

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
FEBRUARY 12, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

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

REGRETS:

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7PM.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

None

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. FAY, SPOFFORD & THORNDIKE REPRESENTATIVES – WEST SIDE STREETS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Dave MacNamara and Peter Howe came before the Board to discuss the West Side Street Infrastructure Project. The bid packages are ready to go out to potential contractors to seek the lowest qualified bidder.

The streets will need to be reclaimed and reconstructed to the full width rather than just patching the trench because of the poor pavement condition and narrow width of the west side streets. Auburn Avenue is only 13 feet wide making it impossible to get a 10 foot separation between the water main and the sewer. For that reason, pressure rated pipe will be necessary in this area. Other minor changes from specifications (from lessons learned during the Beach Infrastructure project) include informing the contractor of the utilities and services coordination.

Mr. Howe noted that the budget is low and that Fay, Spofford & Thorndike (FST) has built in a mechanism to pull a few streets from the project, if necessary to keep within the set budget. He also recommended that three streets that are the least contributory to the infiltration at the treatment plant be considered as bid alternates.

The last time that Mr. Howe came before the Board (last fall) he estimated the construction value at \$468,000. Today the construction is estimated at \$470,000.

Funds have been funneled out through the Town and not through FST, reducing the available funds by \$108,000.

There's no utility pole relocation so underground utilities will need to be coordinated by the contractor. Aquarion will be working with the Town to deal with a water main that is feared to be problematic along Auburn Avenue.

The project still needs to be reviewed by NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) prior to going out to bid (30 day bid period) within the next two weeks. According to the bid, all west side streets involved in the project will need to be paved prior to Memorial Day, either finally or temporarily pending final paving after the Seafood Festival.

Mr. Workman asked for clarification regarding the number of streets involved in the project. Mr. Howe explained that the package includes the opportunity to bid on all seven streets; four by unit price and three alternate streets each with separate unit prices. The bid will also include flexibility to cut streets from the project (if need be) to keep within the budget. Mr. Howe noted that there is another for drainage that would be separately funded provided that the voters support the budget. Mr. Griffin questioned what would happen to the drainage component of the project if the 2007 operating budget is not supported. Mr. Gearreald explained that items such as drainage may need to be cut to keep within the operating budget.

Mr. Griffin asked how the plan differs from the original one. Mr. Howe explained that there is very little difference other than roadway surfacing, consisting of existing conditions and street width. Mr. Griffin then asked if FST expect any problems from dewatering. Mr. Howe said that FST does not foresee problems with dewatering but emphasized that a plan will have to be developed by the contractor and will be reviewed by the Town's geotechnical engineer.

Mr. Lally asked if the smaller connecting streets are included in the project. Mr. Howe explained that the roads being referred to are private ways. Mr. Lally inquired what the Town has budgeted for this project. Mr. Gearreald said that \$425,000 has been budgeted and Mr. Howe noted that there may be a small amount of money available from the Phase I Beach project. Mr. Lally questioned about the construction inspection. Mr. Howe said that the cost of an inspection is estimated at \$41,000. Mr. Gearreald noted that the cost of a construction inspector could be saved by using an in-house inspector. Mr. Lally asked how much it will cost to complete the project. Mr. Gearreald explained that it will depend on the results of the bid.

Mr. Moore emphasized the importance of a "no work" clause between Memorial Day and the week after Labor Day within the bid specs and in the project contract.

It was noted that Northern Utilities is not currently in the process of relocating lines and that the only lines of concern would be Town sewer lines and Aquarion water lines. Mr. Moore asked if Aquarion would be considering any capital work in the area. Mr. Howe said that there is recent news today that Aquarion may consider replacing some of these lines. Mr. Moore asked if there are any concerns in regards to soil conditions. Mr. Howe said that they have soil borings and there is nothing unusual in the samples that indicate a concern. Mr. Moore also asked if there has been any discussion with the residents in the area about sidewalks. Mr. Gearreald confirmed that there never were plans for sidewalks for the west side streets.

Mr. Moore suggested disclosing the details of the \$108,000 expenditures to the public. Mr. Gearreald said that he and the Finance Director will make the information available.

Chairman Bridle-Russell asked who is in charge of managing the \$425,000. Mr. Gearreald noted that the Finance Department is in charge. He also mentioned that when money is expended on the project it is State Revolving Fund (SRF) eligible. Therefore the actual expenditure of the money during the contract would follow SRF procedure which involves the engineer's providing the Town with the invoices during various stages of the project for the Public Works Director and DES approval.

III. MINUTES – FEBRUARY 5, 2007

The February 5, 2007 minutes stand as read.

Minutes from February 3, 2007 – immediately after the Deliberative Session

Amendments include:

Mr. Workman made a motion to “not recommend” Article 19 (SASS). Motion failed as no one seconded the motion.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Comstar has reported that the Town has approximately \$37,500 in uncollected billings. Comstar has recommended that about \$16,000 of the previously mentioned amount be “written off”. Mr. Gearreald along with Finance Director Schwotzer would like the Board's direction in regard to initiating court proceedings to try and collect some of the unpaid bills.

Mr. Gearreald received word from Aquarion's Senior Vice President Larry Bingaman that the sale of Aquarion's stock to Macquarie Utilities is likely to proceed soon in light of Aquarion's current owner (Kelda Group) reaching agreement to exclude from the sale certain smaller New York based water companies. The acquisition will then include only Aquarion's Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire water companies, which make up 95% of the business. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has already approved its acquisition.

There is a meeting tomorrow February 13th at 10:30AM in Concord regarding the Hampton/Exeter District Courthouse. The site being considered is DOT property off of Highway 101 and Route 85.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to authorize Mr. Gearreald to attend the meeting in Concord tomorrow regarding the District Courthouse and support the proposed location on behalf on the Board of Selectmen. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Gearreald noted that a severe snow storm is forecast to strike New Hampshire this Wednesday. If the roads are too treacherous for travel he may need to close the office. Notice of the closure will be posted on the sign outside of the Town Hall, on Channel 22 and on the website.

Plan New Hampshire is an association of professional planners who work on all aspects of community planning at a discounted rate. They only take on a couple of projects per year and in accordance to the Municipal Government Plan, Town Planner Steffen would like to proceed with applying for assistance.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to authorize Mr. Gearreald to draft a letter for signing at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting Monday night and to authorize him to sign the Plan NH Application for design assistance. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lally said that the construction sign at 92 High Street is still up and needs to be taken down.

Mr. Moore said that if no one volunteers for the proposed Ad Hoc Committee to develop an accurate comparison of Hampton's spending in comparison to other NH towns/cities of relevant size by next Monday he is willing to withdraw his proposal.

Mr. Moore asked when the Private Road versus Public Road debate will be discussed. It was proposed that the Board focus on the subject after the new Manager starts, March 12.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. ITEMS ARISING FROM THE DELIBERATIVE SESSION

Mr. Gearreald mentioned that there have been questions about how the 2007 amended budget was arrived at. A chart has been developed by the Finance Director and has been posted on the website and is available at the Town Hall.

A nonmeeting on a litigation matter will follow after tonight's meeting as well as a nonpublic meeting.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to have a nonpublic session regarding personnel under RSA 91a:3II-a. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. ELDERLY & DISABLED TAX DEFERRAL

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to approve the presented Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

None

iX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:50PM. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman