

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
January 2, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

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

REGRETS:

Chairman Jim Workman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – Police Captain James B. Sullivan led the audience in the salute to the flag.

SWEARING IN POLICE CHIEF JAMES B. SULLIVAN

Sheriff Dan Linehan administered the oath of office to James B. Sullivan as the Hampton Police Chief.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Article A – *“.....raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,900,000 for the construction of fire station sub-station at the beach and headquarters facilities uptown, and all related activities necessary or desirable for such construction, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$3,900,000.....”*

Public Comments – None

Board of Selectmen response:

Mr. Barrington said that he discussed the fire station articles with Precinct Commissioner Mike O’Neil. As a result of the discussion it was suggested that the Town move forward with constructing the headquarters uptown. The Precinct Commission is committed to extending the existing beach fire station lease. This will allow the Bond to be a more manageable amount.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED not to put forth the presented Article A. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article A-1 – *“In the event of the failure of Article A, shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,773,880 for the construction of fire department headquarters facilities uptown, and all related activities necessary or desirable for such construction, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,773,880...”*

Public Comments – None

Board of Selectmen response:

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article A-1. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article A-2 – *“In the event of the passage of either Article A or Article A-1, shall the Town of Hampton vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of relocating the old district courthouse to the east and renovating it to become part of the fire department headquarters facilities uptown, and all related activities necessary or desirable for such restoration and construction.....”*

Public Comments – None

Board of Selectmen response:

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article A-2. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED – Bridle-Russell**

Article B – *“....raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,415,000 for the purpose of making needed upgrades, repairs, and maintenance at the Town’s wastewater treatment plant, and to authorize the issuance of bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed \$1,415,000”*

Public Comment:

John Hangen addressed the Board. He asked the Board to endorse Article B as there are many important upgrades required at the Town’s Wastewater Treatment plant. Mr. Hangen emphasized that he is very concerned about the ventilation system in the plant. There are many corrosive chemicals used in this confined area and he is worried about the employees’ health and safety in this environment.

Board of Selectmen response:

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article B. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article C – *“.....vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease/purchase agreement in the amount of \$665,780 payable over a term of sixty months at a rate of \$11,100 per month to purchase an aerial ladder truck for the Hampton Fire Department and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$133,200 for the first year’s payment for this purpose in fiscal year 2006?”*

Public Comment:

Fire Chief Hank Lipe addressed the Board. Chief Lipe mentioned that the current aerial ladder truck is old, unreliable and does not meet safety standards. He asked the Board of Selectmen to endorse the proposed Article C.

Board of Selectmen response:

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article C. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

A 5.5% interest rate was used to calculate the proposed \$665,780 for the fire truck. The money received from trading in the old fire truck was not included in the price of the new aerial ladder truck.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

None

II. APPOINTMENTS

1 – ELLEN GOETHEL – ICE POND ISSUES

Chairman of the Conservation Commission Ellen Goethel addressed the Board of Selectmen. She said that the Commission is working on a proposed article that would include the Town raising and appropriating \$100,000 to assist in purchasing approximately 14.68 acres of the Ice Pond. The Commission has \$150,000 in their trust fund, but still need additional funds to purchase the entire pond and surrounding area.

Mrs. Goethel, as well as other Conservation Commission members, are concerned about the Town losing the opportunity to purchase this environmentally sensitive area. The current property owners are planning on subdividing the land into three lots. The property is located along Woodland Road (Map#95 Lot #2 and Map #96 lot #3) and includes a section of the historically-important Ice Pond that is adjacent to the portion of the Ice Pond which is already owned by the Town of Hampton. Mrs. Goethel has not had time to talk to the owners directly and does not have a price estimate.

The Conservation Commission is also seeking funding through a matching grant fund to help assist in purchasing the Ice Pond property.

Town residents have been very supportive in the past of Commission projects. It is anticipated that they will support this proposal as well.

The two existing lots have been appraised at \$282,000 and \$168,000.

Mrs. Goethel will be submitting the petitioned article before January 10, 2006.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

With the swearing in of Jamie Sullivan as the Chief of Police, it is our intention to promote a new Police Captain and hire a new entry level officer. The Lieutenant position will be frozen for the time being.

There will be a pre-construction conference for the Exeter Road Railroad Bridge project on January 5 at 10:00 AM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

The Town will be meeting with the WHS School Board in the library at Winnacunnet High School at 7:00 PM (not the 6:30 previously mentioned) on Thursday, January 5, to hear the report of Steven Pernaw on the results and recommendations from his traffic study. A notice of the meeting has been posted in the event the Board of Selectmen wishes to take action at that time.

Mr. Barrington will be attending the Transportation Enhancement Advisory Committee in Concord on January 11 to present and hear discussion of the change of scope of the proposed road widening/bicycle path for Exeter Road west of I-95.

The November bills from Sheehan, Phinney, Bass & Green totaled \$5,709.06. This would be for labor issues excluding negotiations.

Mr. Barrington informed the Board of Selectmen that Bill Wrenn's retirement payout totaled \$65,450.07.

Public Works Director John Hangen has announced that the annual Christmas tree curbside pickup will be from January 4 through January 10. Citizens may also take their trees to the transfer station.

The Fire Department is facing a dilemma when considering the Fire Alarm business. If the Town is going to stay in the Fire Alarm business, we are going to need to spend some significant time and money on restringing wire at the beach as the utility poles are being moved. It is becoming time sensitive since the order in which the various utilities move is dictated by their locations on the pole. If the Board is inclined to cease our operations for the Fire Alarm system, then we should not waste our resources on the infrastructure to support that system. Mr. Barrington encouraged the Board to make a decision within the next two weeks so the necessary work can proceed.

Selectmen's Response to the Manager's Report

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that she is opposed of hiring a Police Captain since there have been many layoffs caused by budget constraints. Mr. Barrington said that Chief Sullivan would like to move towards having one Captain and three Lieutenants in the future. He also commented that it is less expensive to hire Captains rather than Lieutenants as they are exempt from overtime.

Mr. Moore asked for an update on the construction at the beach area. Mr. Barrington reported that there is progress with the construction efforts. Ashworth was graded to help improve the road conditions. Mr. Hangen said that grading will not do much good to improve the road conditions along Ashworth. There is too much traffic in the area and in a few hours it destroys the grading efforts.

Mr. Pratt asked if there were cost savings in outsourcing the fire alarm service. Mr. Barrington is looking into the costs of moving the lines. There are private vendors that could do the service. Fire Chief Lipe said that the service provided is mainly for commercial businesses such as restaurants. He said that business owners do have the option of using private service providers. Chief Lipe mentioned that all new businesses must have an alarm system. Chief Lipe reported that the fire alarm service is expensive as the equipment needs to be maintained and the staff working on that maintenance receives overtime.

Chief Lipe said that the service costs the Town approximately \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year. There is very little revenue generated to cover the costs of the service and by eliminating the service there would be significant cost savings. He also mentioned that there would be a cost to deactivate the service system.

Mr. Pratt suggested that the Board discuss the option in greater detail at the next meeting.

Mr. Barrington asked for clarification regarding the Police Department. Mr. Moore and Mr. Griffin support the Chief Sullivan's decision to hire a new Captain. Mr. Pratt would like to see the Chief work towards having only one Captain but at this point he supports the decision of Chief Sullivan.

2 – WORK SESSION – WASTE ALTERNATIVES – JOHN HANGEN

Public Works Director John Hangen presented the following waste alternatives for the Board and residents to consider:

Tonnage of trash produced by main users:

- Residents – 4,800 Tons
- Summer Visitors (daily) – 490 Tons
- Cottage/Seasonal (rentals) – 882 Tons
- New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) – clean beaches – 123 Tons
- Infiltrations – (contractors & out of town communities) – 250 Tons
- Commercial – 3,000 Tons
- Schools – 200 Tons

Total Tonnage – 9,745

Costs involved in trash management:

- Curbside Pickups (employees, trucks, etc.) - \$527,238
- Transport and Tipping - \$713,200
- Transfer Station - \$225,000

Cost per Year: \$1,465,438

Hampton

Population of 15,363

9,745 Tons of trash

Hampton has no trash limits set

Other local communities in comparison:

Portsmouth:

Population of 20,768
 5,500 Tons of trash
 Portsmouth has a barrel trash collection system.

Dover:

Population of 28,000
 5,000 Tons of trash
 Dover has a pay as you throw trash collection system

Exeter

Population of 14,050
 3,329 Tons of trash
 Exeter has a pay as you throw trash collection system

Seabrook

Population of 8,376
 4,500 Tons of trash
 Seabrook has no trash limits set

Mr. Hangen believes that Hampton is the only community in the area that picks up commercial trash. In addition there is a significant difference between communities in regards to the amount of trash produced. This could be the result of each town's trash collection policy. Mr. Hangen said that Hampton needs to work towards creating incentives to reduce trash and promote recycling.

Mr. Moore asked for clarification regarding the amounts of trash tonnage. In the request for proposals on page 4 it states that the Town picks-up 6,300 tons of residential and 700 tons from commercial. Mr. Hangen said that he sent the bidding companies an amendment with actual tonnage of trash (9,745 Tons).

Mr. Hangen presented the following options for the Town to consider:

| | Probable % budget Range savings | Range \$ Savings x 000 | Probable Income x 000 |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Stay as we are | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Privatize | 10 | 121-131 | 0 |
| 3. Pay as you throw | 25-40 | 286-458 | 100% of cost |
| 4. Only pickup residential & visitors | 20-30 | 124-343 | 160-240 |
| 5. Charge Commercial | 0 | 0 | 200-500 |
| 6. Charge 2 Barrels | 0 | 0 | 200-300 |
| 7. Mandatory Recycling | 10-20 | 71-142 | 0 |

Pay as you throw would be the most aggressive system. It would help to reduce taxes and cover the costs of trash collection.

Attorney Gearreald said that residents, by means of a Town vote, will decide on the future of the Town waste removal.

Mr. Pratt said that the Town needs to consider other options as collecting trash is very expensive.

Mr. Hangen said that the Board needs to be aware of the options available to work towards a more efficient and financially manageable system.

There was some discussion on whether or not a fee would be charged for transfer station stickers. A warrant article will be prepared by Mr. Barrington and presented to the Board at a later date.

3 – TRENCH PERMIT REQUEST – PATRICIA STREET

One of the questions that was asked at the last Selectmen's meeting concerned what options we might have available in regard to the Patricia Street trench cut. Of course, the reason that the permit was rejected by Public Works, is because of the Selectmen's ordinance establishing a five-year moratorium on excavation after resurfacing any street. John Hangen, pointed out that he has made arrangements with Aquarion on their work on Highland Avenue that the Selectmen recently approved. It was approved to make more extensive scarification of the road several feet away from the actual trench area, and then do a full width overlay of the entire roadway in the area of the trench, including several feet on either side. If the Board wishes to grant the excavation waiver, Mr. Barrington recommend that it be done to the specifications described by the Public Works Director similar to the requirements for Highland Avenue.

John Hangen said that the Aquarion would do the excavation where it needs to be done and then finish the road. The Town does hold their bond to insure proper repair.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to grant the waiver for the Patricia Street excavation permit, and that it is done to the specifications described by the Public Works Director similar to the requirements for Highland Avenue. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

4 – WARRANT ARTICLES

Warrant Articles in Black have been acted on and are going forward

Article 11 – *“...raise \$150,400 and appropriate \$752,000 to fund the 20% local share of, and to accept an 80% share from a CMAQ grant for all costs of procurement, engineering, design, and construction work associated with a bike path project...”*

Mr. Barrington reported that he does not have an answer from the State on the eligibility of the entire project. There is a meeting on January 11 and it is anticipated that there will be a decision made then. He recommended that the numbers presented may be amended at the deliberative session if necessary.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article 11. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED – Bridle-Russell**

Article 17 – “....raise and appropriate **\$30,000** to make repairs to the Lane Memorial Library?.....”

Mr. Barrington has not received anything in writing and was verbally told that the number would be \$59,500.

Board Decision:

Wait until next week.

Article 22 – “....rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c as to the Hampton Emergency Medical Services Fund, a Special Revenue Fund created by Article 15 of the 2000 Town Meeting and funded with revenues generated from ambulance and emergency medical services calls, and transfer any surplus remaining in said Fund into, and vote to establish an Ambulance Service Revolving fund

There was some concern that the Article may confuse people. Chairman Workman said that the Article basically changes the name and nature of the fund. It will not impact the expenditures of the fund. If defeated the current revenues from operation of the fund spent for the current expenditures to operate the fund.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article 22. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

MOTION WITHDRAWN

Discussion:

Mr. Barrington said that the fund generates revenue that is to be used to purchase ambulances. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if a certain amount of money could be put back into the general fund and accessed at a later date. Town Attorney Gearreald said that the money could be a budgeted item. He did warn that by taking money out of the special revenue fund and putting it into the general fund rather than using it for the intended purpose could create potential legal challenges in regards to an illegal tax.

The wording will be changed and presented again next week.

Article 23 – “....rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-C as to the Hampton Recreation Fund, a Special Revenue Fund created by Article 19 of the 2000 Town Meeting and funded with revenues generated from recreation department programs and activities, and transfer any surplus remaining in said Fund to, and to establish, a Recreation Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA 35-B:2,II. The money received from fees and charges for recreation and park services and facilities, and from recreation department programs and activities, shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered to be part of the Town’s general fund unreserved fund balance.....”

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article 23. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article 25 – “....rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c as to the Hampton Private Detail Fund, a Special Revenue Fund created by Article 17 of the 2000 Town Meeting and funded with revenues generated from Police and Fire Department private details, and transfer any surplus remaining in said fund to, and vote to establish, a Hampton Private Detail Revolving Fund....”

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article 25. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article 26 - “.....rescind the provisions of RSA 31:95-c as to the Fire Alarm Fund, a Special Revenue Fund.....”

Mr. Pratt suggested that the Article be reviewed again next week.

Article 27 – “....In the event that Article 25 does not pass, shall the Town of Hampton appropriate only the sum of \$127,724 from surplus revenues generated from the Hampton Private Detail Fund prior to December 31, 2005, to pay for the purchase and “set up” of five new marked police cruisers

It was suggested that the wording be amended to include “up to” five new police cruisers.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to put forward the presented Article 27 with the amendment. **Mr. Pratt SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Article F – “.....approve the closure of the spur off of Park Avenue onto Winnacunnet Road in order to make a safe intersection at the new entrance to Winnacunnet High School?

It was suggested that the Board wait to see the results of the meeting with the Winnacunnet High School next Thursday before making a decision on Article F.

Petition Articles

Mr. Pratt suggested that the Board wait until all have been submitted.

Old Business Continued

Mrs. Bridle-Russell requested an account balance for the Town. She would like to know how much has been spent in the 2005 appropriation. Mr. Barrington will provide a current budget report at the next Selectmen’s meeting.

Mr. Barrington will prepare a warrant article for the parking and transfer station stickers.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1 GRANT – ROCKINGHAM COUNTY – REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

The Recreation Department is seeking to schedule a public hearing for the Scholarship Summer Program grant for \$11,547.

Hearing will be held on January 9.

2- UNITED STATES ATTORNEY’S OFFICE – STREET SWEEPER GRANT – REQUEST TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING

The Hampton Police department is seeking a public hearing for Operation Streetsweeper grant totaling \$9,993.93. It will be used to purchase eleven Tasers and the associated equipment.

Hearing will be held on January 9.

New Business Continued.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to have a non-public meeting in according of RSA 91-A:3 II(e) after tonight’s Selectmen’s meeting. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

V. MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2005

Page 9 – spelled – not spelt

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

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI - CONSENT AGENDA

1 – Deed – Hampton Cemetery

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to accept the consent agenda which included the Hampton Cemetery Deed. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII - PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bill Bowley asked if there would be any changes such as privatization to trash pick-up this year. Chairman Workman assured him that there would be no changes to trash pick-up this year.

Mr. Rich Reniere came to the public hearing earlier tonight but was out of the room during the decision on Article A. He asked the Board what their decision was. Chairman Workman explained that it was decided not to move Article A forward, in favor of A-1 and A-2. Mr. Moore mentioned that the Precinct Commission had contacted the Town Manager and said that they would extend the lease for the fire station and that they were in favor of Article A-1 and A-2.

Mr. Skip Webb came to the Board to discuss recycling systems in other communities. He said that in other communities that he has lived in there were recycling centers and the town sold the materials to a private vendor. Another system that Mr. Webb has seen in other communities is an operator with a truck who picks up recycled materials in buckets. This operator pays the Town for the right to have the route. He believes that these methods of recycling are something that should be considered to save taxpayers money.

Nathan Page has a business and home in Hampton. He would like to see a simple flat fee for all residence and business owners rather than a two tiered system. In addition he suggested that the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) pay a fee to use the transfer station.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:25PM. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman