

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
JANUARY 14, 2008 – 7:00 PM**

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

**REGRETS:**

Chairman Moore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS BY RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT DYANA MARTIN FOR HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST**

Recreation and Parks Director Dyana Martin commented on the high level of interest and participation in this year's Holiday Lighting Contest. Chairman Moore presented the awards to the following winners:

**Business Category**

*First Place Winner* - Accents in Glass – Christina Eadie

**Spirit of Christmas**

*First Place Winner* - Lorraine Price

**Judges Choice**

*First Place Winner* - Jack Derba

**Country Christmas Lights**

*First Place Winner* - Meghan & Grace Cooper

**Most Elegant**

*First Place Winner* – Emiley Walts

Mrs. Martin thanked everyone for participating in the contest.

## **TOWN CLERK JANE CYPHER – ELECTION COMMENTS**

Town Clerk Cypher mentioned that on December 31, 2007 there were 12,297 registered voters. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, (Primary Election Day) the Town Clerk and Supervisors of the Checklist registered an additional 681 residents, increasing the total to 12,978. The Town Clerk reported that voter turnout was 55% and that the Attorney General's office performed a spot check. They had some concerns about the long lines however; there were three Supervisors of the Checklist and two former Checklist Supervisors helping out.

The true reason for the Town Clerk's request to come before the Selectmen was to recognize and acknowledge System Engineer, Paul Paquette. During the Primary Election Mr. Paquette assisted the Checklist Supervisors and Town Clerk to make the day a success. Town Clerk Cypher expressed her sincere appreciation for all of Mr. Paquette's technical support during the Election Day and every day. She also thanked him for helping voters out, by handing clip boards out and making certain that people were in the correct line. Town Clerk Cypher presented Mr. Paquette with a framed certificate of appreciation for always going above and beyond.

Former Town Clerk Arleen Andreozzi commented on Mr. Paquette's kind, modest and supportive demeanor and thanked him for everything that he does to help out the Town. Mrs. Andreozzi noted that she appreciates him and hopes that this acknowledgement lets him know how much he is appreciated by those he works with.

**Chairman Moore introduced those in attendance.**

### **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

Mrs. Bridle-Russell announced that the Hampton School Board will be meeting tomorrow, January 15 at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen's meeting room. The Board will be discussing the proposal to eliminate the Unified Arts Program.

### **II. APPOINTMENTS**

#### **1. FINANCE DIRECTOR MICHAEL SCHWOTZER – YEAR END FINANCIALS ESTIMATE OF DECEMBER 2007**

Finance Director Schwotzer commented on how much he appreciates Mr. Paquette's work for the Town of Hampton as well.

Mr. Schwotzer said that the general fund cash position for 2007 went from \$8.2 million on January 1, 2007 to \$10.5 million at the end of 2007 (i.e. \$ 2.3 million cash flow increase during 2007). The income statement indicates an actual income of approximately \$6.5 million against a budget of \$6.4. Mr. Schwotzer has yet to receive any information from the Trustees of the Trust Fund for the real estate trust income. He is hopeful that the amount from that fund will increase the overall revenue account.

The department expenditure report indicates a \$1.1 million under expenditure. However, the Finance Director takes out the monies for the principal and interest on loans. Currently, the departments are under budget by \$850,000. Mr. Schwotzer noted that it is likely that during the audit process this figure will adjust accordingly.

Mr. Schwotzer went on to discuss the calculated year end savings for the operating cost. The grand total without warrant articles is \$23 million. The Finance Director added in the encumbered Purchase Orders as agreed by the

Selectmen at last week's meeting. He also subtracted the grant expenses because the money is unanticipated so therefore the auditors will add it back in. The total operating expense is \$20,781,08; approximately 3% (\$650,602) under budget for all departments. Mr. Schwotzer noted that all departments controlled costs.

By the end of the month the Finance Director will have the figures to be published in the Town report. The financial report will be as close to the audited figures as possible.

Mr. Schwotzer provided an overview of the revolving funds. The net fund balance for the Recreation Revolving Fund is \$19,099. The revenue came in (\$134,937) and was spent accordingly (expenses - \$132,198).

The Cable Committee Fund has a net fund balance of \$103,514. Mr. Schwotzer commented on the purchase of the new equipment from this fund to benefit the cable committee and the community.

The Finance Director went on to discuss the Private Detail Fund. The net fund balance is \$60,142 (a \$42,000 increase from the beginning of 2007).

The EMS fund has a net balance of \$277,365 (\$107,000 more than at the end of 2006). Mr. Schwotzer is still awaiting the December Comstar bill and will incorporate it into the fund once it comes available. He also discussed that he took last year's wage incentive transfer percentages and applied to this year's wages to the EMS fund. It surprised Mr. Moore that the overtime callback charge was less than in 2006. Mr. Schwotzer said that it surprised him as well but all figures are based on what is sent by the Fire Department to payroll. Mr. Lally asked about the EMS retirement account in this fund. Mr. Schwotzer said that he brings it out of the Town's portion.

Mr. Schwotzer asked if the item, "Schedule Date to Sign Warrant and Default Budget" under new business could be discussed at this time. It was the consensus of the Board to sign the Warrant and Default Budget forms on January 21, 2008.

## **2. MARY BOYNTON – TAYLOR RIVER DAM PROJECT**

Mrs. Boynton noted that her presentation is strictly for informational purposes only. She said that the residents along Taylor River have been discussing the three River proposals with the State. The proposals that were made are as follows:

- a) Do nothing
- b) Take the dam out
- c) Place the dam in a different location and widen it

Taylor River residents decided to create their own group to voice their concerns. The dam system was built in 1949, since then residential construction has reduced water absorption making the present situation inadequate. Mrs. Boynton said that the 2006 Mother's Day storm not only flooded Taylor River basin but also affected Interstate 95 traffic flow. She noted that there is a public safety issue with the bridge carrying I95 over Taylor River. The bridge has steel pile abutment walls that are heavily rusted. The fish ladder is in poor condition and needs to be replaced or removed. The State of New Hampshire is now in the process of deciding what to do. The proposal to keep the system the way it is and do nothing with the dam will not solve the flooding issue. To replace or repair the bridge under I95 will increase the main dam from 16 feet to 75 feet wide with a self cleaning system. This would correct the flooding issue for both the highway and for most of the residents in the river basin. Mrs. Boynton said that the dam provides a two fold benefit; it keeps the river at a constant level and prevents tidal waters. The third proposal to remove the dam and allow the water to become tidal (i.e. salt water marsh) does not assure that flooding would still not happen and could potentially become worse due to tidal surges. Mrs. Boynton questioned what life would be like without the Taylor River, and why the taxpayers of Hampton would continue to support the \$3 million that was spent

on the Hurd Farm in 2004 if there is no longer the recreational use of the River. Mrs. Boynton said that the purchase of the Hurd Farm was not only to prevent development but also to provide recreation such as fishing, canoeing, cross country skiing, ice fishing, skating and snowmobiling. She questioned what recreation would occur on a marshland and what would be the benefit of Hampton Falls and Hampton restoring the pedestrian covered bridge over the Old Stage Road Dam to access the marsh. Mrs. Boynton would like to see the Taylor River stay as fresh water.

Taylor River waters are used by Hampton and Hampton Falls for fire protection and both fire chiefs have expressed their concern about water access. Mrs. Boynton introduced Mark, a Hampton resident and a Hampton Falls volunteer firefighter. He noted that there are no fire hydrants west of I95. The dry hydrant on the Hampton Falls side is a major source of fire protection for the west end of Hampton. The fire chiefs from both towns have written letters stating their concerns about water access and fire protection in that area. Mark read the letters to the Selectmen. These two letters will be posted on the Taylor River website.

Mrs. Boynton noted that long range plans should make it mandatory to keep this valuable fresh water source fresh; with 97% of the earth's water being salt we must retain as many fresh water systems as possible. She also discussed global warming and pointed out the water issues that Georgia and Alabama are having with inadequate water levels. Mrs. Boynton said that Taylor River is the only fresh water source in this area. In addition, property values should be of concern to everyone in Hampton and Hampton Falls, due to the fact that it will affect both towns' budgets. Potentially, salt water entering into septic systems could destroy them faster and would need to be replaced more often. Mrs. Boynton also talked about the wildlife in and along Taylor River. In addition, she noted that there is a foot of mud at the bottom of the river that has been tested by the NH Department of Transportation (DOT). There are pesticide levels and other toxins that could contaminate or eliminate salt water fish. Mrs. Boynton also questioned what the health hazards would be if these contaminants were exposed to humans. She also pointed out that the area could become a mass breeding ground for mosquitoes and green head flies putting people at risk for increasing EEE.

Mrs. Boynton concluded by stating that Taylor River affects everyone in Hampton and surrounding areas. The Taylor River task force is requesting residents help keep the River fresh. A petition has been created in effort to let the State know that residents want to save the dam and River. Those interested may view additional information on [www.thoughts.com](http://www.thoughts.com) (click on blogs and then Taylor River). In addition, people may contact Mrs. Boynton directly by emailing her at [mboynton2@comcast.net](mailto:mboynton2@comcast.net). She asked the Selectmen if she could leave the petition at the public distribution counter at the Town Office. The Board had no objection to the request.

Mr. Moore asked when DOT would be making a decision. Mrs. Boynton said that it will be sometime this spring as they are still doing some investigating.

### **3. SUSAN KEPNER & ANN CARNABY – EPA COMMUNITY ENERGY CHALLENGE**

Ann Carnaby, Chairman of the Hampton Energy Committee addressed the Board (Susan Kepner, not present). She noted that last March, 1,683 voters in Hampton made their official concern about climate change by voting to adopt the EPA Climate Change Resolution. The Resolution calls on the federal government to prioritize climate change policy and calls for local action in the formation of town energy committees.

Ms. Carnaby said that last November the Hampton Energy Committee was formed, placing Hampton among the 163 New Hampshire towns with energy committees. The Committee is in charge of advising and informing their town on how to reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency and develop a new source of clean renewable power.

In December, the Energy Committee voted unanimously for the Town of Hampton to sign on to accept the EPA New England Community Energy Challenge. Ms. Carnaby explained that the EPA will support the Committee by helping

them to learn how to manage energy and water consumption for buildings, evaluate and rate our buildings' energy performance, set priorities for investments in the town's energy infrastructure, and to track the progress of improvement in our projects.

By accepting this challenge, the Energy Committee will receive free software tools and support to help them conduct the challenge. The Committee will be responsible for reporting their findings and progress in a way that helps the town to establish and achieve energy saving goals. Ms. Carnaby noted that the Committee will provide results to the EPA for their national data bank, so they may compare Hampton and see how we're doing as a country, town by town.

The project requires the Selectmen's endorsement of the project by signing the presented letter.

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to endorse the EPA New England Community Energy Challenge and sign the letter as presented. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

#### **4. POLICE DEPUTY RICH SAWYER – PENGUIN PLUNGE, SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Appointment postponed until January 21, 2008.

### **III. MINUTES – JANUARY 7 & 8, 2008**

#### **January 7, 2008 Minutes**

**Page 2 – Paragraph 2** - Chairman Moore believes that Mr. Moody's question was how many parking spaces were to be devoted to the Fire Department. Mr. Moore said that his answer was regarding the number of spots that would be consumed by Fire Department personnel.

**Amendment:** "...there would be nine spots lost as a result of the station and three of the spots used by Fire Department personnel."

**Page 9** – bottom of page before Families First

**Amendment:** Mr. Moore passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Lally.

The January 7, 2008 minutes stand approved as amended.

#### **January 8, 2008 Minutes**

Amend meeting start time to 6 p.m.

Page 3 – under "Special Town Meeting if Union Agreements do NOT pass

**Amendment:** "... **MOTIONED** to add a fiscal note to the Special Town Meeting (\$8,000) if Union Agreements do NOT pass article. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR"**

The January 8, 2008 minutes stand approved as amended.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Welch reported that there were two promotions in the Fire Department last week. Justin Cutting was promoted to Captain and Sean Gannon was promoted to Lieutenant.

The final Cable Provider Public Hearing will be on January 21 at 7 p.m. Interested parties may submit their testimony in writing or verbally during the hearing.

Mr. Welch announced that plans are underway for the Penguin Plunge, to be held on February 3.

The Budget Committee public hearing was completed last week. Mr. Welch announced the Deliberative Session on February 2 at the Winnacunnet High School auditorium (snow date – February 9).

Chairman Moore commented on the cable franchising public hearing. He noted that the hearings will be considered as an accumulative meeting and residents do not need to attend if they have already voiced their comments.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. SCHEDULE DATE TO SIGN WARRANT AND DEFAULT BUDGET**

Item previously discussed during Finance Director's appointment.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Lally announced that the Recycling Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS**

None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Lally MOTIONED** to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. **Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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**Chairman**