

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
May 15, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

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

REGRETS: Rick Griffin

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and introduced those in attendance.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Flood Update

Chairman Bridle-Russell thanked Hampton Citizens for their patience and understanding with their flood situations. Public Works, Police and Fire Departments have been working hard and long hours to deal with the number of problems associated with the flood.

Public Works Director John Hangen, Fire Chief Hank Lipe and Police Chief Jamie Sullivan addressed the Board to provide an update of the flood in Hampton. The Town has received over 12 inches of rain during the storm. There have been many road closures and flooded roads in Hampton due to the amount of rain. Six families were evacuated and four families stayed along Gentain Road. The Taylor River Estates cul-de-sac was also evacuated.

Since Saturday night the Fire Department has received 78 calls for storm related emergencies and the Police Department has received 110 calls (total 179). The Red Cross was contacted; Hampton did not meet the minimum number of people (i.e. two) to have a Red Cross shelter setup. All evacuees declined from the offer. A shelter has been setup in Exeter for displaced people in the area.

The forecast is for another half inch of rain tomorrow.

Chief Sullivan said that the Police Department has been busy with road closures and assisting residents. The Animal Control Officer would like to have Hampton residents notified that there will be many foxes and raccoons and other animals disturbed from their dens due to the rains that may pose a nuisance.

Mr. Hangen said that the Town has been hit hard by the floods in all areas. He said that in most circumstances citizens are being very understanding and patient. There have been some serious road issues and thanked Public Works crews for work during this state of emergency.

The Grist Mill area has been heavily impacted by the floods. Another area that was hit by heavy water flow and washouts was along the railroad tracks. It has been a problem in the past and Public Works has tried to fund it in the past but it is not getting better. The problem needs to be addressed in the future.

The water treatment plant normally treats three million gallons of water per day this time of year. Today it is treating 14 million gallons. The plant is holding onto solids and only clean water is being flushed.

Public Works has been providing sand bags to citizens who need them.

Mr. Barrington announced that the transfer station is normally closed tomorrow (Tuesday) but will be open from 12:30pm to 3pm for residents to take their water damaged materials in.

Mr. Lally asked what the Fire Department's policy is on pumping water out of flooded homes. Chief Lipe responded by saying that the Department does not have the resources to do that and they try to provide an immediate solution to help people deal with the situation.

Mr. Moore thanked the Public Works, Fire and Police departments for their efforts.

The amount of damage to roadways and bridges is uncertain. All will be inspected once the rain has subsided.

Mr. Workman thanked all employees who have been working hard to assist Hampton residents.

Department heads noted that all employees are making a special effort to deal with the flood.

Chairman Bridle-Russell thanked the citizens of Hampton and Town's employees for their willingness to help.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Lally reminded residents that the Transfer Station Free Disposal Weekend is on May 20th & 21st from 8am to 4pm.

Mr. Moore announced that the Hampton Garden Club is holding a Plant Sale and the Centre School will be having a fundraising yard sale this Saturday, May 20th at 22 Ann's Lane from 8:30am to 1pm.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1 – ELLEN LAVIN - TAN

Town Treasurer addressed that Board. She came to the Board on March 27th requesting authorization to borrow \$5 million. There is only \$900,000 left from that borrowed amount. She is concerned that the Town will be short of funds in the near future as payroll itself costs \$800,000 per month. She has gone back to Citizens Bank to ask for more money and has received the same rate (4.13%).

There is no limit that Treasurer Lavin may borrow it is up to her and the Board of Selectmen to authorize the borrowing.

It is very unusual to have to borrow again so soon but expenses have gone up and that may be a contributing factor. In addition the Town is paying extra on interest for borrowed money. There is \$2 million a month that is dedicated to the schools. Approximately \$1.3 million goes to the Hampton School District and \$685,000 goes to Winnacunnet High. When payroll and the school expenses are considered it costs approximately \$3 million a month.

The Treasurer questioned if some purchases could be made in July when the tax money starts coming in so that she does not have borrow money again.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to sign the bank documents to authorize the Town Treasurer to borrow \$3 million in Tax Anticipation Notes from Citizens Bank. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2 – DAWNA DUHAMEL

Finance Director Dawna Duhamel was ill and unable to make the meeting.

3 – BOB ESTEY

Tax Warrant for First Half Tax Bills

The tax bills have been sent to the printer and it is anticipated that bills will be in the mail this Friday.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to sign the 2006 Real Estate Tax Warrant to collect taxes in the 2006 “First Half” Warrant in the sum of \$21,195,055.76. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Barn Preservation Easement

The barn located at 435 Exeter Road is clearly visible from Route 27. The structure was built in 1890 and its assessed value is \$33,000. It is up to the Board of Selectmen to determine whether they want to grant a discretionary preservation easement. If granted the Board will also need to decide what reduction in the range of 25% to 75% do they want to reduce the assessed value of the qualifying structure.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing on June 5 for a barn preservation easement at 435 Exeter Road. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Religious Exemption Request

The Assessing office has received an application requesting a religious exemption on the property located at 21 Hackett Lane. Since the property is not owned by the church the Town Assessor Bob Estey recommended that the Board deny the application.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to deny the application (21 Hackett Lane) for a religious exemption based on the Town Assessor's recommendation. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – MAY 8, 2006

Page 1 – Mr. Griffin was not present at the meeting and should be under regrets.

The minutes stand as corrected.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Barrington extended his gratitude to Town employees who have been working all weekend and today to assist Hampton residents with the flood crisis. He acknowledged that many employees had their own flood problems at home yet went to help others in need.

Mr. Barrington noted that the Town is an abutter for items 27-06 and 29-06 on the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Agenda. The Zoning Board is meeting this week to deal with properties on the abutters list.

The American Legion Post 35 is hosting the Memorial Day (May 29th) event. There will be an observance at the Lady by the Sea Memorial at 8:00am. Events will progress through the day, culminating with the Hampton Parade beginning at 11:00am and concluding with a memorial ceremony at the High Street Cemetery.

The Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce has sent a note asking for our cooperation once again in using the Town Office parking lots for remote parking during the 17th Annual Seafood Festival. The Seafood Festival will be September 8, 9, and 10 this year.

If the Tax Warrant is signed tonight tax bills should be mailed out by the end of the week.

The hearing for the Growth Management Ordinance suit was this morning. It is expected that a decision will be made soon.

The SB5 report on the state park system has been placed on the Town's web site.

A tentative summer schedule for Board meeting dates have been provided to the Board for consideration.

The High Street Parking Lot is scheduled to be paved between May 17 and May 21. It will necessarily be closed during that time.

Zoppo has been working and is still working towards the May 29th deadline however; the recent weather has delayed paving activities. Ocean Boulevard and Church Street are paved, and sections of the Island area have been paved.

Selectman Moore had asked last Monday about the process for naming a street. Attorney Gearreald has pointed out that RSA 231:133 provides that the governing body (Board of Selectmen) shall name and may rename streets. A copy of that RSA and the corresponding section of the LGC publication, *A Hard Road to Travel* have been provided to the Board.

Attorney Gearreald has created a memo regarding the acceptance of an easement at the former Odd Fellows property. He recommended that we use the RSA 41:14-a process to accomplish this. It will require recommendations from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission and two public hearings by the Board of Selectmen. A tentative schedule for this can be developed if the Board so orders on Monday evening. The commencement of the Board's public hearings will be determined by the arrival of the recommendations from the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

The advertisement for bids for the Marine Rescue Pier construction project has been published. There will be a pre-bid meeting on May 22, and bids are due June 12.

The advertisement for Finance Director has also gone out for publication and on the Town's website.

The Petition for Declaratory Judgment on the Leavitt Road case has been filed. The temporary hearing on the motion is scheduled for June 7 at 9:00 AM at Rockingham Superior Court.

The Transfer Station Transfer will be open tomorrow from 12:30pm to 3pm to help accommodate residents with flood damaged materials.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lally encouraged Hampton residents to be patient while the paving continues down at the beach.

The Finance Director Dawna Duhamel will be invited to attend next week's meeting.

Mr. Workman noted tonight that the signs are up for the High Street parking lot. If the scheduled paving of the lot is delayed due to the weather he recommended that the signage be addressed.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to have a nonpublic meeting regarding personnel after the meeting. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

V. NEW BUSINESS

1 – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – SECURE OUR SCHOOLS GRANT

Even though the initiative is a cooperative effort between the Police and Winnacunnet High School, the money is channeled through the Police Department. For that reason the Department must apply for the \$99,942 grant.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing on June 5 to take comments on accepting the U.S. Department of Justice, Secure Our Schools grant. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2 – HERITAGE COMMISSION – APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE MEMBER

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to appoint an Allen Palmer as an alternate member of the Heritage Commission. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Barrington noted the passing of Fred Palazollo who was a past member of the Highway Safety Committee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barrington mentioned that he had met with Vic Lessard early in the day regarding a drainage problem with some of his property. There is a problem with drainage that needs to be improved. In order to proceed with improvements to the area he believes a warrant article will be required in 2007.

People who are interested in serving on the former Town Hall Committee may write a letter or send an email expressing their interest.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1 – Parade Licenses

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to approve the consent agenda. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

DISCUSSION:

There is one license for the Granite State Quest and another for the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Art Moody asked for clarification on if the Town is using general funding when paying for the Beach Infrastructure Project. Mr. Barrington informed him that it is not. Mr. Moody asked if the naming of streets' laws were in regard to Shaw Street. It was clarified that it was in response to a Board member's question. Mr. Moody also

asked about the grant that the Police Department is applying for. Details of the grant will be discussed at the Public Hearing on June 5.

Vic Lessard would like to be on the Former Town Hall committee. He also discussed the flood and damage that has been done to his property and others. Mr. Hangen and Mr. Barrington met with him earlier in the day to see the flood damage done to his property. It appears that the railroad is causing the problem.

Mr. Moore mentioned that the Board will need to look at Mr. Lessard's problem and consider if a warrant article is necessary.

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Lally would like to determine if the flooding problem on Mr. Lessard property can be resolved by a warrant article.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman