

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
NOVEMBER 12, 2007 – 7:30 PM**

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

REGRETS: James Workman

The Board of Selectmen met in a non-meeting with Town Counsel at 7 p.m.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced those in attendance.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Griffin commented on the success of the Veterans' Day (November 11) memorial service held at the Hampton Beach War monument. He also mentioned that the Winnacunnet High School Principal, Randy Zito, presented an inspirational speech at the service.

Chairman Moore reminded residents to attend the Cable Provider Franchise Re-licensing Public Hearing this Saturday, November 17 at 1 p.m. in the Selectmen's meeting room.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. POLICE CHIEF SULLIVAN – UPDATE

Chief Sullivan reported that police activities are up in all areas.

Officer Steve Henderson and David Hobbes have been promoted to rank of Sergeant. Replacing School Resource Officer Hobbes at Hampton Academy is Mike Verrocchi.

Chief Sullivan noted that the Budget Committee chose to put the funds for the cruisers in their budget.

The Chief is planning on issuing new badges after an arrest of an individual in Massachusetts who had a Hampton badge. There is currently no control on the duplication of badges for Hampton and anyone can purchase them. Chief Sullivan is planning on redesigning and creating a badge inventory system as a control mechanism. He believes that there is enough money in this year's budget to cover the costs.

Chief Sullivan reported that Patriot, one of the mounted patrol horses has developed a serious illness (EPM, similar to MS in humans). The horse is having difficulties walking and it is the Chief's plan to retire him from the Mounted Patrol unit. The unit will need to pursue private donations in attempt to purchase another horse.

The Department continues to utilize the training room at the Police Station. As a result, Hampton police personnel are able to participate in training programs such as the Massachusetts's Police Leadership program at no cost to the Town.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Mr. Lally asked when the "Winter Parking Ban" starts. Chief Sullivan reported that the Ban begins on November 15, 2007 (until March 15). There will be no street parking between the hours of 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. so that snow plows may clear all public roadways.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell inquired about the amount of money needed to purchase another horse for the mounted patrol. Chief Sullivan stated that properly trained horses cost \$6,000 to \$8,000. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if Patriot will go to a new home. Chief Sullivan reported that a new home will be arranged for Patriot and a motion will be required by the Board to authorize the transfer. Chairman Moore suggested that the item be on next week's agenda.

Mr. Moore asked the Chief, if ordering new badges will make a difference. The Chief believes that it will because only he will have the authority to issue the badges. Chairman Moore asked about the cost of creating these badges. The Chief said that once the art work is complete it could be approximately \$90 to \$120 per badge, totaling around \$24,000.

2. MIKE PIERCE – PROPOSED FIRE STATIONS

Mr. Pierce distributed a package containing documents pertaining to the fire stations. He noted that there was a committee established by the Selectmen to study and recommend suitable locations for a new beach station. The Committee also recommended a building of approximately 6,300 feet (\$1.5M).

Mr. Pierce talked about the fire station warrant article that was on the 2006 ballot. He pointed out that the 2006 article was close to \$1.8M. Mr. Pierce estimated the cost for both buildings as proposed would be close to \$3.5M and if another 2,000 square feet is added for administration space (i.e. Building Department) it would bring the cost of the proposal close to \$4M. Mr. Pierce would like the Selectmen to look at the plans closely to make sure that the Town is getting what is needed at the beach and uptown based on the Committee's report.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that the voters turned down the \$1.8M station in 2006 and is doubtful that they will support a facility plan that is twice as much.

He believes that there is a need for a station at the beach and a control center uptown. Mr. Pierce would like to make certain that we spend taxpayers' dollars wisely and consider what we need versus what we want. He would also like to see the buildings be self energy efficient by means of solar panels and/or other innovative methods.

3. GERALD DIGNAM – BIKE PATH + SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Mr. Dignam addressed the Board. He came before the Selectmen to discuss the proposed Bike Path Warrant Article. He pointed out that in 2005 and 2006, taxpayers soundly voted “no” to the path.

A recent letter from the NH Department of Transportation questioned if the Town is definitely not interested in the funding for the path. This sparked discussion by the Selectmen to consider a bike path article for the 2008 warrant.

Mr. Dignam sees several problems with the proposal. He questioned if vehicles parked in the designated bike path would be ticketed. He also asked if parking along High Street (in the downtown area) would be eliminated to make room for the path. Mr. Dignam is also concerned that the path would encourage more cyclists to the already stressed Hampton traffic.

Mr. Dignam requested that the Selectmen contact the State and make it clear that “no means no”. He would rather see the Town’s portion (\$150,000) go towards other projects such as the fire station rather than on a frivolous project for a group of elite cyclists. Mr. Dignam does not believe that the bike path such go on the ballot again. He noted that there are too many articles as is and urged the Selectmen not to sponsor the article.

Mr. Dignam discussed the Safe Route to School program and noted that there are 25 registered child sex offenders in Hampton. He expressed his concern with these offenders targeting children utilizing the program’s infrastructure. He also noted that this may create additional monitoring work for the Police Department.

4. SCOTT BOGLE, ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

Scott Bogle from the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), Hampton representative to the Commission Warren Bambury and Hampton resident Dan Gangai addressed the Board.

Mr. Bogle has been working on the bike path proposal since 2001. Federal funding distributed by the State has been set aside for this regional project. Since the project has been placed on hold for a number of years and construction costs have increased, Mr. Bogle suggested that Public Works reevaluate the cost of adding four foot shoulders on the proposed roadway bike loop.

The shoulder bike route connects Hampton Town Center with NH Route 1A via High Street, Towle Avenue and Winnacunnet Road. The route is to be used by all sorts of cyclists who want to get exercise, bike to school or to go to the various shops in Hampton.

Mr. Bogle provided a brief history on how the funding came about for the project. He reported that the Town of Hampton applied for funding (80% federal funds, 20% local) that includes shoulders and sidewalks in 1997. The application was not successful until 1999 after many adjustments were made to the project. The proposal was estimated at a total of \$750,000 (\$650,000 federal and \$150,000 local). Even though past bike path warrant articles have been defeated, the RPC would like to encourage the Board to consider placing the article back on the warrant to give voters another chance, before the State revokes the \$650,000.

The intent of the path is to make riding a bike safer. There are many beach goers, students and people who ride their bikes to work who utilize the pathway.

Hampton resident and cyclist enthusiast Dan Gangai is in favor of the Selectmen sponsoring the article. He does not believe that the average resident understands the benefits of the path. It is a way to get fewer vehicles on the over burdened roads and more people enjoying an active lifestyle. Mr. Gangai noted that the State is giving Hampton a second chance to improve the town.

Mr. Gangai also commended on Mr. Dignam's comments about the registered sex offenders in Hampton. He said that he or his family do not want to live in fear. He noted that there are many things that parents can recommend to their children such as walk with friends and how to react to dangers.

Mr. Gangai stated that he is not an "elite rider" he is just someone who enjoys riding a bike with his son. He and his son bike to restaurants, the pharmacy and the post office. With the current infrastructure he fears for his nine year old son when they go for a bike ride. He would like to see the risk of cycling reduced with a designated bike lane. Mr. Gangai hopes that the Board places the article on the warrant as he believes voters were not well informed in past years.

Chairman Moore asked if the bike path involves four foot shoulders on both sides of the road. Mr. Bogle said that either four or three foot shoulders would be considered. He also suggested Public Works compare the costs of both lengths.

III. MINUTES – NOVEMBER 5, 2007

Page 9 – under "Public Comment" Mr. Sullivan's address should read *21 Cole Street*

The November 5, 2007 minutes stand approved as corrected.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Welch reminded residents of the Comcast re-licensing hearing in the Selectmen's meeting room this Saturday, November 17, 2007 at 1 p.m. The Board will accept written or oral testimony from citizens and residents regarding the current cable supplier.

The Fire Department and the Town Manager were notified by Senators Sununu and Gregg that the Department of Homeland Security has awarded a grant to the Town in the amount of \$221,990 for new replacement Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. The Town's share is \$11,099.

Residents should be aware that Public Service (PSNH) will be moving a 600,000 pound electrical transformer from the Seabrook landing on Route 1A to Londonderry. The date and time of the transport will be announced as soon as possible. It depends on the weather, and the tides.

Mr. Welch announced that the Rockingham Country Superior Court has issued its final order affirming the decision of the Planning Board in the matter of Jacquelyn Garrity v the Town of Hampton Planning Board. The case dealt with the construction of a six unit condominium (with pool) at 76 Kings Highway.

SELECTMEN'S RESPONSE TO THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Griffin asked if the condo project is going forward. Mr. Welch said that it is unless the decision is appealed to the Supreme Court.

The breathing apparatus subject will be on next week's agenda.

2. BIKE PATH WARRANT ARTICLE

Chairman Moore asked for a cost comparison for three versus four foot shoulders to be added for the proposed bike path. In addition, an analysis of whether the proposal would have an effect on parking along High Street.

Mr. Lally believes that the voters have already made their decision on the bike path and that "no means no".

Mr. Griffin would like to see a bike path but believes that voters are not in favor of it.

Mr. Griffin said that he received comments from a resident about Comcast. They told him that Comcast doesn't seem to care. Mr. Welch encouraged residents to send him comments or attend the public hearing on Hampton's cable provider.

Mr. Welch noted that the bike path project may be more complex (i.e. drains) and expensive than projected.

3. TOWN REPORT

Administrative Assistant Maureen Duffy provided an update for the 2007 Town Report.

Ms. Duffy asked the Board if they are interested in dedicating the Town Report to any particular individual. In addition she also asked if the Selectmen would like to consider a specific theme.

Mr. Moore said that the Selectmen received negative feedback regarding last year's town report dedication. There is always concern that someone will be over looked.

Mr. Lally would like to see a nice memorial page for Tom Gillick. Mr. Griffin would like to see Arleen Androzzi recognized as well.

Item will be added to next week's agenda for further discussion.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Griffin brought up a Budget Committee question regarding the lifeguard equipment that has been included in the budget. Mr. Welch said that if the Town is required to hire its own lifeguards then we will need to provide equipment. He reported that the State is working hard at making certain that lifeguards are available during the summer season.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. WORKERS COMPENSATION AND PROPERTY-LIABILITY PROGRAMS

The Selectmen would like to hear comments from the Finance Director regarding workers compensation and liability. These items will be added to next week's agenda.

2. PROPOSED LEASE AMENDMENT – 48 ASHWORTH AVENUE

Town Attorney Gearreald noted that there has been a request to amend the lease to add another trustee.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to add the other name to the 48 Ashworth Avenue lease. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

3. UNPAID LAND RENT ON THREE LEASED LANDS – 11 G STREET, 9 J STREET, 19 L STREET

Each rental unit owes over \$2,000 for rent.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to authorize sending a demand for rent and notice to quit to 11 G Street, 9 J Street and 19 L Street. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. EXECUTION OF ASSIGNMENT – 50 ANCIENT WAY

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to sign the execution of assignment for 50 Ancient Way. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nancy Stiles (40 Hobbs Road) said that she would like to see the Town Report dedicated to Tom Gillick. She also pointed out that Mr. Gillick was a State representative for many years. Mrs. Stiles is curious regarding the process that the Selectmen went through to enter into an agreement with the State for the bike path. She noted that the funding is an opportunity for Hampton and would create an infrastructure that would encourage people exercise. Mrs. Stiles also noted that with the cost of gasoline and living expenses perhaps some people are limited to cycling as transportation. She also discussed a proposed bike path (Green Way) from Maine that would pass through and perhaps hookup to Hampton’s loop. Mrs. Stiles notes that perhaps Hampton businesses would benefit from cyclists coming through.

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS:

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman