an engineer can be selected for that work.

##### Special Revenue Funds

Finance Director Dawna Duhamel has set up accounts for the new special revenue funds, and after discussions with her, Ellen Lavin, and Chief Wrenn the Forfeiture funds will be transferred to the new account under the custody of Treasurer Lavin.

##### Police Facility Time Frame

Mr. Workman asked what the estimated time frame for the police facility is, assuming the second permit application is in the mail this week. Mr. Barrington said that they expect the permits to be received in about six weeks, and he would expect the bid process to take 3-4 weeks, with ground breaking somewhere around the end of June. Mr. Barrington extended special thanks to the Legislative Delegation in helping shepherd the applications through the state process. Mrs. Bridle expressed concern with the timing of the

work at the beach. Mrs. Bridle said that she hoped that the groundbreaking is in June and she hopes she does not hear about a 6-8 week delay. Mrs. Bridle added that she thinks it is hard to think about a new building when the last one approved hasn't started.

Sewer Work

Mrs. Bridle asked if the Kings Highway and Ashworth Avenue sewer work will be done during June, July or August. Mr. Barrington said that he would expect that the work will be scheduled around the busy season, with the least disruption as possible, however there will be a short time frame for the work to be done.

Mrs. Bridle asked that the town work with the downtown merchants to provide as few disruptions as possible during the railroad bridge reconstruction, noting the difficult conditions they have had for a few years.

Gazebo

Mrs. Bridle asked when the gazebo will be turned over to the town. Mr. Barrington said that he understands that there is still an outstanding bill that is being negotiated through the Chamber of Commerce and as soon as that is taken care of the gazebo will be turned over to the town.

Adopt-A-Spot Locations

Mrs. Bridle noted that some of the Adopt-a-Spot locations appear to be using their own signs again. She asked that there be some follow-up in this by the Recreation Department.

Road Construction

Mr. Pratt said that the road construction schedules that were used for Route One and Highland Avenue worked very well and he suggested that something similar be done for the Ashworth Avenue and Kings Highway projects. Mr. Warburton agreed that the schedule worked well. Mr. Sullivan said that type of schedule could even help the pricing, as contractors like to be able to keep their crews working in the off-season.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Collective Bargaining Agreements

Mr. Warburton thanked the voters for supporting the union contracts for the six collective bargaining units in town. He noted that a lot of teamwork and effort went into getting these excellent contracts in place. Mr. Sullivan said that the voters shared the Board thoughts and supported all of the contracts. Mr. Warburton commended the fine town employees and noted that around the State he always hears good things about Hampton's employees.

The Board signed all of the contracts.

Assignment of Board of Selectmen Representatives to Boards and Committees

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that Mr. Sullivan be the Selectman representative to the Planning Board.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Sullivan)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Pratt be the alternate Selectmen Member of the Planning Board.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Pratt)**

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that Mr. Warburton be the Board's representative to the Heritage Commission.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Warburton)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Pratt be the alternate to the Heritage Commission.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Pratt)**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that Mrs. Bridle be the Boards representative to the Budget Committee.

Mrs. Bridle said that she will be late to the meetings in March, April and May, and if the Board of Selectmen was OK with that, she would continue as the representative.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that Mr. Sullivan be the alternate to the Budget Committee.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Sullivan)**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that Mr. Sullivan be the Board's representative to the Cable Committee.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Sullivan)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Workman be the alternate to Cable Committee.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Workman)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Pratt be the representative to the Recreation Advisory Counsel.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Pratt)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Warburton be the alternate to Recreation Advisory Counsel.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Warburton)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Warburton be the Selectmen's Representative on the Capital Improvements Plan Committee.

**Mr. Workman SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Warburton)**

**Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED** that Mr. Workman be the alternate to the Capital Improvements Plan Committee.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Workman)**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that Mr. Warburton continue as the Selectmen's Representative to the Insurance Review Committee.

**Mr. Sullivan SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Warburton)**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that Mr. Workman represent the Board on the Master Plan Interim Committee.

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: 4 FOR**

**1 ABSTAIN (Workman)**

Certificate of Appreciation

Mr. Warburton said that he asked to have this certificate prepared, and while they are usually done just for town employees, this is a special circumstance for a person retiring from Unutil after 35 years since the town has had such a good relationship with Unutil.

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the Board sign the certificate for presentation to Mr. Michael Dalton.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Warrant Articles

Mr. Sullivan said that he wanted to discuss two of the warrant articles that failed; Article 28 for the fire station study and Article 59 regarding police road details. Mr. Sullivan said that he hopes to see a warrant article for the building of a fire station on the warrant in 2004, and although the money for the study failed he would like to see recommendations come forward to the board in regard to replacing the station at the beach before next year. He said that the Board promised that there would be a station in the Precinct District. Mr. Sullivan said that he thinks much of the intent of Article 59 was good and he would like to see the Town Manager and Police Chief watch road construction projects and have police officers on jobs where they feel they are needed.

Voting

Mr. Pratt said that after watching the voting process this year, he feels that the town has to do a better job on the logistics of voting day. He pointed out that by the time people got to vote they were not happy about the parking situation and the length of the ballot. Mr. Pratt said that a long ballot is not giving all of the articles a fair chance. Mr. Warburton agreed and said that if you removed the contact articles and the special revenue fund articles, the Board of Selectmen was responsible for 16 articles. The Planning Board had 17 articles. Mrs. Bridle said that the Planning Board should be asked to limit zoning articles to five per year.

Mr. Pratt said that the parking arrangements need to be looked at, and noted that some vehicles circled the parking lot five times looking for a space and then said forget it and left without voting. Mrs. Bridle noted that the poll workers, Moderator's staff and some candidates were parked in the lot all day. Mr. Sullivan said that the town tried for a second polling place a few years ago, but it did not pass. Mr. Sullivan noted that the lighting in the booths made it difficult to see the ballot and he suggested looking at stringing some additional lights for the booths. Mr. Workman said that as you came out of the building at night, the exit was dark. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that part of the parking problem this year was due to the amount of snow this winter. Mr. Warburton said that he would like to have the Moderator come in and discuss the second polling place again. Mrs. Bridle said that her number one priority next year is going to be the WHS addition.

FEMA Reimbursement

Mr. Barrington reported that the February 17<sup>th</sup> snowstorm has been declared an emergency for Rockingham County and there will be some reimbursement available for some of the town's costs through FEMA.

EPA Order

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he has received the official notice of violation of the copper limits for the wastewater treatment plant. This notice was expected and now that it is official the town will have some additional reporting standards and requirements.

Agenda Procedures

Mr. Warburton clarified agenda procedures for 2003, explaining that he will discuss the agenda with Mr. Barrington each Thursday, after the agenda closes. Public comment will be allowed at the end of the meetings, limited to 5 minutes each, to only discuss matters that were handled at that meeting.

**VI. MINUTES**

The minutes of March 10, 2003 were reviewed with no changes made.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. (8:30 PM)

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman

