

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 25, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
James Workman
Rick Griffin
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS:

PUBLIC HEARING

The Hampton Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing beginning at 7:00 PM on September 25, 2006 to take comments from the public on the following:

- § To accept the Landfill Closure Grant for Town of Hampton Unlined Municipal Landfill, Grant Number L-061

Public Comment: None

Mr. Griffin asked for clarification on the definition of an unlined landfill. Mr. Gearreald noted that the landfill is capped and there are materials under it that is not lined.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to accept the Landfill Closure Grant for the Town of Hampton Unlined Municipal Landfill, Grant Number L-061. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Griffin wished John Nickerson well with his recovery from a recent heart attack. John is recovering in the Portsmouth hospital.

Mr. Lally announced that the Fire Department recently took ownership of a new ladder truck and it is on display at the fire station.

Chairman Bridle-Russell announced that on Sunday, October 1 there will be a Funky Divas of Gospel concert and brunch at the Victoria Inn 10:30 am – 1pm . All proceeds benefit the Village Preschool.

This Saturday, there are numerous events to raise money for the Brooke Rallis Foundation; there will be a pancake breakfast, and a day of games and raffles. Everyone is welcome to take part in the day and all funds raised will benefit Brooke with covering the cost of her medical treatment.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. FIRE CHIEF LIPE – NIMS RESOLUTION

Chief Lipe came before the Board to explain the National Incident Management System (NIMS) resolution. By officially adopting the resolution the Town is accepting a system that has been written into the Emergency Operations Program (EOP). Adoption of the system as policy would increase the Town's eligibility to qualify for Homeland Security funding

Mr. Moore asked if the Town has developed a baseline assessment for the NIMS implementation requirements. The Police and Fire Departments have been working to meet the criteria for community acceptance and signing of the NIMS resolution would be the final piece in completing the Town's obligations to be NIMS compliant.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED in favor of adopting the NIMS resolution for the Emergency Operations Plan. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. FINANCE DIRECTOR MIKE SCHWOTZER – AUGUST FINANCIALS

Finance Director, Mike Schwotzer presented the August financial statements. Mr. Moore inquired about the Town Manager salary in the August financials as it was much higher than normal over a five week period. Mr. Schwotzer reported that there was a \$5,600 payment to Mr. Barrington for three weeks of vacation time that was due to him. This amount has been placed under the benefits category.

Mr. Moore requested details on the parking administration, supplies and expenses that were spent in June for a total of \$7,200. Mr. Schwotzer explained that there was a \$6,500 expense for a chain link fence along Ashworth Avenue.

Mr. Moore asked if there was anything unusual about the vehicle maintenance expenses in the Fire Department. Mr. Schwotzer noted that there was \$6,200 worth of repairs done to Fire Engine #2 to correct the damage caused when it struck a sinkhole in 2004. The Town received \$3,200 in insurance reimbursement in December of 2004, and since then some of the repairs have continued. The current repairs on the engine are being considered for future reimbursement from the insurance company. At this point it is unknown if the current problems with the fire engine were caused by the 2004 sinkhole incident.

Mr. Moore inquired about Program expenses in the Recreation & Parks Department. Mr. Schwotzer has determined that there was a misunderstanding between Accounting and the Parks Department. He explained that the money is going to the revolving fund for the Recreation Department.

Mr. Moore also asked about the financial status report for the Beach Infrastructure Project and if the statements could be updated for September. Mr. Schwotzer is planning on doing that. That report is more complicated and he required more time to complete it.

Mr. Schwotzer mentioned that the Chairman of the Channel 22 Committee, Mr. John Nickerson asked him about the payment schedule for cable television. Mr. Schwotzer stated that the payment is received twice a year. The Cable Committee receives 25% of the payment and the rest goes into the general fund.

Chairman Bridle-Russell asked about the Recreation Department special revenue fund and where the County Commissioner Scholarship Grant is entered into revenue or the fund. Dyana Martin, Recreation & Parks Director explained that the money goes to the revenue fund and it has not been received yet.

3. JOHN NICKERSON – CHANNEL 22 – EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND NEW BOARD

Mr. Nickerson has recently been admitted to the hospital and is unable to attend.

4. FRED RICE – HAMPTON BEACH AREA COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman of the Hampton Beach Area Commission Fred Rice came before the Board to present the 2006 annual report. Hampton Area Beach Commission was established three years ago by state legislature (RSA 216-J: 1-J: 5) to provide advice on how to town and state agencies implement the Hampton Beach Master Plan. Members include appointed officials from 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.

Mr. Rice explained that in the first year of the Commission's existence, the group held visioning workshops for the Beach area. In the second year there were specific goals defined and problems identified with implementation strategies.

In March of 2006 the Commission hosted a public forum to discuss the various issues such as parking and strategies for a resolution. Hampton Beach is also the primary proposed location for the Earth, Sea and Space Center and a new visitor's center. The Commission is working towards improving the appearance of the Beach area with a Victorian Village theme.

To prevent traffic congestion, the Department of Transportation is working towards scheduling the 1A draw bridge for boat in and out times. In addition there has been talk of a new two lane 1A bridge being built. Representative Nancy Stiles has taken on a leadership role to ensure that funding is secured so the bridge becomes a reality. The bridge is a major evacuation route in an event of a disaster at the Seabrook Plant or in Boston.

The group meets the forth Thursday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for September 28 to elect new officers and restructure committees.

III. MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

The minutes of September 18, 2006 stand as read

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Additional advertising will be done for the Town Manager position. The Selectmen will have a non-meeting after the public meeting to discuss the wording for the new ad.

State Representative Nancy Stiles has contacted Mr. Gearreald about a bill she is sponsoring regarding a new Hampton Harbor Bridge. She would like to brief the Selectmen on the bill soon.

The contract that Mr. Gearreald signed with Fay, Spofford and Thorndike for engineering services for the West Side streets is in the amount of \$38,975. Optional inspection services could be added later in the amount of approximately \$41,000.

The State Bureau of Court Facilities contacted Mr. Gearreald to indicate its continued interest in the location next to Town owned land for the new Exeter Hampton District Court. Hampton District Court Clerk John Clark briefed Mr. Gearreald on the Hampton District's stellar record as a good neighbor during his 28 years as a Clerk. When in Hampton, the Court shared a neighborhood with a kids playground, the Lane Memorial Library, the Hampton Academy Junior High and residences. The Court's presence brings additional law enforcement personnel to the neighborhood, and persons charged with more serious crimes are brought to the Court in custody and leave in custody.

The paving contractor for the School District has committed to do most of the remedial work identified as needed by our Safety Consultant, Steve Pernew, for the Park Avenue / Winnacunnet Road intersection.

From the Finance Department have come the statistics requested last week as to Town Hall copiers and how many people use them.

Ann Kaiser of the Mosquito Control Commission and Kevin Schultz as Health Officer have applied to the State for a reimbursement grant for funds that will enable further adulticiding in response to the EEE threat. The grant should come through quickly, although the amount awarded is not certain. What is clear is that only a short window remains to perform further adulticiding this year with those funds. In order to accommodate that short window in light of the need to hold a public hearing to accept and expend the funds, which requires a seven day advance notice to be published, Mr. Gearreald authorized Maureen to put a notice in the Portsmouth Herald today and in the Hampton Union tomorrow, to enable a public hearing to be held on October 2, 2006. Mr. Gearreald asked the Board to consider a vote to schedule the hearing on that date.

Since last week's meeting, Mr. Gearreald has been reminded of other incidents in the Town Office building, at Parks and Recreation buildings and at the Public Works Department, that warrant consideration when evaluating a security system for Town property and employee safety. Perhaps this issue can be reviewed in the closing budget session before the Board.

Mr. Gearreald congratulated the Director of Parks and Recreation, Dyana Martin for receiving the Presidents Award from the New England Parks Association

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Moore inquired about the bid packages from FST for the Westside.

Mr. Griffin said that many people in the area of the proposed District Court location are very upset about it. The residents are displeased because they bought in the area expecting that there would always be an open space in this location. Mr. Gearreald noted that the area is an industrial zone and if the people in the area should discuss their concerns with the Bureau of Court Facilities which has been conducting monthly meetings

Mr. Workman asked when the survey information will be available for Park Avenue and Winnacunnet Road intersection and who is doing the remedial work. Mr. Gearreald is not certain when the survey will be made available. Mr. Gearreald stated that the only item in question of the project was re-grading the surface of the right hand turn lane to prevent water from pooling. The curbing also needs to be replaced, the location of the handicap ramp is not per plan, the signs need to be moved and new signage needs to be installed.

2 – MOTIONS ON THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

It was noted that the Board of Selectmen annual stipend of \$3,000 has not increased for many years.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to remove the proposed Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Collector (union position) salary increase from the budget and maintain the same pay rate as received in 2006 (\$46,067 and \$24,458 for the Deputy). He also encouraged the Collector to seek salary increases through voter support (citizen petition warrant article). **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED - Griffin**

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to reduce the proposed collective bargaining / labor costs from \$165,000 to \$120,000 with the caveat that negotiations be complete by March 2007. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to remove the amount allocated (\$73,050) for security systems in municipal government buildings from the budget and to put forward a Selectmen sponsored warrant article to address the need of such a system. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to increase the lifeguard expense from \$0 to \$19,000 for Sunvalley and Plaice Cove. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Gearreald announced that Michelle Kingsley, a Hampton resident has been appointed as the Town Welfare Officer. Mrs. Kingsley has an extensive background and holds a Masters Degree in Social Work. She is also involved with a number of local human service organizations.

The Town Clerk Arleen Andreozzi came before the Board to explain the need for a new photocopier for her office. For expedience purposes a copier in the Clerk's office is essential to make copies of vital records such as birth certificates and printing forms for the elections. Mrs. Andreozzi has priced a copier between \$6,000 and \$7,000. Mrs. Andreozzi noted that it would be a huge inconvenience and inefficient for the clerks to leave the office while customers wait in line. She also suggested that perhaps her department could consider purchasing a combined laser printer and copier as both are needed.

The consensus of the Board was to leave the copier in the Budget.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moore inquired about the Kings Highway construction status. At this time there was no action to report.

Mr. Griffin talked about the taping of Candidates Night at the high school. It was suggested that the event be scheduled with the school and then with the Channel 22 Committee to broadcast it.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2007 BUDGET REVIEW – PUBLIC WORKS

The Director of Public Works, John Hangen, Operations Manager Doug Mellin and the Assistant Operations Manager, Theresa McGinnis came before the Board to present the department's budget. Mr. Hangen noted that Public Works is in a good financial position this year. For 2007 he has accounted for increases in electricity and fuel. He also noted that it is very difficult to predict a budget for wages as it is dependent on weather conditions and what day and time of day the storms occur on. In 2006 Public Works was fortunate as the majority of the winter storms took place during regular business hours and little overtime was required. In addition it is hard to know what vehicle maintenance will need to be done until it breaks down. The Department does practice preventative maintenance on all vehicles and equipment to prevent major mechanical problems.

The Public Works budget includes an electronic messaging board to communicate to drivers about road closures, construction, and emergencies. The Director has also requested a digital camera to examine sewer pipes for damage or a blockage.

On page 121, tipping fees are budgeted at \$734,000 and waste hauling at \$211,000. Mr. Hangen recommended that the tipping fees should be increased to \$770,000 and the waste hauling decreased to \$171,700.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to increase tipping fees to \$770,000 and decrease the waste hauling to \$171,700. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Hangen explained the financial benefits of mechanical packers. He said that they are cost efficient and there are fewer work related injures. Mr. Hangen noted that the initial expense of a packer and containers is expensive (~\$250,000) but he predicts that it would payoff in four to five years. Mr. Hangen believes that it is his duty to inform the public about these cost savings that may save tax dollars. At this point he does not foresee any positions being eliminated from Public Works if the packer is purchased because workers could be used in other areas.

The Public Works budget is up 2.9%.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen consider sponsoring a warrant article for a mechanical garbage packer and barrels. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER – GRANT CERTIFICATIONS OF AUTHORIZATION

There have been some grant items that have previously been authorized. In particular the Used Oil Grant and grants sought from the U.S. Department of Justice and N.H. Department of Justice applied for back in June.

These funding agencies are seeking official Board of Selectmen approval that Mr. Gearreald, the Interim Town Manager may sign grant contracts on behalf of the Town of Hampton.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to authorize and certify the Interim Town Manager, Mark Gearreald to sign the previously approved and current grants. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

3. HERITAGE COMMISSION FILLING OF ALTERNATE POSITION

Brian Warburton has recently resigned as an alternate to the Heritage Commission, due to other commitments.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to appoint Susan Erwin as an Alternate to the Heritage Commission as requested by the Chairman of the Commission. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

4. TOWN REPORT

It was the consensus of the Board to wait until the costs of all potential formats (i.e. black & white / color) is made available. There was discussion of increasing the number of printed reports from 1,750 to 1,850.

5. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON MOSQUITO CONTROL GRANT

Additional funds that could be used for adulticiding has come available through the State. Spraying for mosquitoes is time sensitive to achieve optimum results. For that reason a legal notice has been printed in local newspapers so that the public hearing could be held on October 2nd.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to schedule a public hearing on October 2, 2006 for the District Mosquito Control Activities funding through the State of New Hampshire. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1 – Block Party Request

2 – Rockingham County Nursing Home Application

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve Rockingham County Nursing Home Application as well as the Pine Knoll Road Block Party subject to meeting all the criteria and conditions set by the Fire Department. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Tilbury (15 Bride Hill Drive) addressed the Board. In 1987 a priority list was developed by the Town for various neighborhoods that required improved drainage. The recently presented draft priority list for drainage projects has Bride Hill Drive as 6th in a two phased project. Mr. Tilbury has come before the Board to request his neighborhood be considered higher on the priority list.

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to have a non-meeting following the public meeting. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 9:15PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman