

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
May 1, 2006 – 6:00 PM**

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

**REGRETS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER**

Jerry Dignam (10 Tobey Street) addressed the Board with a point of order. He believes the motion regarding the senior center that the Board of Selectmen made last week was a motion of conflict. His concern was that the Board made a decision before the public hearing was scheduled. Mr. Dignam suggested that the Board reconsider last week's motion regarding the modular trailers until the public hearing has concluded.

Glyn Eastman (459 Lafayette Road) is happy that the Board of Selectmen is considering a senior center. He is not particularly in favor of the proposed modular trailers being used as a senior center. But is in favor if it can be utilized for study purposes to determine the amount of use it receives which may lead to a better center in the future.

Jerry Dignam (10 Tobey Street) addressed the Board with another point of order. His point was that the motion made last week referring to the senior center modular trailer was seconded by the Chairman. He suggested that this parliamentary procedure would make the motion invalid.

Recreation & Parks Director Dyana Martin discussed the modular trailers. She mentioned that the building is large and meets ADA standards. During her career as the Hampton Recreation Director she has always supported the concept of a senior center. Though the modular trailer is not the ideal facility, it would provide space for seniors. Usage of the facility could be gauged and data could be collected for funding purposes. In addition to the proposed senior center the facility could be used for teen camps and other recreation activities.

Mary Louise Woolsey (148 Little River Road) believes that the Board of Selectmen are not following the state budget laws (Budget Preparation - RSA 32:5 II and IV c, d; Limitation on Expenditures - RSA 32:8; Exception – RSA 32:9; Transfer of Appropriations - RSA 32:10 I b, e and II, Emergency Expenditures and Over expenditures – RSA 32:11 I,II,III) in regard to last week's motion to allocate funds to the senior center that was not accounted for in the budget. She is trying to figure out where the money is coming from. She is concerned about the legality and the money trail. She believes that the public was not properly notified about this proposed expenditure. Mrs. Woolsey is opposed to the Board of Selectmen's proposed expenditure for a senior center and believes that it is an unwarranted expenditure.

Bonny Searle (16 Penniman Lane) asked for clarification on the accounts where the funds would be coming from for the proposed senior center. Mr. Barrington explained that it is a result of funds allocated to the unemployment account that has been carried over from last year. Mrs. Searle noted that a legal notice was not in a local newspaper and questioned the purpose of the public hearing under RSA 31:95-e (Acceptance of Personal Property Donated to Towns). It was clarified that the purpose of the public hearing is to hear what residents have to say about the proposed senior center and not to accept funds. Mrs. Searle is concerned about the appearance of the building behind the former Town Hall. She was also concerned about the adequacy of the heating and cooling system as well as the cost of maintaining the building. Mrs. Searle concluded by saying that she is not in favor of the trailer being used as a Senior Center.

Jeannine St. Germin (60 Mill Road) is not opposed to a senior centre or the suggested location. She is opposed to the center being in a modular trailer. Mrs. St. Germin is concerned about the safety factor of the unit and feels that it is not the best for seniors.

Nita Niemczyk (22 Hunting Place) does not think that the trailers are ideal but believes that the modular is a start. She suggested that resident efforts should be focused on finding a way to fund the project rather than crushing it. Ms. Niemczyk said that it has been proven that senior citizen centers are known to facilitate better health for seniors because they are doing things together. She encouraged people to financially support a seniors center through the Hobbs House rather than welfare. She also fears that there will not be enough money in the future for a Senior Center and believes that this is Hampton's one time opportunity.

Fred Rice (15 Heather Lane) is supportive of the proposed Senior Center. It will provide space for seniors to socialize and promote healthy lifestyles. He also noted that the price is reasonable and that the Board of Selectmen do not have to go through the Budget Committee to make financial decisions. He said that Town voters have not supported feasibility studies in the past and is skeptical that they would support a center in the future.

Geraldine Wilbur is for a senior citizen center just not in a modular trailer. She believes that they are not suitable for seniors as it is difficult to regulate the temperature in these structures. Mrs. Wilbur would like to see a more appropriate structure for the seniors who have contributed to the Town.

Maurice Freidman (30 Hampton Meadows) is happy that a senior citizen center is being discussed at Selectmen meetings. He feels that the modular trailers are not suitable for seniors. He would like to see more planning done on the center before a final decision is made. He suggested that seniors need to become more vocal about their needs for a center.

Gerry McConnell feels that the proposed center is a start that is affordable and is in favor of the Board of Selectmen's decision. The building can be modified to make it look better.

Elizabeth Webb (11 Windmill Lane) stated that the modular is not what seniors want but it is a start. Many years ago she was very involved with the official seniors committee who worked towards developing a strategy for a senior center. The committee worked with consultants and the local university to develop a plan. She noted that many towns have started with a small center and that has grown over time. Mrs. Webb also mentioned that the trailers were good enough for the Town's children to be taught in and questioned why they are not suitable for the rest of the population.

Paul Lessard (6 Colby Street) is against the modular trailers as a senior center and the proposed location.

Judith Shannon is in support of the proposed senior center. She went to the high school to view the inside of the modular trailers and believes that it is a start for the senior center. She questioned seniors where their spirit of adventure is.

Ronald St. Germin is not for the modular trailer as a senior center. He believes the building is a fire hazard.

Joe Sliney (9 Katie Lane) believes that the modular trailers are not the answer for the senior center and would be better used as storage units. He is also concerned about the ventilation and heating system. He is also against the proposed location behind the former Town hall. He would like to see a long term solution rather than a temporary one.

Mr. Skip Webb (11 Windmill Lane) was very involved with the official seniors committee who worked towards developing a strategy for a senior center. He noted that the committee has not disbanded. He is in favor of the proposed center and location. Mr. Webb mentioned that the center would be close to the library and church in the area. He suggested that senior volunteers such as himself could paint the trailer to make it more attractive.

Michael Pierce (Hedman Avenue) is concerned about a modular trailer being used as a senior center. He does not think it is very practical or appropriate and would rather see the money go towards the Beach Infrastructure project in the Island area.

Andrew Guthrie (9 Boston Avenue) does not believe that the proposed modular trailer would be suitable for a senior citizen center. He would like to see a better structure available for seniors.

George Wall asked the people in the meeting room to raise their hands in support of the modular trailers being used as a senior center. Over 75% of the room was not in support.

Tom Gillick complimented the Board for their innovative and progressive step to address a long established need. He said that when voters chose not to fund a capital need, the need does not go away, it just becomes more expensive. He noted that voters will need to make a decision next year on supporting a new fire station at the beach and it is unlikely Hampton citizens will support a free standing senior center. Mr. Gillick said the proposal to use the modular trailer for a senior center is a step that is recognized by the Board and the Town Manager then it is something that citizens should consider and applauded the Board for their efforts.

Mrs. Dot Rogers is in favor of the proposed center and believes that this is Hampton seniors' last chance. She said that it is not exactly what seniors want but it is the only thing that has been offered. Mrs. Rogers suggested that the Town does not have the money to support a high quality facility.

There was some concern about who will cover the cost of utilities and maintenance. It was noted that it would come from the Recreation Department from the general government fund.

Dick Violette (68 Kings Highway) is in favor of taking advantage of the opportunity for the proposed senior center.

Russ Bridle (225 Toll Farm Road) is in favor of the proposed senior center. He believes it is not the end all but it is a start. Mr. Bridle noted that the modular is ADA compatible and has been inspected every year by the fire department. He believes seniors deserve more but for the interim it will suffice. He also applauded the Board of Selectmen for their efforts on bringing the senior center proposal forward.

John Lessard (24 Locke Road) is against the notion of the senior center in the modular and believes that seniors need something better.

Chairman Bridle-Russell announced that the Board has received five letters (one was signed by eleven registered voters). All the letters expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed center.

Rosanne Wright questioned if seniors would be able to cook in the modular as many of them would like to have lunch together.

Chairman Bridle-Russell announced the public hearing over at 7:55 PM.

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

**Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm and introduced those in attendance.**

## **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

### **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell announced the dedication and open house for the new Winnacunnet High School Science/Math wing will take place on May 3 at 6 pm. A fundraising dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

### **II. APPOINTMENTS**

#### **1 – TOWN ATTORNEY GEARREALD – CONSERVATION EASEMENT – 389 HIGH STREET**

The Planning Board has approved the condominium unit at 389 High Street. There is a dedication to a conservation easement of approximately four acres of land. The Conservation Commission has also approved the easement after the Selectmen approved the easement on December 5, 2005. The final step in completing the process is to have the Board of Selectmen sign the conservation easement and forward it onto the Rockingham County Conservation District.

#### **2 – GARY KUBIK – HAMPTON BEACH PRECINCT COMMISSION**

The Hampton Beach Precinct Commission Attorney has been working with the Town Attorney to develop a lease contract agreement for the current beach fire station. The renewal of the lease has been extended to May 31, 2009.

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to sign the beach fire station lease agreement with the Hampton Beach Precinct Commission. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **3 – RALPH FATELLO – VETERAN’S ISSUE**

Hampton residents Ralph Fatello, Colonel Lessard and John Holman addressed the Board. They have come before the Board to address a long overdue tribute to two Hampton men, Bruce W. Brown (KIA 1968) and Mark Brown (KIA 1969) who were killed during the Vietnam War. There has never been a street, park, or bench named after them. Mr. Fatello made a plea for these two native sons of Hampton to have a permanent landmark recognizing their sacrifice. It was suggested that perhaps the new emergency rescue boat pier, the playground at Marston School, the flag pole at Winnacunnet High School athletic field, the bridge across High Street and Brown Avenue its self could be possible landmark tributes. The bridge is state property and there is a legislative process that would be required prior to naming it. It was also suggested that perhaps the walking path at the Hurd Farm be considered. Chairman Bridle-Russell suggested that this subject be revisited at the next Selectmen’s meeting.

Mr. Fatello invited the Board to the Hampton Memorial Day services.

### **4 – FRED RICE – HAMPTON BEACH AREA COMMISSION**

A meeting was arranged between the Commission and Selectmen to discuss the upcoming goals and objectives for the beach area. Doug DePorter (NHDOT), John Kane and Brian Warburton joined the Chairman of the Commission Fred Rice. The Commission is made up of nine members representing the Town of Hampton, 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. The Commission’s duties include consultation and advice to the town and state agencies to accomplish the goals set out in the 50 year plan.

There are four subcommittees of the Commission that are designated to particular jobs. John Kane is the leader of the Beachscape Committee. Mr. Kane has been involved in updating the signs for Hampton Beach. He also mentioned that at the Precinct Commission meeting a beautification committee was formed. The group is working on flower boxes which will be dispersed among the businesses in the beach area. The Commission is hoping to host flower competitions in the future.

Mr. Workman reported on the Zoning & Redevelopment subcommittee. The committee works with the Planning Board and focuses on the master plan. There were three warrant articles that were developed, one passed and the other two failed. The Planning Board and committee is considering putting the articles forward again this coming year.

Doug Deporter discussed the Transportation and Parking Committee. They have asked design engineers to go over Hampton River Bridge or Neil Underwood Bridge concepts. A meeting was held where the four and two lane bridge proposal was presented without a lift span. Comments from the meeting were consistent; in general people are looking for a non-lift span bridge. The results were then presented to state commissioners and directors. The directors requested that the engineers develop a cost analysis of making some repairs to the deck and are finalizing these estimates for a public Town officials meeting. There are historical considerations of the existing bridge and there has been some interest in the rehabilitation of it. Mr. Deporter also commented on the controversial issue of a parking garage.

There is a possibility of a feasibility study for the garage. Mr. Rice added that there has been talk of a toll on the Seabrook side of the bridge.

Brian Warburton (NH Parks Manager for Hampton Beach) works closely with the Commission and was asked to discuss his involvement with the activities in the beach area. Mr. Warburton is in the beach area every day and mentioned that the Board should be very proud of the construction work done by FST and Zoppo. He is excited about the improvements and foresight in the beach area.

Mr. Rice commented on the proposed not for profit, Earth, Sea and Space Center that is being considered in the area. It would be a major education and tourist facility that would help to improve business activity year around at the beach.

Mr. Rice also discussed the public forum that was held a few months ago where there were positive suggestions such as a visitors center at the state park.

Mr. Rice concluded by requesting that the Board consider and vote upon and favoring a four lane high-bridge with no drawbridge, as opposed to long term rehabilitation of the existing drawbridge. The result of the high bridge would improve traffic and boating in the area. In addition, he requested that the Board request the old bridge be removed once the new one is in place. He also said that long term relationships have been established for many of the long term projects and recommended that the Board consider reappointing Jim Workman and himself to the Commission.

Mr. Lally noted that the bridge is an evacuation route for the Seabrook Nuclear plant. Therefore, perhaps a toll bridge would not be suitable for that location. Mr. Rice is hopeful that federal and other funding will be made available to support the project.

Mr. Moore asked if the Commission has considered the Main Street program for economic development in the beach area. Mr. Kane mentioned that they have not earmarked money for a full time person to work on the project and at least \$30,000 would need to be committed to the program before being considered.

Chairman Bridle-Russell said that the Board would get back to the Commission with the letter of support.

## **ADDRESS HIGHWAY SAFETY REPORTS – JUDY PARK**

### **Reddington Landing request:**

The Board accepted the Highway Safety Committee's recommendation in keeping with its customary policy of not recommending special speed limits for roads that see limited use. Therefore, there will be no change to the speed limit along Reddington Landing.

### **Installation of Street Light:**

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to have a street light installed at the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Kings Highway. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **Intersection of Winnacunnet Road and Kings Highway**

The Highway Safety Committee is concerned about the danger posed by drivers heading east on Winnacunnet Road making illegal left turns onto Kings Highway. This danger is increased by the fact that there is a lot of construction activity in the area. Chief Sullivan has indicated that the police department will be increasing patrolling and enforcement in the area.

### **No Parking Sign – Walnut Avenue**

Public Works Director John Hangen has recommended that the Board consider posting a no parking sign to prevent parking on town property. Mrs. Park mentioned that the area in question is a land lot and not a roadway. Mr. Barrington stated that there is no pavement there and it is grass. Mr. Barrington will talk to Mr. Hangen to bring alternatives back to the Board for consideration.

### **III. MINUTES – APRIL 24, 2006**

Page 1 – Under Regrets - Mr. Barrington was present at the meeting

The minutes of April 24<sup>th</sup> stand corrected as read.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

##### **Aquarion**

Mr. Barrington met with Aquarion representatives to discuss the water line work along Ashworth / Highland Avenue. Aquarion will not be able to complete the water line work in the area until 2007. The water company will be responsible for trench patching the area.

##### **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection date is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 noon behind the old town office.

##### **Town Clerk's office**

The Town Clerk's office will be closed May 24 so staff can attend a Town Clerk's annual conference. Mr. Barrington received official notice that the Deputy Town Clerk Betty Poliquin will be retiring.

##### **Paving Parking Lots**

John Hangen and Mr. Barrington met with the prospective parking lot contractors. It is expected that all the information will be available on Monday and they will be able to award a contract for the paving work.

##### **Heritage Commission - Public Forum**

Heritage Commission Chairman Elizabeth Aykroyd stopped by this afternoon to tell me about a public forum being planned by the Heritage Commission for June 14. This will be an opportunity for the consultant who has been doing surveys of the old courthouse building for alternative reuse to discuss his findings with the public and to solicit feedback from the public on the issue. Once they are able to confirm the date, they will also begin trying to arrange for the meeting to be televised on Channel 22.

Mr. Barrington reported on the infrastructure project. It appears that the project is on schedule.

The financing agreement for the aerial ladder truck on the agenda has not been received. The best interest rate received was 3.92% Suntrust.

Mr. Barrington has been extremely busy catching up with a variety of topics.

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

It was clarified that the work done by Aquarion in 2007 will be at no additional cost to the Town and will be extended up Highland Avenue.

Mr. Moore inquired if the paving of the Ashworth and High Street parking lots could be complete before May 29. Mr. Barrington said that if the agreement is signed by tomorrow it should be done by then.

Mr. Moore asked about the utility poles in the construction zone and if they are on schedule with the master plan. Mr. Barrington said that it is not going as fast as they would like and that the phone company is focusing on fiber optics. The construction company is working around them and making appropriate accommodation for the poles.

Mr. Lally noted that much of the traffic is being routed to Drakeside Road from Exeter Road bridge construction. He mentioned that there is utility pole work being done along Drakeside which was causing a delay in traffic. Mr. Barrington said that it is anticipated that the Route 27 bridge will be open late Thursday or Friday.

### **2 -SPUR ROAD**

Mr. Barrington reported that the School Board has commenced with the bidding process for the spur road project. Construction will start after school is over for the year, and done before the school year begins in the fall.

### **3 - DISTRICT COURT**

Mr. Barrington spoke with Exeter Town Manager Russ Dean about the Courthouse situation. He had an appointment with Commissioner Don Hill and described the meeting as cordial and productive. It is expected that a committee will be organized by the end of May and work will be complete for the legislative process as capital budget items need to be in before November 1. Commissioner Hill is interested in free land for the district court.

### **4 – TIME EXTENSION REQUEST BY APPROPRIATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to grant the Appropriation Oversight Committee a time extension. The group will have until the end of May to complete their findings. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Lally said that he received many phone calls regarding the Senior Center. He said that it appears that many people do not want the Senior Center in the modular trailer behind the former Town Hall. He would prefer the trailer along Hardarts Way for the Recreation Department to use.

Mr. Moore believes that the center could be funded under the general fund. He does not believe that it is necessary to hold a public hearing seeing that the structure is less than \$5,000. He also made mention that it is very unlikely that a new Senior Citizen Center will be built or financially supported by Hampton voters.

Mr. Griffin thanked the 18 seniors who invited him for lunch. Only one of the 18 seniors was interested in supporting the proposed Senior Center. He said that many of the Seniors wanted a big screen television and fridge for the Dorothy Little room located at the Library. He is certain that local businesses would be willing to support the senior citizens.

During the Public Hearing Mr. Workman counted 13 people for the modular senior center and 16 against it. He believes that if the Town does not accept the opportunity to use the modular trailer for a center it will be some time before we will see anything proposed again. He feels that the proposed center would demonstrate a need and support future funding.

Mr. Griffin suggested that perhaps someone would donate money toward a center for seniors.

Chairman Bridle-Russell supports the proposed senior center and believes that many seniors would work hard to make it a success.

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to reconsider the motion made on April 24 regarding the Senior Center. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Moore made it clear that if this motion passes there will be no immediate answer for a senior/community center. Mr. Workman commented that the motion is relative to the large modular trailer not the smaller one. He also noted that if this motion passes it is unfortunate that most of the people who attended tonight's meeting will not see a senior center in their lifetime.

**VOTE: 3 FOR  
2 OPPOSED – Bridle and Workman**

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** that the Board does **not** move forward with allocating money to relocate the large trailer that was proposed as the senior center located behind the former Town Hall. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 3 FOR  
2 OPPOSED – Bridle and Workman**

The Town does not have the expertise to hook up the electricity. Mr. Lally requested that a cost analysis be done for Board's consideration.

Mr. Workman suggested that with results of the previous motions, the majority of the citizens who did not support the proposal put their money where their mouth is and come up with a plan before too long.

Mr. Moore asked if the fire alarm users had been notified of the cut off date. Mr. Barrington was not certain, but will find out.

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** the Town support a "Free Weekend" at the Transfer Station on May 20 & 21 from 8 am to 4 pm for residential customers only. The maximum number of mattresses accepted will be two per day. Computer monitors, freon appliances, demolition material plus additional mattresses (more than 2) will still be chargeable items. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## V - NEW BUSINESS

Toward the end of June the Board will consider appointing members to the Precinct Commission.

The Town of Hooksett has been through a similar experience with a petitioned growth ordinance. There is an article in the Union Leader regarding the outcome of the legal dispute. It is a similar situation as what Hampton is going through.

The elderly exemption will be reviewed at the next Selectmen's meeting.

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1 – Rockingham Nursing Home Requests
- 2 – Boat Agent Authorization
- 3 – Resolution for Aerial Ladder Lease Purchase
- 4 – Placement of new stone in Founders Park

Item #3 Removed - The agreement for the Aerial Ladder Lease has not yet been received.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to approve the consent agenda (1,2 & 4). **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Arthur Moody commented on the Beach Fire Station agreement, paving of the Ashworth and High Street parking lots. He inquired about the finance agreement for the aerial ladder fire truck. Mr. Moody also commented on the naming of landmarks for fallen veterans.

Bonnie Searle discussed RSA 31:95-e Acceptance of Personal Property Donated to Towns and Village Districts. She believes that the Town is required by law to have a public hearing before accepting the modular trailer. Mrs. Searle also talked about the growth ordinance warrant article and legal issue involved with it.

Andrew Guthrie (9 Boston Avenue) suggested that money be set aside for a future senior center. A need has to be proven and adopted by the Planning Board. Mr. Gunthrie also discussed the appointments of the Precinct Commission. In addition, he recommended that the money credited by the Aquarion water company and the money not spent on the senior center could be used to overlay paving rather than patch paving in the Island area.

Ted Guthrie also requested that the Board reconsider overlay paving in the area.

Geannina Guzman-Scanlon discussed the Precinct Commission and Beach Area Commission.

Michael Scanlon (4 J Street) commented on an old water heater sitting in the ditch near the water tower, the modular trailers for a senior citizen center and the parking in the beach area. He also discussed the Hampton Beach Commission.

**VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Mr. Griffin commented on the Lane Memorial Library which was donated to the Town. He is hopeful that the seniors will be as fortunate to receive such a donation for a senior center.

**IX – ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman