

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
October 10, 2005 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: James Workman, Chairman; Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman;
Rick Griffin, Ben Moore, Virginia-Bridle-Russell;
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant
Janet Perkins, Interim Administrative Assistant

Salute to the Flag – Fire Chief Henry Lipe led the audience in the salute to the flag.

I. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mrs. Bridle-Russell reminded everyone of next weekend's fundraiser events for the town of Tammany, Louisiana hosted by John Nyhan at the Victoria Inn and Galley Hatch Catering. A complete schedule of events and tickets is available from John.

Mr. Griffin spoke about the November 3rd dance at the Ashworth Hotel for the City Year American team. He talked about the 17–22 year old members who are working with the students at Hampton Academy. Call Patty McKenzie at 926-7850 or the Recreation Department for discount tickets.

Mr. Pratt read a letter from Richard Zimmerman to Chief Henry Lipe dated 9/28/05. This letter expressed gratitude for outstanding service to provided Mr. Zimmerman by the Fire Department. Mr. Pratt also announced that he would miss several meetings after hip replacement surgery. He proposed setting up video conferencing with the Board if possible and necessary.

II. Appointments

None

III. Old Business

1. Town Manager's Report

New Administrative Assistant

Mr. Barrington introduced Maureen Duffy who started on Thursday, October 6 as the new Administrative Assistant. While Maureen is attending this evening's meeting, Janet Perkins is taking minutes so that Maureen can meet everyone and learn the flow of the meeting and discussion. She will begin taking minutes at the October 17 meeting.

Increased Energy Costs

Mr. Barrington said he attended a luncheon on Tuesday sponsored by Unutil, at which they gave a briefing on energy's future. The most pronounced news was that rates are about to jump 60% for major commercial & industrial users. Hampton's wastewater treatment plant falls into that category. He stated that this could produce *additional* charges of \$106,128 for 2006. When considering what the April 2006 rates may be that will apply to the *rest* of the Town's electric accounts, the additional amount needed increases to a total of \$239,231. Mr. Barrington pointed out the obvious budgetary implications to these increases. On the slightly positive side, however, Mr. Barrington told the Board that the health insurance numbers for 2006 were received today. He announced that while they are up nearly 20%, we had budgeted for 20% and can therefore reduce our health insurance costs by \$54,217.

Separation Payments

Mr. Barrington reported the termination payout of \$39,733.67 for Karen Anderson and John Fincher's retirement payment at \$47,239.95.

Un-obligated Surplus Funds

Mr. Barrington said even though there is approximately \$1.5-million in unobligated surplus, it should be noted that due to cash flow needs, the Tax Anticipation Note interest has exceeded \$30,000 for the first half. He said the Town's cash flow needs are further strained by the SRF portion of the Infrastructure project that requires fronting the money then seeking reimbursement from the state. Mr. Barrington told the Board that he foresees borrowing again before the tax bills go out. Mr. Barrington explained that each \$100,000 of that surplus used to offset the tax rate, has an impact of approximately \$.043. In light of this, and the fact that there is a surplus WELL below the DRA recommendation, Mr. Barrington recommended that none of the surplus be used this year in an attempt to at least reach the minimum recommended DRA level.

Crosswalk Markings

Mr. Barrington said that Dunkin Donuts is paying to have an imprinted asphalt crosswalk installed across Lafayette Road in front of their business. He added that while the contractor is in town, public works is having them do a similar process on the crosswalk at Marelli's Square. He believed this would be a more cost effective approach to the bright crosswalks that have proven to be both popular and effective. Mr. Barrington opined that trying a couple on Lafayette would give provide a good opportunity to test the durability of the process. They will be monitored through the coming winter and summer seasons to determine whether their wear is everything as advertised. If so, Mr. Barrington said the Town will consider installing more in other heavy traffic areas.

Board questions followed with Mr. Moore requesting and Mr. Barrington agreeing to have FST provide better updates on the beach infrastructure website. Mr. Barrington said number two and three change orders for Ashworth Avenue have been signed; these will be reflected on the next report. Mr. Pratt felt it was a good idea for the crosswalk improvement at Dunkin Donuts. Mr. Workman wondered if there would be any plowing problems but Mr. Barrington responded in the negative. Mr. Workman questioned whether Unitil needed PUC approval for the rate increase and asked for this year's budget impact. Mr. Barrington explained that the increase is already approved in Unitil's existing rate structure and this year's budget impact will be *approximately* \$25,000-\$30,000.

2. WHS reply to Board's offer of October 3

Members reviewed the written response from the WHS School Board dated and received October 7, 2005. Selectmen noted that of the six "conditions" set forth by the Town on October 3rd, the School Board seems to have countered with conditions of their own. Members felt that the school's proposed \$15,000 cap for a traffic study was unacceptable inasmuch as a study for the Five Corners intersection was estimated at \$75,000. Several members also felt that the WHS School Board's response to condition 6 was unacceptable as it stipulates the District will not indemnify the Town for any Town action. Mr. Griffin questioned why the Town would need to be responsible at all for any legal action and felt a final decision on the School Board's stipulations needed to be dealt with tonight. Mr. Moore, referencing condition 4, pointed out that it could be 18 months before a vote is placed before the District voters.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell told the Board that the Town of Hampton would get sued whether the spur is put back or not, and when and if there is an accident in the vicinity. She said the traffic study cost might not be \$75,000 and felt the School Board was making a reasonable attempt to meet the Selectmen's demands. Mr. Pratt questioned Mr. Barrington about the \$15,000 figure. Mr. Barrington responded that the Town can get something for that amount, but asked at what level the information would be. He said \$75,000 was for a comprehensive look at Five Corners, the beach traffic studies were done for \$20,000 and others for \$35,000-

\$40,000. Mr. Griffin said the Board of Selectmen serves as an enforcement board and was not in favor of negotiating prior decisions. He agreed that \$15,000 is not enough for an adequate traffic study. Mr. Griffin stated that if the School Board doesn't want to accept responsibility for their mistakes, he does not see why the Town should do it.

Mr. Pratt asked about the driveway permit. Mr. Barrington confirmed that Doug Mellon reported there was not a driveway permit issued as it was looked at as a private road. He said a developer would have Planning Board review but schools are exempt from Planning Board regulations. Mr. Moore inquired about any legal issues enforcing closure of a new private road/driveway given the fact that no driveway approval was granted. Town Attorney Mark Gearreald said the obligation to present plans to the Planning Board only for their comments, in his view, did not exempt the school board from seeking permission from the Board of Selectmen to work on and access onto Winnacunnet Road; they should have gotten permission. Mr. Griffin said the school could have had public hearing and that they have not been good neighbors. Mrs. Bridle-Russell responded that several hearings were held which outlined the closing of the spur and the new entranceway; however, they were four years ago and people forget. Attorney Gearreald confirmed that the School Board agreed to condition 4; however, their response to condition 3 does not agree to the immediacy of a traffic study as mandated by the Selectmen.

Mr. Griffin asked how many times the Board of Selectmen has negotiated a previous decision. When Mr. Barrington could not recall any, Mr. Griffin opined that the Town was on pretty shaky ground. Mr. Workman asked Attorney Gearreald if the School Board's qualifier on condition 4 would be met if - concurrent with the School Board putting a 2006 Town warrant to implement the engineer's recommendations, and also sponsoring a school warrant article for the costs associated therewith- the articles did not pass. Attorney Gearreald said that even though he does not know the funding situation on the construction project, he could assume the initial approval must have included roadwork and it would seem they would not need another vote. Mr. Workman said it depends on funds remaining in the 2004 bond.

Mr. Moore considered the school's reply to be non-responsive to Mr. Workman's motion. Mr. Workman agreed \$15,000 seems low for a traffic study, and felt the indemnity fits the intent of the motion as it will cover the Town since the new driveway and spur removal were the School Board's actions. He felt that the October 3rd Selectmen's proposal was a crafted solution. Mr. Moore said the initial motion stipulated the spur road be back to originality by October 21 and the new information about not having an approved driveway permit provides more flexibility on legally forcing closure of the new access road. He said it would solve safety issues regarding the spur location and access road. He favored solving it now before the vote in March then seek town meeting action on what to do.

Discussion followed regarding the feasibility of restoring the spur to its previous configuration by October 21st. Mr. Barrington told the Board that pricing of \$50,000 was based on an exact restoration; to do less would cost less. He said the literal interpretation of the motion was for full restoration; it can be done for less if the Board of Selectmen wish. Mrs. Bridle-Russell pointed out that the Town would have to pay for it first then recoup the cost from the School; she then asked where the Town would get the money. Mr. Barrington agreed that since the funds are not in the budget they will need to put off purchasing things and he will follow the Board's direction. Mr. Griffin said the taxpayers should be heard from before \$50,000 is spent; he proposed a temporary fix until the vote and wondered if Public Works could do the project now. Mr. Workman told the Board that town counsel says restoration can be done in accordance with those who are in charge of the Town's roads. He pointed out that there is one other unpaved road in town that is passable year-round and proposed making the road passable but unpaved until March. Mr. Griffin suggested a skim coat. Mrs. Bridle-Russell quoted a price from John Hangen of \$50,000 and asked what other work in Town would not be done because of this reallocation.

Mr. Barrington talked about the extent needed to re-construct the road for weather winter as the road base is still there, just covered with dirt and sod. This would be a temporary, less expensive fix until March. Mr. Moore confirmed the previous motion was for a one-way spur which would allow it to be less wide. He agreed with it being done that way if allowed by the law. Mr. Moore said he wanted to be realistic in restoring the spur to improve the right hand turn onto Winnacunnet from Park Avenue. He preferred DPW preparing it for the winter and spending less than \$50,000. Attorney Gearreald suggested the Selectmen send a letter indicating that the School Board has not complied with conditions 3 and 4 which were non-negotiable; that failing hearing from them by Wednesday of this week that they will need to comply with a very clear directive that this Board intends to go forward. He said the letter should also include that the restoration will be charged to their expense, which could conceivably include closing their driveway. Mr. Workman agreed with that suggestion; Mr. Griffin disagreed by saying the deadline is today, October 10th and as an enforcement Board, needs to be enforced. Mr. Pratt said as an enforcement board, it must also look at all options.

Mr. Barrington said there could be a “lesser” spur of less than 200 feet from the high school entrance as mentioned in previous meetings. Attorney Gearreald told the Board that the creation of a different type of spur would become the Town’s liability, not the school’s as it should be. He reiterated sending the letter that conditions 3 and 4 are non-negotiable. Mr. Griffin said the school is negotiating the proposal and again asked if the Board of Selectmen has ever changed their minds. Messrs. Workman and Barrington and Mrs. Bridle-Russell explained that decisions have been changed in the past when new information warranted. Mr. Workman asked for Board consensus in sending a letter as recommended by Attorney Gearreald. Verbal majority was not to send a letter, thus initiating action as motioned to on October 3rd.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell questioned the lack of a driveway permit or approval and asked how a similar situation will be avoided. Mr. Barrington explained that the school district will now be treated like a developer and follow all steps of the process. They will need to provide a written request and receive written permission from each board for an exemption from the hearing process. He will put this in writing for the departments and the school board with a copy for the Board members.

Mr. Pratt continued the discussion saying the spur should be restored as cheaply as possible. Mr. Griffin agreed with Mr. Moore saying it should be passable in wintertime. Huckleberry Lane is not paved and is passable. Mr. Barrington requested specific criteria as to the restoration. Mr. Griffin recommended several local paving companies who he felt would welcome the work. Mr. Workman confirmed the Board’s direction to the Town Manager to restore the one-lane spur to some standard by October 21st. Attorney Gearreald recommended that direction be given to the School Board that the new driveway should be closed. Mr. Barrington told the Board that the school said they would gate the driveway. Mr. Pratt said there should be a gate for emergency access. Mrs. Bridle-Russell confirmed that if the Town shuts the Winnacunnet Road driveway then the only ingress and egress into the high school is Park Avenue. Mr. Workman responded affirmatively. Mr. Griffin was hopeful that many will take the bus to school and if parents don’t want to wait in traffic on Park Avenue like in the past, let the students use the bus.

Members discussed the various restoration options of the spur. Attorney Gearreald reiterated that the Board has discretion to restore the spur within bounds set by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Moore felt it would be nice to have a gap between the spur location and the school driveway. He confirmed that the spur will not be restored for 11 days and since the Board will meet before the spur is reactivated, suggested they seek counsel as to their ability to close a private road. Mr. Barrington talked about the upcoming weather forecast and any caveat for completion should be weather dependent. Job completion will also depend upon contractor availability and since asphalt companies close November 15th there is a lot that has be taken care of before that. Mr. Moore expressed his concern about learning there was never a driveway permit issued and pointed out that it is only a forty-minute a day problem at the school. Mr. Pratt preferred a later date for re-opening the spur because October 21st may not be realistic. Mr. Barrington suggested that the entranceway decision

does not need to be contingent upon the spur action. He was uncomfortable with delaying re-creation of the spur if the intent is to put it back as a longer delay will miss deadline for asphalt work. He cautioned the Board about boxing themselves in a corner needlessly.

Mr. Moore directed the Manager to strive for October 21st and if it's later because of weather it can't be helped. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked how much this is going to cost as the Board owes it to the taxpayers to be up front and honest. She questioned exactly how much the Town will be fronting for this work as earlier tonight the Town learned of an additional \$50,000 in increased electrical costs at the water treatment plant. Attorney Gearreald said if the Town takes affirmative steps with the spur without closing the driveway, the Town is exposing itself to immense liability. Mr. Griffin asked what would happen if an individual property owner put a three lane road onto a public road. Mr. Barrington said in all probability the Town would stop them.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen finds the WHS School Board's response not to be acceptable to the conditions offered to the amendment of last week and revert to the intent of the original motion of 9/19/05. Mr. Pratt **SECONDED**.

VOTE: 3 FOR

2 OPPOSED (Bridle-Russell, Workman)

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED that the access road be closed and have a gate that opens and closes that police, fire and school each have the ability to open for an emergency. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED**. Mr. Griffin said the gate installation should be the school's expense. Mr. Barrington recalled previous school discussions regarding a gate and proposed asking them to do so now voluntarily. Mr. Pratt added that the driveway should not be closed until the spur is reactivated.

VOTE: 3 FOR

2 OPPOSED (Bridle-Russell, Workman)

3. Fall Leaf Pickup

Scheduled for Mondays in November; soft materials (leaves, small brush) only should be placed in the appropriate paper bags at curbside.

4. Unregistered Dogs

Mr. Pratt relayed a possible solution from a resident about the unregistered dog situation. He suggested that rather than impounding the animal, the owners not be allowed to register their car until the dog license is paid. He reported that other towns do it.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that people not be allowed to register their car until the dog license is paid.

Discussion ensued about the reliability of the list. Mr. Moore pointed out the safety issue in ensuring that dogs have received their shots and are healthy. Mr. Barrington will check on whether this is an ordinance or policy change.

Mr. Moore SECONDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

5. Abandoned Vehicle

Mr. Pratt confirmed that Suburban sold at the surplus auction will be removed/towed from the parking lot.

IV. New Business

1. Determine how much surplus to use to off-set the tax rate

Mr. Barrington told the Board that with the Town's ongoing cash flow needs and cash shortage he believes the \$1.5 Million in surplus is not sufficient for those needs. He recommended not to use any portion of the surplus to offset the tax rate. Last year the Board used \$400,000 of the \$1.4 Million surplus. Mr. Workman said that the Town has not followed the DRA's recommended cash surplus in the past five years.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED for the town not to use any surplus to offset the tax rate in the 2005 rate setting. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.** Mr. Pratt opined that there are rate increases everywhere which need to be funded. According to Mr. Moore, businesses need to reserve and the DRA is suggesting a surplus between \$4.1 Million and \$8.7 Million. The expected \$1.5 Million leaves Hampton under funded from the standpoint of DRA's fiscal management practices. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said this is another year when the taxpayers "get the short end of the stick". By not offsetting the rate, we are not giving them anything, which then raises the tax rate. Mr. Griffin said the Board should do what they did last year. He said it was important to give some of it back to the taxpayers to offset the tax rate. Mr. Barrington reported the exact surplus as \$1,506,802. Mr. Workman agreed that some should be kept and some should be given back. He calculated that giving back \$400,000 would cut \$.16 off the tax rate per thousand dollars. Mr. Workman said keeping a balance is fiscally responsible for the future and giving some back is responsible to the taxpayers right now. He was not in favor of keeping all of it in an unobligated surplus fund.

**VOTE: 2 FOR
3 OPPOSED (Workman, Griffin
(Bridle-Russell))**

MRS. BRIDLE-RUSSELL MOTIONED to give \$500,000 back to the taxpayers to reduce taxes. Mr. Moore suggested the same amount as last year.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: 3 FOR
2 OPPOSED (Moore, Pratt)**

2. Budget Review –Fire Department

Fire Chief Hank Lipe and Deputy Chief Chris Silver were present for the appointment. Chief Lipe told the Board that the budget presented has staff shortfalls, represents contractual obligations and is similar to the 2005 budget.

Account #4220.1 - Administration

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to recommend \$268,540 for the Total Administration amount. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.** Mr. Moore questioned staff development and asked if something could be cut here to assist in later discussions regarding staffing. Chief Lipe said staff development is important enough that he is paying his own way to a conference in Colorado.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account # 4220.2 – Fire Suppression

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to recommend \$2,329,941 for this account. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.** Mr. Moore asked about the increase in overtime wages. The Chief explained that training costs are included in overtime. Mr. Workman confirmed that the proposed budget does not include those positions that were cut as a result of the default budget. Chief Lipe said that the Board has a separate worksheet detailing the positions and the associated costs of each. He respectfully requested that the Board reconsider those positions. Mr. Workman asked if the presented budget is adequate to provide fire service to town of Hampton for 2006. Chief Lipe responded in the negative. Mr. Workman asked what amount is adequate. Chief Lipe stated that the bottom line figure plus four deputies and a secretary for a total expenditure of \$316,019.97.

Mr. Workman said he does not know what it takes to run the fire, police, or public works departments and depends on the department heads to tell him. Mrs. Bridle-Russell told the Board they need to know what it takes to run the department. She is concerned about things not getting done; Seabrook and North Hampton will not continue to supplement our fire department ambulance runs. She continued saying that the Board owes it to the taxpayers to retain levels that we need. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked which was the better position for the Board to take: to present a budget out of fear that it will not pass or one that is realistic to run the fire department. Pursuant to direction from the Manager, Chief Lipe submitted a cost analysis for a 40

hour week for those cut positions. He said the department is running shorthanded, not functioning and the budget as presented (which does not include the cut positions) is not acceptable. Chief Lipe said that as a policy/enforcement Board, the Selectmen must ask themselves: 1) is it acceptable to rely on neighboring communities to handle our calls-to supplant the Town of Hampton? 2) is a reduction of life safety inspections acceptable to the Board of Selectmen? and 3) at what point do you feel life safety is jeopardized? Chief Lipe stated, "as a professional, it is jeopardized." He formally asked that \$316,019.97 be added to the bottom line in order to bring the fire department back to where it was in 2002 in regards to staffing levels. The vote on the initial motion was suggested as the amendment.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account #4220.3 – Fire Prevention

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED for \$151,969 for this account. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.** Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked how much time Scott and John spend each week on paperwork. Based upon the Chief's reply, Mrs. Bridle-Russell pointed out that the Town is paying \$31/hour to fill out paperwork-- and the cut part-time secretarial position would be doing it for \$11.00/hour. She stated this is not fiscally responsible. She also realized that while they're filling out paperwork, they're not out inspecting. Mrs. Bridle-Russell recalled that inspections were a top priority four years ago and it is irresponsible of this Board to say it wants them filling out paperwork. Mr. Moore asked if anything could be reduced and if the secretarial position was restored, would it decrease overtime wages. The Chief explained that the amount may decrease some since they can't get out to the street due to paperwork.

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

Account #42204 - Training

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to recommend \$72,039 for this account. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.** Mr. Moore said it would be nice to fund potential costs of re-hires from some of these costs being discussed now. He understood that the Chief would not want to decrease the budgeted amount before a final vote on the increased staffing levels. Mr. Griffin asked about the wellness/fitness program cost. Chief Lipe said the line item is the annual on-going cost of the program, which was implemented with federal grant money.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account #4220.5 - Communications

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to recommend \$201,164 for this account. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.** Mr. Moore asked for clarification asked for about retirements from this section. He also questioned the telephone fee projection as it does not seem to have increased much. Chief Lipe told the Board that the communications costs have decreased overall while additional system lines for better radio frequency have added to the cost.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account #4220.6 – Repair Services

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to recommend \$85,634 for this account. **SECONDED by Mr. Workman.** Mr. Barrington confirmed that the funds for fire alarm maintenance could be appropriated through a warrant article. Unexpected repair expenses and costs associated with the beach infrastructure work were discussed. Chief Lipe told the Board that the Ashworth Avenue boxes will be relocated in November. Suggestions were made about outsourcing the work for the fire alarm maintenance and the areas of Town, which still need to rely on the fire call boxes. Chief Lipe advised the Board that the response time is quicker for a resident to call the Hampton Fire Department directly instead of 911.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account #4420.8 – Fire Stations and Building

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that \$79,075 be recommended for this account. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Account #4220 – Total Fire Department

Mrs. Bridle-Russell **MOTIONED** to recommend \$3,188,362 for this account. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.** Mr. Moore proposed the following eleven changes to the budget for a net increase of \$177,518: reduce Account No. 4220.1.391 by \$1,000; reduce Account No. 4220.2.140 by \$15,000; reduce Account No. 4220.3.610 by \$2,000; reduce 4220.4.810 by \$15,000; increase Account No. 4220.6.140 by \$5,000; increase Account No. 4220.6.430 by \$12,000; reduce Account No. 4220.6.660 by \$25,000; reduce Account No. 4220.8.630 by \$6,000; add in the supplementary personnel request of \$215,718; and increase 4220.3.120 by \$11,800.

Mr. Moore AMENDED THE MOTION to add and/or decrease the amounts he just listed. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.** Mr. Moore stipulated that this does not include the deputy chief position, nor was he in favor of adding it. Mr. Griffin confirmed that four positions would be added as new hires and asked at what level of the pay scale that would happen. Chief Lipe said the salary depends on the qualifications and skill levels; it is preferable to hire skilled employees as it saves the expense of training which is very high. Mr. Griffin asked if this personnel addition would reduce overtime costs. Chief Lipe told the Board that the only way to reduce overtime is to have fewer responses as that is what generates the overtime expense. In response to Mr. Pratt's question, Chief Lipe said this personnel increase will most definitely reduce the assists from other towns. It will also put the fourth firefighter back at the beach station, and will expand ambulance coverage thereby resulting in less mutual aid.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: UNANIMOUS FOR
VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: UNANIMOUS FOR

V. Minutes –October 3, 2005

Page 8, last motion on page: Substitute *Pratt* for *Griffin* in those opposed.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to accept the minutes as amended. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. Consent Agenda

1. Parade Permit – Christmas Parade
2. Hardship Lien Release

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve the consent agenda. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. Public Comments

Judy Park, Chairman of the Highway Safety Committee addressed the Board. She commended them for standing up in implementing safety conscious remedies regarding the high school situation. She expressed disappointment and felt the high school has not demonstrated or acted in good faith. Mrs. Park also agreed that it was inappropriate for the high school to be placing conditions on the town's proposal. She questioned the 200 feet distance as discussed between the school's new driveway and the spur road. Mrs. Park was unclear as to why the town should make adjustments when the school caused the problem; they should make adjustments to their property instead of the town and asked the board to keep that in mind in the future.

Mrs. Park asked why the Board felt the spur should be restored as a one-way. Mr. Moore said it is an attempt to minimize vehicular flow as closing the high school entranceway on Winnacunnet Road had not yet been discussed. She opined that by putting the spur back one-way, it changes the initial configuration and may jeopardize the Town's legal standing. She asked the Board to reconsider their vote. Mrs. Park confirmed that the spur road will now be more narrow than before.

Mrs. Park talked about the school district's public hearings regarding the school addition and asked Mrs. Bridle-Russell if those hearings included information about removal of the spur road. Mrs. Bridle-Russell responded in the affirmative. Mrs. Park said a plan she saw dated October 2004 showing the spur road still intact. She felt that things somehow get done without the proper people knowing how it happened.

Mrs. Park next spoke about the upcoming contract negotiations. Since a large percentage of the town budget is actually in negotiated contracts, she hoped that the town has a good handle on who is negotiating those contracts and what the town is requiring from that person.

Dick Bateman, Janvrin Road told the Board that he believed they were right in restoring the four fire department positions. He thanked and applauded them.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Pratt **MOTIONED** to adjourn at 9:54 p.m.. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR:

Chairman