

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
October 24, 2005 – 7:00 PM**

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

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

**Chairman, James Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG** – Selectmen Bridle-Russell led the audience in the salute to the flag.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell mentioned the Apple Fest for Seniors on Friday, October 28 from 1-3pm at Hobbs House. Those interested in attending may register and pick up tickets at the Hampton Recreation Department. Next Thursday, November 3 from 7-10pm is the Town Party for City Year at the Ashworth. Everyone is welcome and tickets are available at the Recreation Department for \$25. City Year is a group of young people from AmeriCorp who are spending a year at Hampton Academy. Mrs. Bridle-Russell is also looking for a senior seminar person through the January - March school year who is interested in helping out with the vote for the March election. Anyone interested in a senior seminar project may call Mrs. Bridle at 926-7216 or at 929-7349.

Mr. Griffin talked about the school dance being held this Friday night at the Hampton Academy. Those interested in attending may contact the Recreation Department.

Chairman Workman reported that on November 10 from 5:30 to 10pm the Seacoast Fire Fighters are hosting the Annual Toy Drive Chili Cook Off held at Le Bec Rouge.

**II. APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Workman mentioned that the only appointment for the evening, Norman Silberdick has cancelled and will be rescheduling at a later date.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manger Mr. Barrington reported that Carolyn Cocklin has resigned from her position as the Town Welfare Clerk. The position has been advertised and it is his intention to have the position filled as soon as possible.

The bid sheets for the spur replacement are in the Selectmen's packets for their review.

Bids for printing the Town Report were opened on Friday afternoon. The Town has traditionally printed 1,750 and currently posts it on the website for citizens to download. Last year's report was bound by perfect style however, prior to that it was stapled. The Town could consider saving some money by reducing the number of pages, having a black and white cover page as well as use a less expensive binding process.

Halloween Trick or Treating will be Monday, October 31 from – 6pm – 8pm. The same consistent message has been posted on Channel 22 and the website.

Preliminary revenue and expenditures projections for Private Detail and Recreation Special Revenue Funds have been included in the Selectmen's' packets for their review. Mr. Barrington expects to have the updated EMS fund ready before the meeting next Monday.

The Town Manager also received the unofficial tax rate and a copy has been included in the packets. It is hoped that the official rate will be available next week.

Mr. Barrington also mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Peter Howe about some of the concerns regarding the dighampton.com website. He reported that lately the traffic advisory has been the main item on the website that needs to be updated. Mr. Howe ensured Mr. Barrington that they would make an effort to update before the week is over to make certain that the updated schedules are posted.

The Town Manager received the legal bill for labor issues totaling \$20,703 for the month of September.

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

Mr. Bridle-Russell had the pleasure of attending a Budget Committee meeting last Tuesday night. The Budget Committee would like to have their schedule posted on the sign out-front so that citizens are aware of the Committee's activities. The Committee also mentioned that Channel 22 and the website have not been announcing the schedule of the Committee and requested that this issue be resolved. Mr. Barrington received a request from the Budget Committee to post the minutes on the website. He sent an email to Joan Rice and she sent the latest minutes to Mr. Barrington. The minutes should now be posted. As long as the Town Office receives the information it will be posted.

Mr. Moore asked what the cost of printing the Annual Report was last year. Mr. Barrington didn't have the exact figure however, mentioned that it was between \$5,000-\$6,000. Mr. Barrington reiterated that savings in printing costs could be achieved by simplifying the print style. Simple adjustments such as a black and white cover, fewer pictures and changing the binding to a staple could result in the Town saving up to \$3,000 in printing costs. Mr. Moore suggested that Mr. Barrington research the cost of printing the Annual Report with these suggested alterations.

Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Barrington for following up with Peter Howe on the website. Mr. Moore also commented on the Recreation Department's special revenue fund and requested a more detailed explanation of the funds allocated towards programs and supplies.

Mr. Moore inquired about scheduling discussion time on the agenda about loading zones and parking at the beach. Chairman Workman suggested that the Board wait until Mr. Pratt is able to attend the discussion and suggested November 7.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell requested clarification in regards to the collective bargaining in the budget report. She mentioned that according to the report the Town has over spent \$80,771 for September 30. Mr. Barrington explained that part of the \$80,771 over spending is due to labor issues and collective bargaining. Mr. Griffin asked if this amount included a labor negotiator. Mr. Barrington said that it did.

Mr. Griffin discussed the issue that Mr. Leon Trian is having with Kings Highway along 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Barrington said that they are planning on putting a temporary surface on the north end and then will fix it in spring. Part of the problem with Kings Highway is that paving is dependent on the weather. Mr. Barrington will check on the situation.

Mr. Griffin requested a candidate's night be added to the agenda on November 14<sup>th</sup>. He said that it would be beneficial if Gary Patten could be included under appointments for the meeting.

Mr. Moore asked if the Board of Selectmen should allow more uses for Channel 22 and questioned if volunteers should be paid. The Board has previously established the policy of authorizing pay for Channel 22 worker, but only one individual is currently accepting pay for these services.

## **2 – AQUARION TEMPORARY RATE INCREASE**

Attorney Mark Gearreald addressed the Board of Selectmen. He stated that Aquarion Company has put forth a request to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requesting both temporary and permanent utility rate increases. The process for rate increases involves filing a petition with the PUC. When there is a temporary rate increase certain information is provided to the PUC staff who then schedule a hearing. The hearing for the temporary rate increase has been scheduled for tomorrow at 10am. The PUC tries to reach a settlement before scheduling a hearing. Once the temporary rate increase issue has been solved the PUC enters into an audit situation where technical materials are reviewed in depth by technical personnel at the PUC. A similar hearing in regards to the permanent rate increase has been scheduled for July 18, 2006 and there is an earlier date to attempt to settle the issue. The Town is appearing as an intervener. The role the Town plays depends on how much it wants to spend on hiring independent personnel to do the same auditing that PUC staff do, or the Town could simply identify the problems that we perceive as to the rates they have requested on a permanent basis. In this case the temporary rates that they have requested are 9.09% for public fire hydrants and 9.16% for Town Buildings. The new rate increase is proposed for November 1. In the budgeting process the Town Finance Department has included increases in percentages for water expenses that exceed these two percentages that Aquarion would be able to charge on a temporary basis. Therefore, the approved budget figures will be adequate for the proposed increases. The proposal for the overall 10% increase on a temporary basis comes from PUC staff. The Office of Consumer Advocate is also in favor of the increase. Attorney Gearreald has come before the Board to receive authority to not object to the temporary increase at this time.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell does not agree with the increase and is concerned about the budget being passed. Chairman Workman asked if it would be fruitful to object to the Aquarion request. Attorney Gearreald responded by saying that there wasn't much point objecting too strenuously at this time as the PUC staff has already made their decision. Attorney Gearreald received the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to go forth with not objecting to the temporary increase at this time.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked when the Precinct Commissioners are coming in. Mr. Barrington said that they are coming in late November. Mrs. Bridle-Russell would like to make certain that the Board is well prepared for their visit. Mr. Barrington said that there has been discussion on Warrant Articles. Mr. Moore asked if the Fire Department could be added to the October 31 agenda to discuss their warrant article.

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

##### **1 – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HAMPTON BEACH AREA COMMISSION**

Mr. Workman provided an overview of the Hampton Beach Area Commission annual report. Mr. Workman was Chairman, Allison McLean was Vice Chairman, Fred Rice was Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission. Members included: representatives from Hampton Beach Village District, Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce, Rockingham Regional Planning Commission, Department of Resources and Economic Development, Department of Transportation and Office of Energy and Planning.

There were eight meetings held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday over the year at Fire Station #1. During the year the Commission established criteria for reviewing development projects in the beach area and provided input to the Planning and Zoning Boards. The Planning Board has become adept at sending projects to the Commission to ensure that the projects comply with the master plan. Further, the Commission met with representatives from the Earth, Sea & Space museum regarding possible location in the Hampton Beach area. The Commission developed a mission statement to assist and provide guidance in its continuing efforts:

The Commission is meeting this Thursday, October 27 at 7pm. The DOT will be joining the group to discuss plans for the bridge at the south end of Ocean Boulevard, leading to Seabrook. The Commission will also be reorganizing in October.

##### **2 – CONFIRMATION OF GRIEVANCE DECISIONS FROM HAMPTON POLICE ASSOCIATION**

Last week the Board of Selectmen heard two grievances related to their contracts from the Hampton Police Association.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to grant the Bereavement Leave Grievance request on the basis of equity and not as a matter of contract. The Physical Testing Grievance was denied as the Town did not previously have, and does not now have, such a requirement either in practice or as a matter of contract, therefore, overtime was denied. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the only way for a citizen to change the transfer station hours is by a warrant article. Mr. Barrington confirmed that it would be the only way unless the Selectmen decided otherwise.

Mr. Moore questioned if the Budget Committee suggestions go directly to the voters. Mr. Barrington said that the Committee only recommends a bottom line and the Board of Selectmen set policy. Mr. Moore asked what the process is for the budget. Mr. Barrington clarified the discussion by stating that normally the Budget Committee sets a bottom line which then goes on the warrant that goes to the voters. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that when the Board reviews money warrant articles the Selectmen will decide on recommending or not. Mr. Workman mentioned that if there are changes at the Deliberative Session then the Board gets another opportunity to make recommendations.

**V. MINUTES –OCTOBER 10, 2005**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to accept the minutes as presented. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**VI - CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**VII - PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell **MOTIONED** to adjourn at 7:42 PM.

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Chairman