

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
October 17, 2005 – 7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** James Workman, Chairman  
Rick Griffin, Ben Moore, Virginia Bridle-Russell  
James S. Barrington, Town Manager  
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant  
Dawna M. Duhamel, Finance Director

**REGRETS:** Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman

**Chairman, James Workman called the meeting to order at 7:35pm and introduced those in attendance**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – Building Inspector Kevin Schultz led the audience in the salute to the flag.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mr. Moore thanked Janet Perkins for recording the minutes at the October 10 meeting. Mr. Moore also mentioned that Vice-Chairman, Cliff Pratt has successfully undergone surgery and should be home by this weekend.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell mentioned the Apple Festival for seniors on Friday, October 28 at Hobbs House. All seniors are invited to attend and there will be door prizes and apple treats available to enjoy. To register please, contact the recreation department.

**II. APPOINTMENTS**

None

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Interact Club**

Mr. Barrington spoke about the WHS, Interact Club (beginner Rotary Club for high school students) hosting a fundraising car wash on Saturday, October 22 at the Irving Blue-Canoe Station in North Hampton on Route 1 and Atlantic Avenue.

**Tax Report**

Mr. Barrington reported that he received a notice from the Rockingham County Treasurer of the Town's County Taxes totaling \$2,559,336 and is to be paid by December 17, 2005.

Last week's tax rate meeting with DRA was cancelled since the Department of Education had not received all the information they needed from SAU 21; the meeting has been rescheduled for this Thursday, October 20, 2005. Mr. Barrington did speak with Fred Engelback regarding this issue and it was confirmed that the materials were faxed last Wednesday.

Mr. Barrington was pleased to announce that Attorney Gearreald was able to recoup \$800 from a welfare lien and an overdue ambulance bill.

### **Medical Insurance**

The Town Manager's office received the official LGC insurance rates for 2006. The original rates provided were incorrect however, the good news is that the numbers will be lower than originally quoted. The overall rate increase is 14.9% which is better than in past years.

### **Changes to the Budget**

Spreadsheets with the adjustments to the budget are included in the Board members' packets which show the affected accounts such as wages and benefits. An additional spreadsheet, reflecting the increasing costs of electricity, natural gas and heating oil has also been provided.

### **Police Station Construction**

Mr. Barrington met with Kaestle Boos, the architect who designed the police station and Witcher Builders, the company responsible for the construction. There are a few items that remain to be completed and it is hoped that the books can be closed in regards to this project.

### **No Parking Signs**

No parking signs along Winnacunnet Road have been going up. It is expected that a few more will be added and they will be independent signs and the Town needs to have dig safe certifications before these signs can go in the ground.

### **WHS Spur update**

The Town did approve an agreement with New England paving (the lowest bidder) in regards to the WHS spur project, totaling \$17,500.

### **Response to the Manager's Report**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell questioned where the \$17,500 was coming from. Mr. Barrington responded by saying that it has been taken from the Public Works budget. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the Town Manger felt that with the sewer drain truck and the uncertain cost of snow removal and overtime, that it may cause financial problems. Mr. Barrington mentioned that he discussed taking funds out of the department with the Public Works Director, John Hangen and he is confident with the idea. Mr. Barrington reminded the Board that it is still the intention of the Town to collect the \$17,500 back from WHS.

Ben Moore inquired about when the WHS spur project will be complete. Mr. Barrington said that the work will start Wednesday morning and should be done by the end of the week with weather permitting.

Rick Griffin mentioned that it seemed like a lot of money for private details. Mr. Barrington said that the total project cost is \$17,500 does include private details.

Mr. Moore had a query in regards to the infrastructure website, referred to as Dig Hampton. Mr. Moore was wondering when the website will be updated. Mr. Barrington said that he spoke to Peter Howe and they are hoping to get it updated more quickly. Mr. Moore also asked if the Town

Manager could schedule a discussion on parking and loading zones in the beach area. Mr. Moore asked the Chairman if the Beach Commission Annual Report was going to be discussed at tonight's meeting. Chairman, Workman said he would add it to the agenda for the Selectmen's meeting on October 24.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that he received many calls regarding the Transfer Station. Including one from Brian Warburton, who told Mr. Griffin that he had 15 cars behind him at the Transfer Station. Mr. Griffin asked if the Town Office received many calls and Mr. Barrington reported that he had four. He mentioned that for months there have been numerous announcements informing people that the Transfer Station would be closed on Sundays. Mr. Barrington will follow the direction of the Board in regards to this situation. Chairman, Workman mentioned that there were signs posted outside of the transfer station notifying people that it was closed.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said it is utterly ridiculous that the Transfer Station is only open on Saturday morning. In general most working people are only able to get to the Transfer Station on the weekend. She mentioned that there have been a lot of different items such as legal, sewer drain truck and an additional engineer for Kings Highway that have been added to the budget at the expense of the Transfer Station. Mrs. Bridle realizes that we are in a default budget however, believes that there is a need to have the Station open for at least one full day on the weekend.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that there is a perception that citizens feel they are being punished. Mr. Griffin asked if the reason for the decrease in hours at the Transfer Station is because of the money or is it that there are no staff who want to receive overtime. Mr. Barrington responded by saying that the Transfer Station schedule was originally put together as a monetary issue, early in the budget year. He mentioned that there was also, discussion of closing it altogether on the weekends since weekend workers receive time and a half by contract. Mr. Barrington and Mr. Hangen discussed a number of different schedules and decided to close on Tuesdays and then work on half days during the summer with the idea in mind that the hours would be reduced further in the winter.

Mr. Griffin asked why the Transfer Station can't have someone who is not paid as much to run it on the weekend. Mr. Barrington said that they need people who are trained in the various aspects of the Station and there are special skills involved. Mr. Griffin questioned if it is cheaper for the Town to pick up leaves rather than have people come to the Station. Mr. Barrington replied by saying that he is not certain if using the Station rather than the pick-up method would be cheaper. He also mentioned that leaf pick-up is a popular service and there is money budgeted to do so.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1 - BUDGET REVIEW – FINAL REVIEW**

###### **General Government - A**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted General Government budget, totaling \$6,421,085. Mr. Moore **SECONDED**.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

***Discussion:***

Mr. Moore questioned if elected officials salaries have been taken to the voters. Mr. Barrington said that in 1997 the Treasurer's wage was voted on and it was defeated as there was conflict with State law. There have not been any separate articles for any of the three elected officials since. Mr. Moore asked if the Budget Committee reviews salaries. Mr. Barrington mentioned that the Selectmen and Committee have discussed this matter in the past.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked what happens to the elected officials wages. Mr. Barrington said that they basis it on the Department Heads. Mr. Moore asked if it is better for the Town Clerk's salary be taken to the voters.

Mr. Moore noted that perhaps the Town should consider deleting the amount under District Court Budget since it will be vacated in the near future. Mr. Barrington said that he has talked to the Fire Chief about a controlled burn, he also suggested that the Budget Committee review the cost and that the money included in the budget could be used to demolish the building.

**Public Safety - B**

***Police Department – #4210***

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Police Department budget, totaling \$3,754,126. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

***Fire Department - #4220***

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Fire Department budget, totaling \$3,290,851. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

***Building and Code Inspection - #4240***

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Building & Code Inspection budget, totaling \$. 213,333. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

***Discussion:*** Mr. Moore inquired if it included the April 1 hire. Finance Director Dawna Duhamel said that it did.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

***Other Safety Service - #4299***

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Other Safety Service budget, totaling \$26,500. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

***Public Safety –B***

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Public Safety budget, totaling \$7,284,810. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Highways, Streets, Bridges & Lighting – C**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Highway, Street & Bridges budget, totaling \$2,025,588. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

**Mr. Moore AMENDED THE MOTION** to reduce the budget by taking out the pick-up truck under section 4311.1.745 for a total of \$29,999 to help pay for the additional utility incurred. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.**

**Discussion:** Public Works Director, John Hangen was invited to speak to the motion. Mr. Hangen supported the amended motion.

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

**Municipal Sanitation - D**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Sanitation budget, totaling \$3,888,193. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Moore AMENDED THE MOTION** to reduce the chemicals budget under section 4321.2.688 by \$20,000 basing it on what was spent last year.

Mr. Moore withdrew the **AMENDMENT.**

**Discussion:** Mr. Bridle mentioned she would like to see the transfer station be more user friendly and that perhaps funding could be sought to help alleviate some of the financial burden.

**Public Works – C & D**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Public Works budget, totaling \$5,913,781. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Health and Human Services - E**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Health & Human Services budget, totaling \$137,614. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: 2 FOR  
2 OPPOSED (Moore & Griffin)  
*\*Motion stays the same***

**Welfare Department – F**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Welfare Department budget, totaling \$110,845. Mr. Moore SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Discussion:** Mrs. Bridle asked Maureen Duffy her opinion on welfare. Maureen responded in saying that she has not been on the job long enough to know the trends in welfare. Since utility costs are going up it is expected that the welfare department will be busy this year.

**Culture & Recreation - G**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Culture & Recreation budget, totaling \$994,773. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Municipal Debt Service - H**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the adjusted Municipal Debt Service budget, totaling \$3,302,207. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Total Adjustments**

Total adjustments are mostly due to electric and health insurance accounts.

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the proposed budget adjustments, totaling \$163,408. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Discussion:** The projections for utilities expenses are more than 30%. The rate change Mr. Barrington said that he is has heard that there will be no surcharge until 2006.

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the operating budget grand total as submitted by Town Manger, totaling \$24,328,523. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Discussion:** This budget is 3.29% over this year's default budget.

Mr. Moore asked if the requested Default Budget Performa was available. The Finance Director, Donawa Duhamel said she will be calculating this in approximately three weeks. Mr. Barrington is also working to have the projections for special revenue funds completed by next week.

**V. MINUTES –OCTOBER 10, 2005**

On Page 2 – forth line down regarding traffic study. Should read traffic study was unacceptable.

On Page 7 – at the end of introductory paragraph towards the bottom - the unanimous for the motion for the account as it was in the budget needs to be clarified. Vote on the initial motion was suggested as the ammendment.

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

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## VI - CONSENT AGENDA

- 1 – Street light request at Winnacunnet High School
- 2 – Street light request at Alexander and High Street
- 3 – Craftsmen Fair Banner
- 4 – Cemetery Deed
- 5 – Hardship Lien Release

Mr. Moore requested that number two, Street light request at Alexander and High Street be removed from the list of consent items.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to approve the balance of the consent agenda. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 3 FOR  
1 OPPOSED (Workman)**

**Discussion:** Mr. Moore didn't see any paper work on the street light request at Alexander and High Street.

## VII - PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brian Warburton addressed the Board. He mentioned he would like to commend Mrs. Bridle-Russell on her position on the spur road. He feels that the Town is headed towards another default budget. He mentioned that reinstating the spur at WHS is a waste of tax payers' dollars and feels personally offended. Mr. Warburton took exception to how the committee from WHS was treated at the Board of Selectmen meeting. He believes that the WHS spur issue is going to come back to haunt the Board.

Mr. Warburton is also concerned about the Transfer Station and mentioned that he knew of others that were upset about it as well. He feels that the Transfer Station is important to working families and for everyone else who uses the Station. He recommends that the Station be reopened for seven days a week. Mr. Warburton understands that the Town is in a default budget however, believes the Transfer Station is a very important service.

Mr. Kevin Cushion addressed the Board. He encouraged the Town to consult with State personnel in regards to the spur as these services would not cost the Town. Mr. Cushion also asked if police and fire departments were consulted regarding the effectiveness of the spur. He also mentioned that it's not just WHS people that travel near this area; it is the general public as well. Mr. Cushion feels that the current road situation is working and believes it was a premature decision to spend \$17,500 to reinstate the spur. He would appreciate it if someone could get back to him in regards to whether or not the proper personnel were consulted.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bridle-Russell **MOTIONED** to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR:**

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Chairman