

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
APRIL 16, 2007 – 7:00 PM**

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

**REGRETS:**

**PUBLIC HEARING (RSA 31:95-b) – \$2,500 Used Oil Collection Grant**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to accept the \$2,500 Used Oil Collection Grant from the Department of Environmental Services. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and introduced those in attendance**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

A moment of silence was held in honor of those killed by a gunman at Virginia Technical University today.

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mr. Lally commented on the precautionary plan that the Town Manager, Selectmen, Police, Fire and Public Works Departments developed prior to today's rainstorm. He also commented on the tremendous job that the Department Heads and employees did during the peak of the storm.

Mr. Moore announced that the Tax Collector's office will be closed Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Tax Collector will be attending the NH Tax Collector's Annual Spring Workshop on that day.

He also announced the Hampton Community Chorale presents Cabaret USA on Saturday, April 21 at 5PM at the Winnacunnet High School. The event includes a spaghetti dinner and show for \$15/person or \$25/couple. Tickets may be obtained by contacting the Seacoast Youth Services.

## **II. APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. NH DOT PROJECT ENGINEER JERRY ZOLLER – MAINTENANCE BRIDGE PAINTING OVER TIDE MILL CREEK**

Jerry Zoller, NH Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Engineer and Mark Richardson came before the Selectmen to discuss painting the bridge over Tide Mill Creek. The Department proposes to repaint a state-owned steel bridge by low-bid contract. The project bid will be advertised in April 2007 and the work will be performed during 2007 or 2008, but completed within a restricted time limit of 60 consecutive working days.

All paint chips and dust generated during paint removal will be contained and collected to protect the environment, public and adjacent properties.

DOT will make every effort to minimize the impact to traffic. To maintain two-way traffic during the project the Department proposes to dedicated the east-bound break-down lane as a work zone and shift the travel lanes to accommodate this. The lane width will be reduced from 12 feet to 11 feet widths with a three foot shoulder for pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Zoller mentioned that during the summer season (i.e. Memorial Day weekend through September 15), work activities in the roadway (e.g. moving lane markings, setting barriers, mobilizing equipment) are restricted to early morning daylight hours.

The color of the bridge will be dark brown and there will be third party inspectors assessing the job once complete.

Vic Lessard came before the Board to say that the contractors DOT hired previously to work on the Exeter Road bridge did a very good and he is confident that they will hire another good company.

There will be signage at the project site to request that people refrain from coming near the work area.

Mr. Moore asked for clarification regarding the construction work planned for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The contractor will be required by DOT to start and finish the project before or after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **2. FINANCE DIRECTOR MIKE SCHWOTZER – MARCH FINANCIALS**

Mr. Schwotzer discussed the current financial statements. Revenues from motor vehicles registrations are down approximately 3% which equates to about \$100,000. The rest of the income for the Town is either seasonal, quarterly or from investment funds. The operating expenses are about 3% below the budgeted figure.

In June tax bills will be mailed out to property owners.

Mr. Schwotzer commented on a question that he was asked by the Selectmen last month regarding a \$62,000 item in the financial report. It was the annual billing to the High School and the Junior High Academy for the Special Police Resource Officer.

Mr. Lally asked if the Town sets aside funds for employee separation costs. Mr. Schwotzer explained that there is a reserve fund that requires authorization and allocation to expend. He also noted that he was required to budget the appropriation conservatively due to the default budget.

Mr. Workman asked about legal expenses and outside counsel fees. Mr. Schwotzer explained that there have been some personnel issues requiring outside attorneys.

Mr. Moore asked how early the tax bills can be mailed out. Mr. Welch explained that by state law tax bills cannot be mailed out before April 1 and not after June 1. Mr. Schwotzer noted that the Assessing and Tax offices are currently understaffed. Mr. Moore suggested the Finance Director reallocate the line items as they tend to change over the years. He also asked about the overtime accounts, comparing the figures from the actual versus the default. Mr. Schwotzer noted that the Fire Department has two employees on workers compensation and other employees are filling the void at time and a half.

### **3. ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER - PETE MACKINNON**

Mr. MacKinnon, the Animal Control Officer came before the Board to ask the public to use caution when approaching wildlife. It is common in the spring for young animals such as raccoons to be abandoned when they are ill. Mr. MacKinnon warned residents that these animals are often carrying zoonotic diseases such as Rabies and should not be handled.

Coyote populations have also been increasing throughout the seacoast. These predators often target housecats and small dogs

Mr. MacKinnon encouraged residents to contact him at 929-4444 if they see any wild animals acting peculiar.

### **III. MINUTES – APRIL 9, 2007**

The April 9, 2007 minutes stand as presented.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Welch forwarded a recommendation and short report to the Board regarding the possibility of reissuing the bond for the Town's new Police Station. To reissue the debt for a longer period of time would increase the sum to be paid by the taxpayers for the structure by more than \$1,768,700 over the duration of the new bond that represents the interest only. The unknowns are the costs of reissuing the bonds, bond counsel expense, refunding the original bonds and other incidental costs that could easily bring the costs to an additional overall expense to the taxpayers of more than \$2 million above any projected savings achieved in the first five years of transition from the current annual payment to the new bonding payment cycle. The net result would be a 21 cent per \$1,000 savings on the tax rate for the first five years to an increase of 25 cents per \$1,000 for at least an additional 15 years. Mr. Welch recommended that the Selectmen do not reissue the bond.

Mr. Welch also provided the Board with recommendations regarding the unreserved undesignated fund balance and requested that the Board adopt and institute the proposed policy so that the community will be able to achieve a positive cash flow over a period of time.

Town Counsel is working to review the drafts of several policies, regulations and ordinances that have been drafted. Once the legal review is complete the necessary public hearings will be scheduled so that the Board may consider whether to adopt the suggested policies, regulations or ordinances. Mr. Welch suspected that the hearings will be held in early May due to current workload requirements in Counsel's office.

On Tuesday the bids for the west side streets were opened with the base bids ranging from \$431,458.19 to \$668,184.00. The engineer's estimate was \$251,761.13 or slightly less than twice the lowest bid. On the alternate streets the total bids of all work ranged from \$998,292.52 to \$1,359,255.10 on an engineers estimate of \$495,138. Analysis of the bids and their components is ongoing and a full report of any actions that may be taken will be available once the analysis is complete.

On Wednesday, April 11 the cost estimates were received for environmental cleaning and decontamination of lead paint at the Beach Fire Station. The costs were estimated between \$60,000 to \$80,000 for just the removal of the lead paint and not the cost of repainting.

Mr. Welch provided the Board with a copy of the Needs Assessment and Reorganization Plan for the Lane Memorial Library.

Tickets are available at the Recreation and Parks Department for the Ballroom and Latin Dance Show "Burn the Floor". The bus departs from Hampton (former Town Hall) on Saturday, June 2 at 12:15 pm for the 2:00 pm show at the Wang Theater in Boston. Tickets are \$82 for residents and \$87 for non residents.

A request to post the Hampton Republican Committee meeting was received by the Town Manager's office. It was the consensus of the Board to proceed with the posting of this notice on Channel 22.

Mr. Welch reported on the success of the Emergency Management Center. Today's rainstorm displaced many people from their homes. Those requiring shelter were transported by the Recreation bus to the Red Cross Shelter at the Winnacunnet High School.

With advanced notice of the impending storm the Department Heads, Town Manager and Selectmen met to strategize the management of the anticipated high tide and additional flood water. The National Guard has been called in to help out with the flood damage and assisting the road blocks. Sand bags have been made available to residents.

The amount of property damage is unknown at this time. The weather forecast is calling for high tide and more rain.

### **BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Griffin is pleased to see a solid emergency plan in place to help deal with the flood.

Mr. Lally mentioned that after the last major storm (May 2006) a lot of townspeople came to the Board who were critical of the Town's emergency plan. Since then the Department Heads and Selectmen have refined the system. Mr. Lally thanked all the emergency crews for all of their hard work to help people cope with the amount of flood waters.

The Governor has declared New Hampshire a state of emergency.

Mr. Workman thanked the emergency crews for helping out residents during this challenging time.

Mr. Moore noted that Fire Station #1 was closed due to the amount of water in the building. He also thanked Town employees, the National Guard, Governor and Red Cross for all of their assistance during the crisis.

Mr. Workman asked for a report from Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) explaining why their estimates for the Beach Infrastructure Project II (west side streets) were half the amount as the bids that were received.

## **2. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS**

Article 39 was supported by Town voters last March, increasing the number of Trustees of the Trust Fund from three to five. By statute, the Selectmen may appoint one resident for a one year term and another for a two year term. The Town Manager's office has received six applicants expressing interest in being appointed.

Mr. Lally said that he has talked to many townspeople about the Trustee subject and is concerned about some of the applicants who are interested in aggressively managing the Trust Funds. He does not believe that aggressive money management is the best way to manage public funds. Mr. Lally did point out that the applicants are all very qualified to act as Trustees of the Trust Funds.

When reviewing applications, Mr. Workman considered qualifications rather than money management philosophies.

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to appoint Edward G. Atwood for a two year term and Warren J. Mackensen for a one year term as a Trustee of the Trust Funds. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Mr. Lally would like to vote on one individual at a time.

**VOTE: 3 FOR  
OPPOSED – Lally & Moore**

A letter will be written to each of the newly appointed individuals to inform them of their appointment.

## **3. REQUEST FOR NAMING OF STREET**

The housing development adjacent to 111 Exeter Road being constructed by Sandy Brook Corporation has resubmitted a request for naming of street. Instead of the previous request of White House Farm Lane the developer would like the Board to consider Baron Road.

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to name the road, along Exeter Road (across from Towle Farm Road) Baron Road. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**4. SCHEDULING OF HEARING AND VIEW OF RAPUANO PROPERTY AT 13 G STREET FOR ALLEGED DAMAGES DUE TO GRADE CHANGE**

The Town has received a claim for alleged damages for the property at 13 G Street due to grade change.

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to schedule a viewing of the street on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM a public hearing on May 14<sup>th</sup>. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED**

Mr. Lally asked about posting the Deputy Tax Collector's position.

Mr. Welch explained that it is the Tax Collector's exclusive responsibility to post. It was noted that there are some issues with the position that need to still be resolved.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. APPOINT SELECTMEN REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE MAY 1 CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING WITH THE NATURAL RESOURCES OUTREACH COALITION (NROC)**

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to nominate Mr. Moore as the Selectmen representative to attend the NROC. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**2. TRENCH APPLICATION**

The Town Manager received a trench application that is required to be reviewed and considered by the Board of Selectmen as it is still a newly paved street. There are approximately 8 homes that require new natural gas connections along Tuttle Avenue. The trench patch policy that was adopted at last week's meeting will be considered for this particular street. The Town Manager will communicate the policy requirements with the applicant to determine if they are willing to comply. The trench application will be on next week's agenda.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Dance Hall Permit**
- 2. License for Coin Operated Amusement Devices**

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to accept the consent agenda as presented. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**VII PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Nickerson noted that he would like to be present during the Channel 22 policy discussion that is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Vic Lessard came before the Board to seek clarification about the newly adopted trench patch policy. He also talked about the drainage issue at Hannaford's.

**VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Mr. Griffin reminded those who were not appointed tonight as a Trustee of the Trust Funds may run for the position in 2008.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED** to adjourn at 8:35PM to a non-public meeting. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**  
**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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**Chairman**