

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
March 1, 2004 7:00 PM**

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

PUBLIC HEARING: The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing to take comments from the public in regard to the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$100,000 (less 8% administrative costs) from Land & Community Heritage Investment Program for the purchase of a conservation easement at the Hurd Farm.

There were no public comments.

MR. WORKMAN MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen accept the grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program for the purchase of a conservation easement at the Hurd Farm.
MR. PRATT SECONDED **VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Chris Singleton led the audience in the flag salute.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Pratt pointed out that there seems to be some confusion in town regarding the Selectmen's race. He clarified that there are two people running for one seat.

Irish Dinner

Mrs. Bridle announced that there will be an Irish Dinner at the Hobbs House on Saturday, March 13th featuring corned beef and cabbage and Irish music. The cost is \$5 per person.

Children's Safety

Mrs. Bridle reminded parents that with warm weather comes children playing outside and she asked that parents watch their children and not allow them to play in the street.

Local Election

The Board of Selectmen reminded residents that the local election is on March 9th with polls open from 7AM to 8PM at the Marston School.

With several contested races this year and the articles for the SAU withdrawal and Winnacunnet High School addition it is important that residents vote. On Saturday, March 6th beginning at 9AM the Board of Selectmen will hold a roundtable discussion of the warrant articles to provide information for the voters. The discussion is open to the public and will be broadcast on channel 22.

Arleen Andreozzi, Town Clerk was present and explained the requirements to vote by absentee ballot. She pointed out that Hampton has 10,000 registered voters and a heavy turnout for Hampton is approximately 4,600 voters. Mrs. Andreozzi said she currently has 500 absentee ballots issued, which is much higher than usual and she has concerns that residents don't understand the requirements to be able to vote by absentee ballot. She explained that there are three reasons a New Hampshire voter can vote absentee and they include being disabled, being out of town for the day while the polls are open or being unable to vote on that date because of a religious reason. She said that if anybody has filed an absentee ballot who feels they do not meet one of those requirements they can request to have their ballot removed and then may vote in person. If a person has an absentee ballot and is available to vote on voting day they may bring the absentee ballot to the polls. Mrs. Andreozzi said that it is important that the law be followed because anybody can challenge the legality of someone voting absentee who was not qualified to do so. If the challenge is sustained the person could be charged with a misdemeanor.

III. APPOINTMENTS

1. Chris Singleton, Jerry McConell, Re: WHS Addition

Mr. McConell said that with the election one week away he and Mr. Singleton wanted to give the Board of Selectmen an opportunity to answer any questions that they may have on the proposed Winnacunnet High School expansion.

Mr. Singleton, WHS School Board member thanked the Board and the Town Manager for the assistance in getting this article to the voters this year. He acknowledged the School Boards appreciation for the assistance in making an access onto Winnacunnet Road possible and for the efforts made to limit the number of warrant articles being presented to the voters this year.

As an overview of the project, Mr. Singleton explained that the need for the expansion is a result of the growth in enrollment over the past 8 years, which has resulted in 14 modular classrooms around the school with four additional units planned for next year. This project will eliminate the overcrowding that currently exists and assist in handling the additional increase of 250 students. The cornerstone of the project is a two-story addition that consists of 23 classrooms, 12 of which will be science labs. In addition, the current gymnasium will be renovated into a cafeteria and a new gymnasium will be added near the current tennis courts. Renovations throughout the school will be done to the heating and ventilation systems, sprinklers will be installed to meet fire codes and the leaky roof will be repaired. Site work for the building includes improvements to the traffic flow as a result of a second exit/entrance onto Winnacunnet Road which will be a gated entrance open during school hours and community events.

Mr. Singleton told the Board that a committee has been meeting all year to get information out to the public and Mr. Warburton was thanked for his involvement and guidance that he provided. Mr. Sullivan told the Board that he was at the DARE graduation last week and noted that 160 sixth-graders were at that graduation. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that Mr. McConell is one of the town's foremost senior citizens, and without any children in the school system he is very much in support of this project. Mr. Sullivan said that he does not think the town can afford not to do the school this year. He noted that there is an excellent video showing on Channel 22 that was put together by the Outreach Committee that shows the conditions at WHS.

Mrs. Bridle asked if \$12 million has been promised by the State. Mr. Singleton said that it has, and based on Hampton's share of the project approximately \$6 million of the cost to Hampton will be offset by the State. Mrs. Bridle said with the number of students in Winnacunnet, if at least one of their parents voted in support of the addition the article would pass. Mr. Singleton added that the State is providing 50% reimbursement this year but the requirements have changed and the project will not qualify in 2005.

Mr. Pratt asked if the funds returned to the town are used to pay off the bond. Mr. Singleton said that the total project is \$26.8 million, with Hampton's share being \$12.2 million. The State Aid for Hampton will be \$6.1 million. Based on the current tax rate, the impact to Hampton taxpayers will be .33 per thousand dollars of valuation. Mr. Singleton added that the project will be financed through a 20-year bond.

Mr. Warburton said that it is important that this project is supported this year. Mr. Singleton noted that the project is expected to be completed in one and one-half to two years, and if approved the School Board will work aggressively to get the project started.

2. Warren Bambury, RPC Transportation Update

Mr. Bambury told the Board that the road inventory program that has been ongoing has been completed for Hampton. The inventory includes the length of every street in Hampton and the report will be prepared for the Board within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Bambury explained the importance of this inventory, pointing out that the town gets reimbursed each year (\$225,000 in 2003) by the Department of Transportation based on the mileage of the community and this will put the town in the position of increasing that funding.

The Route One traffic model study has been completed and at this stage of the project many aspects of the road are under study by the consultant. The historic byway project has been completed and the signs will be installed in Hampton as soon as the frost is out of the ground. The RPC will be holding a meeting with a designer regarding the brochure that will be distributed to generate interest in the byway.

Mr. Bambury told the Board that the RCP will be hosting a meeting on March 19th at 9:00 AM at the Town Office with the MPO and Transportation Advisory Committee to discuss a report that will have come out from the Department of Transportation relating to the highway tolls and speed pass. Mr. Bambury also informed the Board that the RPC recently held a meeting at Schiller Station in regard to their request to utilize one of their units to burn wood. Guilford Railroad representatives were present and stated that they were interested in expanding their lines in order to facilitate the delivery of wood.

The RPC will be holding a meeting in a couple of weeks with the State to discuss water problems in the area. Mr. Bambury said that one of the solutions being considered is the reuse of effluent in recharge areas.

Mr. Workman thanked Mr. Bambury for his update and agreed that these issues are very important to the Town and Mr. Bambury's efforts are very much appreciated.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington told the Board that that last year the Rotary Club donated \$10,000 from their auction proceeds to the polio eradication program. He was proud to tell the Board that as part of that effort three females from the Hampton Rotary Club are currently in India immunizing people. On March 16th there will be a program at the Inn of Hampton that is open to the public where these people will give a program regarding their experiences. Residents interested in attending the program are urged to call Mr. Jett at 926-4459 to RSVP.

Use of Town Buildings Policy

The Policy for Use of Town Buildings has been withheld from the agenda pending legal review at Attorney Gearreald's request. Attorney Gearreald noted at the staff meeting that he had some concerns about portions of the draft policy that he would like to have some time to review, including research of case law on the subject. Due to some court deadlines in his schedule he did not feel that he would be able to give the subject adequate attention this week in time for Monday's meeting. Therefore, we are suggesting that the subject be temporarily tabled pending his review and recommendation. With the Board's consent we can discuss it later in the month of March.

NHMA Regional Meetings

The NHMA is having regional breakfast meetings instead of dinner meetings this year. The (geographically) closest meeting is 7:30 – 9:00 a.m. at the Three Chimneys Inn on March 22 in Durham. If a Selectman would like a reservation made that can be done. Mr. Barrington said that joint transportation can also be arranged if that is most convenient. The program will include an update by Maura Carroll, NHMA General Counsel, on major issues confronting local governments in the coming legislative session.

Mr. Workman and Mr. Sullivan both indicated that they would attend the meeting.

Stormwater Management Grant

Mr. Barrington announced that the Town received a letter of confirmation from DES regarding award of our Stormwater Management Drainage System grant in the amount of \$8,700.00. This grant will fund a program to identify and map illicit discharges into our sewer system so that they can be eliminated.

Boat Dock Grant

In response to a question that Selectman Sullivan asked about the status of the Boat Dock grant, the Town Manager explained that the town is still awaiting word from the Department of Justice that will be

administering the grant for the federal government. The RFP is ready for the engineering services once the town is assured that it meets the criteria for the grant.

Single Audit Requirements

A review of the "single audit" requirements shows that there is a requirement for a couple of new town policies that have not previously existed. These include an "ethics" policy and a "drug-free workplace" policy.

Proposed Donation

Mr. Barrington told the Board that Recreation Director Dyana Martin has received an offer of a significant number of high quality lights and ballasts from an area athletic field that is in the process of replacing their lights. She is going to investigate the condition of the lights and look into where they can be best utilized by the Town.

Lewis Brown Park

Mr. Barrington stated that it has come to his attention that the town's athletic fields are being used by residents to walk their dogs and the animal waste ordinance is not being obeyed. He strongly encouraged residents to obey the dog waste ordinance and said that there are fines associated with this ordinance and the parks will be monitored.

V. NEW BUSINESS

House Bill 1416, Re: Telephone Company Tax Exemption

Mr. Barrington said that the town received a notice from NHMA that there is legislation being considered that would create an exemption for telephone poles. NHMA is asking municipalities to adopt a resolution in opposition to HB 1416.

Mrs. Bridle said that this appears to be an issue for the State Representatives not the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Workman explained that currently the poles are exempt and the exemption is due to expire in 2006. This bill would make the exemption permanent. Mrs. Bridle recommended that a copy of this information be sent to Hampton's legislative delegation.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen meet in a non-public session at the conclusion of the meeting under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) for a personnel matter,

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Eel Ditch

Mrs. Bridle told the Board that there was a harbor seal in Eel Ditch yesterday, and while looking at that she noticed that there was a strong odor in the same area. She asked that the Town Manager look into that. Mr. Workman said that he also had noticed the odor and believes it is marsh related.

Police Commendations

Mrs. Bridle commended Officers Laura Stoessel and Andrew Jowett for the professional way they handled a situation that she was aware of last week.

VI. MINUTES

The minutes of February 23, 2004 were accepted as written.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Nursing Home Referral

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

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (8:10 PM)

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman