

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 18, 2006 – 7:30 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Russell-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
James Workman
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Kristi Pulliam, Payroll Supervisor

REGRETS:

Public Hearing

To accept Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds in the amount of \$202,350 for the eligible expenses to repair the damage to Drakeside and Mill Road resulting from the Mother's Day storm declared on May 31, 2006.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked for any comment from public at this time and then asked John Hangen if he would like to say a few words. Mr. Hangen was very happy to report that the contractor was willing to extend the contract to the spring of 2007 rather than this winter and the state is all plugged in to allowing this to happen in the spring. We actually have until August of next year to complete the work. Mr. Gearreald asked if this was also acceptable to the Federal Government and Mr. Hangen confirmed that it was. Mrs. Bridle-Russell thanked Mr. Hangen for his work and he stated that there was a little juggling involved but everyone understands the emergency and the need for the work to be done.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE

Mr. Lally was happy that the extension had been granted.

Mr. Moore just wanted to summarize the numbers and that the project cost was still \$269,800 with the Town's share at the moment being \$67,450. Mr. Moore also confirmed that the money would be encumbered as a 2006 item so that there would be no affect to the 2007 budget.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to accept. Mr. Griffin SECONDED..

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Acceptance of turnaround easement for Mill Pond Lane and Glen Road – First of Two Public Hearings.

Anyone who did not make it tonight will have a chance to speak at the special meeting on December 28th.

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and introduced all those in attendance.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Lally announced that Winnacunnet High School will be having a Christmas concert this Wednesday evening at 7pm which he will be attending to hear one of the trombone players.

Mr. Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Mr. Griffin also wished everyone a Merry Christmas

II. APPOINTMENTS

Mike Schwotzer – November Financials

Mrs. Bridle-Russell introduced Mr. Schwotzer the Finance Director who went over the November financials. Mr. Schwotzer stated that in the Boards packets they would find the November financials along with financials through December 12th. The financials through December 12th being more of Mr. Schwotzer's focus and that he will be producing weekly financials for the rest of the month. By doing this Mr. Schwotzer hopes to be able to get closer to the actual numbers that the Town will be dealing with.

The ending number on December 12th was approximately \$2 million but after research and adjustments for the following items principal of \$549,000, debt service of \$428,000 and additional TAN of \$30,000 the \$2 million was reduced to below \$1 million. However after adding back in grant money that is currently booked against the police and fire department which is approximately \$266,000 the new balance is about \$1.3 million.

After estimating payrolls and watching purchase orders daily we are currently in a positive mode of about \$200,000.

Some of the \$1.3 million has already been used on items that both Mr. Schwotzer and Mr. Gearreald classify as justified expenses. Some examples of these expenses are a contract amendment in the amount of \$32,500, a purchase order in the amount of \$14,000 for repairs to Engine 4 and another purchase order for \$6,000 for air bottles for the fire department. These are the types of items that are coming to Mr. Schwotzer and Mr. Gearreald and are being encumbered. Mr. Schwotzer will be meeting with the staff on Tuesday to review the current purchase orders and to let the staff know that further purchase orders for 2006 will only be admitted on an emergency basis.

Mr. Schwotzer stated that the auditors had come in for the preliminary audit and that the audit would take place the third week in January

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE

Mr. Moore feels that the encumbered purchase orders this year will be slightly smaller than last year. It also appears that there will be a small surplus so that actual expenditures will be slightly less than the budgeted amounts which would improve the fund balance. Everything appears to be tracking very well.

Mr. Lally stated that there was nothing that he did not expect. Mr. Schwotzer explained that he is working hard to make sure that all expenses are being posted to the proper periods and the kind of things that he is

dealing with is items like generators going down and repairs needing to be made so that plows can go out if necessary.

Mr. Workman thanked Mr. Schwotzer for bringing them right up to date as of the 12th.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell stated that Mr. Schwotzer would be meeting with the Board again on December 28th and as long as he continued to keep the Board and the Public up to date everyone would have a better understanding of what is going on.

III. MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2006

Mr. Moore stated that on page 3 under Selectmen's response add to the end of the last sentence "and the effect of the payroll tax on large business."

December 11, 2006 minutes stand as corrected.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Gearreald received communication from School Superintendent Jim Gaylord as to proposed remediation of problems at the Winnacunnet Road/Park Avenue intersection, in the form of a Memorandum and 2 sketches from Appledore Engineer. The Interim Town Manager will reply to Mr. Gaylord once the Public Works Director John Hangen has a chance to review. Mr. Hangen plans to be present at the Board's meeting on Monday night and therefore will be available to answer the Board's questions that evening.

The Conservation Commission met last week with the owner of the Ice Pond property on Woodland Road that was the subject of an appropriation of a \$100,000 (using in addition up to \$150,000 already in the Conservation Fund). Mr. Gearreald is working on a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Board's approval at they December 28, 2006 meeting, pursuant to RSA 36-A:4, the Conservation Commission's decision to proceed with the purchase. The Commission has already conducted the public hearing required under RSA 36-A:5, II.

Mr. Gearreald thanked Kristi Pulliam, our Payroll Supervisor for taking the minutes while Administrative Assistant Maureen Duffy is out on vacation until December 26, 2006.

The Town Offices will be closed on Thursday, December 21, 2006 from 12 noon to 2:00 PM for our annual employee Christmas Party. The Town Offices will be closed on the Mondays of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

None

2. 2007 WARRANT – FURTHER DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Lally asked if any other groups had come to the Town for help with petitions. Mr. Gearreald said that he had not heard from any petitioners.

Mr. Gearreald went on to tell the Board that he had received additional letters from the Agencies that were funded in 2006. These Agencies are looking for the same funding as approved by the voters in 2006 which the Board has agreed to put on the warrant for 2007 as Selectmen's articles.

Mr. Lally wanted to let the public know that the reason the Selectmen or the acting Town Manger, Maureen or anyone else in the Town is unable to help the public with warrant articles is because warrant articles are supposed to be non bias. Mr. Lally also explained that there are different places that people can go to for help with the wording of warrant articles like the government.

Mr. Griffin reminded the public that they have until January 9, 2007 to submit the warrant articles. Mr. Gearreald reminded everyone that it is necessary to have a minimum of 25 signatures from registered voters and that the signatures are checked. Mrs. Bridle-Russell suggested that individuals get 30 signatures to err on the side of caution.

3. STATUS OF WINNACUNNET ROAD / PARK AVENUE INTERSECTION WORK

Mr. Hangen was the manager's emissary to make a visit to the engineer and superintendent to go over some of the deficiencies. The deficiencies were that they were different from the approved plans. The contractor reconstructed the plans for the second time and we again found some deficiencies namely there was a tripper that we could not have due to liability purposes. The contractor has agreed to bring it up to ADA standards and make the changes consistent with the plans. However the only problem is that the repairs will not be made until the spring. They have agreed to fix the low spot were there is a puddle. The contractor has agreed to do it all including the painting. The stop bar line has been painted so it will be safe for the winter.

Making the assumption that the work will be done in the early spring Mr. Hangen would recommend that the School District ask for a reduction of the bond from \$50,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Gearreald stated that the \$50,000 had been posted as a part of the litigation that the School Board had initiated against the Town which had been resolved last year. Mr. Hangen stated that this frees up money that they can use at no consequence to the Town because if the repairs are not done it would cost less than \$5,000 for the Town to do the repairs. Mr. Gearreald also reminded Mr. Hangen that there was some seeding to be done.

Mr. Workman asked if the low spot would be repaired now or in the spring. Mr. Hangen responded that the low spot would be repaired in the spring. Mr. Workman than asked if there would be any concern of icing. Mr. Hangen assured him that the puddle was very small compared to other puddles in Town.

Mr. Moore asked if a motion was necessary. Mr. Gearreald said that yes a motion should be made.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that \$45,000 reduction in bond down to \$5,000. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moore asked if there as been anything on the bid packages for the west side of Ashworth. Mr. Gearreald stated that he had not heard of anything.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S SEARCH

Mrs. Bridle-Russell stated that the search is proceeding. The selectmen are continuing to do the search and continuing with candidates.

Mr. Griffin expressed some concern with the fact that people were being turned away from the tour of the holiday lights. Mr. Griffin wondered why there could not be more tours and suggested that maybe Dyana could discuss this with the Board at sometime. Mr. Griffin went on to say that the seniors were enjoying Rusty calling bingo numbers, the Turkey dinner put on by the Police Association and that the fire dept was going to be serving cookies tonight.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell also announced that the ladies of bingo were knitting hats for all the recipients of the toy bank.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

VII PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

iX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:53PM. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR