

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
December 15, 2003 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brian C. Warburton, Chairman,
William Sullivan, Cliff Pratt, James Workman
James Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Pratt led the audience in the salute to the flag.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Pratt congratulated our troops on a job well done.

Road Conditions

Mr. Sullivan said that there may be a lot of complaints about the condition of the town roads today, but he wanted to commend the crews for doing a great job because this was a difficult storm to clean up after. Mr. Barrington noted that there was no trash collection today and the crews will try to catch up during the remainder of the week. The High Street Parking lot will be cleared tonight between the hours of 9:00 PM and Midnight. The lot will be closed and any cars parked in the lot will be towed in conjunction with the new ordinance.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Fire Department Budget

Mr. Barrington stated that Chief Lipe refreshed his memory on the question of where he found the money for the architectural work on the fire station. The bids received for the communications upgrade for the fire station came in much lower than had originally been anticipated. Consequently, there was enough money remaining to fund the architectural contract.

Town Luncheon

The annual employee Christmas party will be noon – 1:30 on Wednesday, December 17. The Town Office will be closed during that time.

Long Term Disability Insurance

Mr. Barrington reported that he is preparing an RFP package for group disability income insurance for non-union employees.

Ambulance

Mr. Barrington told the Board that bids were opened for a new ambulance, with some very competitive bids received. The information is being reviewed by the fire department and the Board will be kept advised on the progress of that process. The plan is to purchase the ambulance through the special revenue fund.

Land Acquisition Article – Exeter Road Bridge

The Town Manager told the Board that the meeting in Concord for the historical review of the property around the Exeter Road Railroad Bridge was very informative. Due to some of the details of real estate transactions, he would like to discuss these latest developments with the Board in a non-public meeting under “land acquisition” or with Attorney Gearreald as a non-meeting. There are some other legal issues Attorney Gearreald would like to review with the Board.

Mr. Pratt asked if the trees have been trimmed in the High Street parking lot. Mr. Barrington said that the weather delayed that work until this week.

The Board recessed into a non-meeting with Attorney Gearreald from 7:10 PM to 7:30 PM

Land Acquisition Article – Exeter Road Bridge

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen not go forward with an article on the 2004 warrant for land acquisition associated with the reconstruction of the Exeter Road bridge.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Amending Revenue Ordinance

The Board reviewed the proposed fee changes that were presented at the public hearing last week. Mr. Pratt said that he is a big proponent of these but feels Mr. Plouffe had some valid points. Mr. Barrington said that he understands Mr. Plouffe's concerns and said that Mr. Hangen did a survey that shows that the \$300 sewer hook-up fee is not out of line with area towns although it appears that Seabrook is the only other town with a fee for locating the service. Mr. Pratt said that he would be willing to drop that \$40 fee, and have the sewer hookup fee increased from \$100 to \$125.00. Mr. Pratt said that all other towns charge more than Hampton does for a hook-up. Mr. Sullivan said that these are user fees that help fund the particular function that most of the residents are not using. The Board of Selectmen agreed to eliminate the \$40 charge for locating sewers and increasing the sewer hookup fee to \$125.00.

Mr. Workman asked about the proposed increase for violations for parking in a handicapped parking space. Mr. Barrington said that Chief Wrenn has concerns going to \$100 because of the collection problems that would likely occur. The Board agreed to increase that fine from \$50 to \$75.

The parking violations will take effect on February 1 and all other fees will be increased as of January 1, 2004.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept the fee changes as amended.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Pratt noted that this will increase the town's revenue approximately \$190,000.

Warrant Article for Tax Increment District

Mr. Warburton said that he discussed the article for the establishment of a Tax Increment District with Mr. Rice and he understands that the proposed article would only authorize the establishment of a TIF, not actually create it. Mr. Sullivan asked if it would create a taxing district within a taxing district. Mr. Barrington said that it basically earmarks any increased tax revenue as a result of improvements in a specific area to be used to pay for that specific improvement. The town was looking at this in particular for the beach infrastructure improvements. Mr. Barrington said that if the upgrades lead to additional development, that tax increase is also used to offset the costs. The Board will discuss this further at the next meeting.

Hardardt's Way

Mr. Workman asked to have Hardardt's Way on the agenda for next week under Old Business. He told the Board that he would like to talk about an alternative proposal.

Reddington Landing

Mr. Pratt asked about the easement for Reddington Landing and if it was on the lot that Mr. Hangen had a concern with. Mr. Barrington said that Mr. Hangen is looking into that with Attorney Gearreald.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Storm water Grant Application – Public Hearing Needed

Mr. Barrington explained that the town has been determined eligible for a storm water grant in the amount of \$8,700 and a public hearing is needed.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen hold a public hearing on December 22, 2003 for the acceptance of the storm water grant.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Tax Deeding of Property

Mr. Warburton told the Board that the Tax Collector sent him a note regarding a property that she has tax deeded. The Board of Selectmen will need to discuss the disposition of the property after the statutory period when the previous owner can reclaim the property for all of the past taxes and fees. Mr. Barrington said that he will have Attorney Gearreald outline the options available for the Board.

VI. MINUTES

The minutes of December 8, 2003 will be reviewed next week.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. DRA Ratio Study
2. Nursing Home Referral
3. Discretionary Preservation Easement

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (7:50 PM)

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman

