

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
March 13, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Jim Workman, Chairman  
Cliff Pratt, Vice-Chairman  
Virginia Bridle-Russell  
Rick Griffin  
Ben Moore  
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** – Vice Chairman Cliff Pratt led the audience in the salute to the flag.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mr. Moore encouraged Hampton citizens to vote tomorrow (March 14) at the Town election. He reminded residents that the vote will be held at the Marston School, along Marston Way.

A memo from Dyana Martin, Director of Recreation & Parks, was included in the Board of Selectmen's packets for consideration. Mrs. Martin's memo suggested the following: That the Town bus be used to take trips to the polls tomorrow (March 14) at 9am and 9:15am from the Dearborn House with pickups from the polls back to Dearborn at 9:20 – 9:30am and again for the second group at 9:45am. She suggested that the bus could pickup citizens at the front of Ross Colony at approximately 9:50am for the polls and again at 10:10am with pickups from the polls back to Ross Colony at 10:30am and 10:45am. The final pickup would be Atlantic Heights at 11:00am with a second trip at 11:20am with pickup from the polls back to Atlantic Heights at 11:30 and 11:50am.

It was the consensus of the Board to support Mrs. Martin's recommendation. Any residents with questions may contact the Recreation & Parks Department.

Mr. Pratt encouraged citizens to vote at tomorrow's Town Election.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell urged the viewers at home to get out and vote tomorrow. She said that Town officials often hear from dissatisfied residents and she would like to encourage all residents to vote. Mrs. Bridle-Russell also reminded parents that public schools are closed tomorrow to accommodate the Town vote.

Mr. Barrington thanked Marston School and SAU 21 for their assistance with the Town Election.

## II. APPOINTMENTS

None

## III. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

#### Verizon

Three representatives from Verizon met with the Town Manager and staff last Tuesday to discuss the current fiber optic upgrades in Hampton. It is the objective of Verizon to cover the entire Town with fiber to the premises (FTTP). This will allow them to compete directly with Comcast for high speed internet services via broadband connection. They expect the entire process to take a couple of years. Mr. Barrington said that this is the beginning of the promised benefits of deregulation which will ultimately give Hampton residents an alternative television provider. It is anticipated that it will be another three to eight years before this service is available. Mr. Barrington encouraged citizens to call Verizon if interested in their services.

#### Trash Packer

The trash packer ordered from the 2005 budget arrived at the Public Works Department. It has been registered, insured and outfitted for service.

#### Municipal Advocacy

Mr. Barrington attended the Municipal Advocacy / Government Affairs Committee meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Information from the NH Municipal Association, 2007-2008 Legislative Policy Process has been included in the Board of Selectmen's packets. The deadline for submission of proposed policies is May 1 for the 2007 legislative session.

#### Great Bay Estuaries Study

Mr. Barrington and Town Planner Jamie Steffen met with Dan O'Neil and Bob Scherpf from Metcalf & Eddy today. They are engineers that are under contract with the State to work on the Great Bay Estuaries Study. The meeting was an opportunity for them to provide a progress report on the project. Tom Gillick is a member of the committee involved in the study, but has been unable to attend recently. There will also be a planning charrette on Saturday, March 25 at 8am at the Stratham Cooperative Middle School. For a listing of their proposed alternatives information please go to their website [www.coastalclear.org](http://www.coastalclear.org). The primary purpose of the meeting is to get feedback on the ten proposals and narrow the decision down to four. The meeting is open to the public.

#### Voter Registration

Mr. Barrington received a call today regarding open registration. The caller was concerned that voters would not be able to register the day of the Town Election as required by State law. Mr. Barrington explained that the Town is required to close registration ten day prior to the Town Election and assured citizens that they may register the day of the Election. They will need to bring picture identification along with documentation such as an electric bill that verifies residency.

#### Article 49

Mr. Barrington also received a called from a concerned citizen about Article 49. Their concern was losing resident parking in the lot that is the subject of this article. It is a petitioned article that received 25 signatures from registered voters supporting the article. As a result it is on the ballot.

## **SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT**

It was clarified that it is only a portion of the parking lot that Article 49 is referring to. Mr. Barrington suggested that voters study the various articles and consider the consequences of their vote.

Mr. Moore has been reviewing the 2006 financial statements and noticed that there were no revenues in the EMS fund and asked if it was usual or a delay in accounting. Mr. Barrington said that it is probably a delay in accounting and that it generally lags a month behind and that January billing usually does not arrive until February. The billing is currently being done by a third party and the Fire Department is considering having the job done internally.

Mr. Moore noted that there were two change orders for the Beach Infrastructure Project. Mr. Barrington said that there was a change in sewer configuration as it comes to Ocean Boulevard. One of the configurations that was originally proposed was rejected by the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) which resulted in them deciding not to fund it. Therefore, it was altered to suit the DES requirements.

Mr. Moore asked about the Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) payments as they appeared to be over the contract value. Mr. Barrington said that there was a \$50,000 change order at the end of the year and he believes that it is not reflected in the contract total.

Mr. Moore is pleased that the NH Department of Transportation (DOT) is willing to work with the Town to ensure the success of the Beach Infrastructure Project. There will be a public hearing next week (March 20<sup>th</sup>) to discuss the parking and loading zones along Ashworth and on A through D Streets, inclusive.

Mr. Griffin commented on Article 49. He said that there has been a lot of discussion by residents about this Article. This is not an unprecedented proposal as there was property sold to Bailey's Resort about eight years ago. This particular property was also a petitioned article.

Mr. Pratt asked how long it will take before citizens will have access to Verizon's high speed internet. Mr. Barrington said that the entire Town should be done by 2007. Once the fiber optics has been set up in your neighborhood you may call Verizon to get hooked up. Mr. Barrington will provide Verizon's phone number at the Selectmen's meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> for those interested.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that there has been no price agreed to in regard to Article 49. According to the Article the price would be negotiated between the Board of Selectmen and the potential purchaser (Fred Schaaque – Barn Realty, Inc.).

## **2. APPROPRIATION OVERSIGHT COMMISSION – MISSION STATEMENT**

Chairman Workman said that it was not his intention as the creator of the Commission to abdicate the fiscal responsibility of what the Board of Selectmen exercises. It was to seek input to help the Board perform its financial duties better. Chairman Workman said that his knowledge on fiscal issues is limited and he wanted to create a group with specialized skills that would review the current process and report back to the Board with their findings. This would enable the Board to better serve the Town. The Commission is not to dictate process, manage funds or be involved in spending; that is the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen.

The motion from the January 9<sup>th</sup>:

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to create a five member, ad hoc appropriation oversight commission. The responsibility of this group will be to explore the Town's appropriation processes and to identify how to make it more efficient. The members will include the Town Moderator as the Chairman, one Budget Committee member and three public at large members. The Commission would be required to report to the Board of Selectmen by May 1. The Commission will be responsible to investigate the process of appropriations and how the Town spends its money. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that the Appropriation Oversight Commission mission statement be: To analyze, look at and make suggestions on, how to the extent possible, balance out spending throughout the year for the Town Budget. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### **Discussion:**

It was suggested that the RSA's that impact the fiscal responsibility of the Town to be mentioned to the Commission Chairman of Bob Casassa. The objective of this Board is to be complete by May 1, 2006.

#### **OLD BUSINESS - CONTINUED**

Mr. Griffin inquired about the Board of Selectmen Roundtable meeting that was scheduled for Saturday, March 11. The meeting was cancelled when the Channel 22 representative was not present. He had an unforeseen family emergency and was unable to be at the Town Hall when the meeting was scheduled to start.

Mr. Griffin asked about Channel 22 scheduling for special events. Mr. Barrington explained that events such as the PTA Candidates night are rebroadcasted during the school special time slot.

Mr. Griffin asked if the blinking lights at the school have been installed. Mr. Barrington received an email from Dick White stating that the lights are temporarily on hold until the rest of the project can be coordinated. Mr. Workman said that the eastbound light has been installed. The project has been coordinated with Public Works to ensure that it is in conformance with all regulations. Mr. Griffin asked who was responsible for the electric expenses. Mr. Barrington said that electric expenses and sign maintenance are the School's responsibility.

Mr. Griffin asked why the Hampton Rescue Boat was being used last Thursday. Mr. Barrington is not certain and will find out if the Boat was being used for training or a rescue mission.

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

##### **Presentations**

Mr. Moore presented a plaque to Vice-Chairman Cliff Pratt as a token of appreciation for his dedication and service during his first term from 2003 to 2006.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell presented Chairman Jim Workman with a plaque of appreciation. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that being the Chairman is never an easy job. His job was made even more difficult with financial constraints, employee layoffs and the infamous Beach Infrastructure Project. She thanked Mr. Workman for his patience and willingness to listen to all sides. Mr. Workman said that it has been an honor to act as Chairman and has enjoyed serving on the Board.

Mr. Griffin asked if the Town Manager has received any letters complaining about mutual aid to other towns. Mr. Barrington said that there have been no letters addressed to himself or the Board of Selectmen from surrounding towns regarding mutual aid. Mr. Griffin would like the voters to be aware that there have been no complaints and that he is concerned that Hampton Town employees have been soliciting complaints from other towns. He believes that this needs to be looked at. Mr. Griffin said that he has read about these complaints in local newspapers. Chairman Workman stated that if the standard is that if we don't have it in writing then we don't have any complaints. In addition, he said that if we don't have it in writing then, if people are soliciting complaints that it should be the same standard.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the Fire Chief of Seabrook and the Fire Chief of Portsmouth have discussed their complaints to the newspapers. Mr. Griffin said that their complaints should be in a letter form and directed to the Town of Hampton. He does not believe that employees being paid by the Town should not be soliciting complaints.

Mr. Pratt asked if it would be possible to have a sign put up in the beach area that indicates, construction will be complete by Memorial Day (May 29). He is concerned that without some sort of notice stating that the construction will be over by this spring that it may have a negative impact on summer rentals. Mr. Barrington will work on having a sign posted.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell thanked the people responsible for cleaning up the graffiti that was spray painted on the "Five Corners" bus stop. Mr. Barrington said that the Hampton Recreation and Parks Department cleaned up the vandalism.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell welcomed "Me & Ollie's Café" to Hampton and encouraged people to check out the local shops in the area.

## **V. MINUTES MARCH 6, 2006**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to accept the minutes as presented. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 4 FOR  
(Abstained – Moore)**

Mr. Barrington read the letter that he received from Comcast regarding the Comcast Cable Senior Discount Policy. The letter stated that "Senior Discounts are voluntary discounts provided by Comcast, negotiated on a Town-by-Town basis. The discount qualifications are determined as part of the licensing process with each community. As such, not all communities in New Hampshire have discounts." The letter states that, "Customers should not be told to call their town offices".

## **VI - CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Crimeline Donation - \$951.75
2. Abatements
3. Parade License

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** to accept the consent agenda. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**VII - PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman