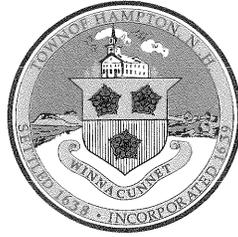


Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON MEETING - BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF April 7, 2008

PRESENT: William Lally, Chairman
Richard Griffin, Vice Chairman
James Workman
Richard Nichols
Richard Bateman
Michael Schwotzer, Acting Town Manager
Kristina Ostman, Administrative Assistant

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Public Hearing on the Amending of Transfer Station fees for the disposal of items containing Mercury.

Chairman Lally opened the public hearing 7:02Pm.

Public- No comment

Chairman Lally closed the hearing.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Workman's commented that the cost of the fees, are the expense that the Town pays.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the outline of fees as proposed by Mr. Hangen under the March 2008 revised fee schedule of the Transfer Station for the disposal of items containing Mercury. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Lally introduced those in attendance.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Chairman Lally read the Public Notice for the Mosquito Control program which will begin April 14, 2008.

This public notice is posted at town hall and at the town library.

Notice that any residents that wish not to have their property treated must notify Dragon Mosquito Control in writing at: PO Box 46 – Stratham, NH 03885.

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III. Appointments

1. Dyana Martin – Recreation Department Update

Parks Maintenance

- Al Mason started the Parks Crew working on April 1. High school and college students coming back to work as well starting at the end of the month.
- Clean-up of the Skateboard Park with Troop 177 and some other skateboarders was done last Wednesday.
- Preparing the fields for play starting on April 13th.
- Have been working with an Eagle Scout for a project at the bus stop at 5 Corners.
- Preparing for the Comcast Day of Caring on May 3rd.
- Wrote the bid for the tennis courts/basketball courts pending approval to send out.

Parking Lots

- The Ashworth Ave. lot will be open this weekend.
- Preparation of parking lots for opening in the next few weeks.
- Started the employment process for the returning staff and will soon start the interview process for new help.

Recreation Programs

- Recreation Department just finished preparing April Vacation activities for the kids.
- Trips set up for seniors over the next few months: Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun, the Butterfly Place, Strafford Farms, Warrens Seafood, Red Sox (three trips), Olive Garden, and the Loaf and Ladle.
- K-2 Sports program is now into the Indoor Games session with an added session of tennis.
- High School Rec. Basketball has finished and one of the Hampton teams won the whole league this year
- Hosting the travel show for the Ireland trip at Tuck Field at 6:00pm.
- The Ski and Ride Program is finished for the 2008 season.
- Completed a grant to the Rockingham County Commission for scholarships for camp. Sign ups have begun for the 2008 summer season.
- Summer employment process for returning camp counselors; have started the interview process for new employees.
- The Fishing Derby is scheduled for May 17th and fishing licenses are available for that event.
- The Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run competition is scheduled for May 10th and registration has begun.
- Men's Basketball program will be finishing April 24th and have started the schedules and logistics for the summer co-rec. Men's softball leagues and will start on May 5th.
- Added theater camp and Proven Results fitness programs to summer agenda of offerings. Proven Results actually starts next week.

Donations & Grants

- Hampton Rod and Gun Club donated \$500.00 towards the Fishing Derby.
- Victoria Parker, co-owner of the Sand Dollar Village, donated \$50.00 towards the paint and supplies for the Skateboard Park clean up.

The Board complimented Mrs. Martin on the activities and the brochure.

Mr. Bateman notes that there is a sport or activity for every kid.

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Mrs. Martin identified that Katie Yeaton had design the brochure and thanked the Board for the compliments.

Discussion on the Board regarding Skate Park and receiving the type of boards needed.

The Board thanked the public for the donations.

Discussion regarding town's employment of family member's policy. Mrs. Martin made employment request regarding her step daughter, Dana Martin. Mrs. Martin explained that the department has advertised and is interviewing for summer positions which includes camp counselors and parking lot attendants and is experiencing a shortfall of applicants.

The Town Personnel Policy states that two relatives can not work as full time employees together for the town but makes no mention of part time seasonal employees. The new Hampton Code of Ethics Policy states that the Board of Selectmen need to approve the hiring of relatives who are either full or part-time seasonal.

Dyana had consulted with the Town Manager and the Town Attorney and was informed that the Code of Ethics does apply in this situation. Therefore, she is requesting the Board of Selectmen's permission to allow Dana Martin to go through the normal interviewing and hiring policy for the Town of Hampton.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to allow the candidate to go through the process for hire as Camp Counselor. Mr. Bateman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Bus Stop at Five Corners

Ricky Falice, an Eagle Scout candidate, is hoping to do a project for the town of Hampton. He proposes to tear down and rebuild the bus stop at five corners.

The bus stop is heavily used by children and is in dire need of repair.

Ricky suggests rebuilding on the same footprint as the current bus stop. He will be raking and replanting grass around the new bus stop.

Mr. Bateman congratulates Ricky on his long journey to become an Eagle Scout and praises his efforts to better the community.

Mr. Griffin asks how the money would be raised to pay for the supplies and labor.

Ricky stated that he will be having a Bake Sale and/or a Mothers Day Plant Sale. As an Eagle Scout he can not ask for donations. However, the board notes the public can make contributions to this project if they would like by bringing them to the town hall or by speaking directly with the Recreation Department.

The Board thanked Ricky and his Troop for this community service and gave their consent to go ahead with the project

2. Chief Sullivan and Superintendent Gaylord – For the Center School Traffic Management Pattern
Chief Sullivan gave Mr. Gaylord's regrets that he was unable to attend due to a family emergency.
Chief Sullivan explained the problems and dangers with the traffic situation at Center School, and the proposal to alleviate the matter.

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The proposal is to create parking restrictions and a drop off zone using the town hall parking lot and the main cross walk leading to the school, creating less traffic restraints and making it safer for the students, parents and anyone who may be driving by the school during drop off/pick up hours.

There will be crossing guards at the drop off location to ensure the safety of all involved.

The School Board has endorsed this proposal.

Two directions from the Board have been requested:

1. The endorsement of the proposal and the permission to hold the Public Hearing on the parking restrictions.
2. The School will need to take the lead in promoting this proposal and achieving a consensus among the parents and school staff members to put an end to this hazardous traffic problem at Center School.

A public hearing will be scheduled on April 21, 2008 referencing the Center School parking restrictions.

IV. Minutes – March 31, 2008

The March 31, 2008 minutes stand as approved.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the minutes as submitted. Mr. Lally SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

V. Old Business

1. Town Manager's Report

- A. An on site review/test of the restricted lane width on the Neil Underwood Bridge was held Tuesday, April 1st. Participating was the NHDOT, HFD, HPD and myself. One of the fire engines was used and found able to pass through the proposed ten foot (10') width. There are still several issues that need to be worked out between the parties prior to the repair work commencing this September.
- B. The annual financial audit is scheduled to commence Monday, April 7th, with the on-site work taking an estimated two weeks. The Town Manager's Conference Room is reserved for the audit team and will be unavailable during this period.
- C. Researching a question from last week's Board Meeting: I was unable to find that the Town of Hampton had paid any monies to "Coalition Communities" from 2006 to present.
- D. After the Board completes the Appointments of Committee and Commission Members (Item #1 under New Business) there will be five unfilled appointments: Leased Land Real Estate Commission (2); Shade Tree Commission (2); and the USS Hampton Committee (1). Please contact the Town Manager's office for further information.

Discussion on the meeting with the Acting Town Manager, Fire Department, Police Department and Dot.

One of the major issues is Foot Traffic.

Chief Sullivan stressed that foot traffic across the Bridge during the repair will be virtually impossible.

Mr. Nichols asked if there are other issues relating to this project.

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Mr. Schwotzer explained about the automatic traffic signal to allow for one way traffic with an override for emergency vehicles. A truck can pass over the bridge with the proposed barriers, however, opening of the vehicles and responding to accidents on the bridge are some of the issues that need to be linguistically worked out.

Open discussion on the traffic flow on the bridge, winter conditions, and pedestrian crossings on the bridge.

Mr. Nichols brought up his short list suggestion and has identified three objectives he would like to bring up this evening.

Fire Stations

Develop a plan for addressing the Town's Fire Protection facilities. Conceptual design and cost estimates for a Headquarters facility on Winnacunnet Road and for a Beach Fire Station, to ultimately result in one headquarter warrant article appearing on the March 2009 ballot. Initiate the support and agreement of the Village District Precinct Commissioners on the location and issues related to the existing Station.

Recommend a "Public Input Session" at the beginning of Selectmen's meeting in the next couple of weeks. An invite is given to the Precinct Commissioners and other Precinct Officers to be involved in the planning process. The objective of the public input session would be to get all of the issues on the table that influenced the voters' rejection of Articles 6 and 7 in March of 2008. Request that the Manager set a specific date for the initial public input session, based on the schedules of the Precinct Commissioners. The Manager and Fire Chief would be provided with guidance on cost, location and other pertinent parameters at a subsequent meeting. The Manager's goal at that point would be to develop a preliminary plan by late summer or early fall for additional public input.

2009 Ballot

Reduce the number of Selectmen sponsored warrant articles to a maximum of 15. Inclusion of the social service articles approved by the voters in 2008 in the Operating Budget would help accomplish this objective. Providing the Manager with direction to limit proposed "tax rate effect" spending increases for 2009 to less than 3% over the amount approved by the voters in 2008, would help with voter support for a proposed Operating Budget as well as warrant articles. It will be less complex for the public to comprehend a smaller number of issues and easier to accept the financial impact of a more conservative proposed spending increase than 2008.

Transparency & Responsiveness

Improve the public perception related to the transparency and responsiveness of town government. The Selectmen have a tremendous amount of power when it comes to the transparency of local government. Request the Hampton Beach Advisory Commission to publish agendas and minutes on the town's web site. Proactive compliance with the spirit of the Right to Know Law, openness in the conduct of public business. The Selectmen, Manager and Departments Heads need to adopt a positive "can do" problem solving approach when addressing issues supported by a consensus of the public.

Mr. Bateman identified that the finding a means to restructure the debt load, and to use the potentially saved money for projects that are urgent. Secondly, to find a means to better educate the citizens on the value of acceptance for the negotiated contracts.

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Mr. Griffin identified his list items; Union contracts, Fire Stations and locations of said. Mr. Griffin explained that Mr. Windamere had explained to him that the lease at the beach was never intended to force the town to leave the beach location. Mr. Griffin also spoke that in his four years of service public information has never been withheld.

Mr. Lally identifies his list as including the ballot issue to be included in the Warrant. Fire Department; and Union contracts; which cost the town money by its failure in not being passed; the trash issue of pick up and disposal.

Open discussion on warrant items, locations on voting, (having two instead of one) and managing the budget. Cost issues, and an additional meeting for public input on the fire stations warrants, one at the beach and one uptown. Six objectives were brought up and discussed.

Congratulations to June White for being elected as a Beach Precinct Commissioner.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that the issues on Tide Mill Road need to be addressed.

VI. New Business

1. Appointment of Committee and Commission Members (See attachment).

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to recommend the prepared committee list of members who want to be re-appointed and newly appointed. Mr. Nichols SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Lally read the Committee List Appointments and Re-Appointments.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to accept the list of appointments and reappointments for the town's committee for the Year 2008. Mr. Workman SECONDED

Chairman Lally thanked the committee members who elected not to be re-appointed for their many years of service and commitment to the town.

2. Discussion and comments on the Combination Liquor License request by Ashworth Convenience II at 45 Ashworth Avenue.

No objections

Mr. Nichols requested additional information on the Hampton Beach Area Commission; can the meetings be televised and the agenda's posted. Mr. Nichols also suggested sending a letter from the BOS to HBAC to requesting them to post the minutes and the agendas on the website and to have their meetings televised.

Discussion of the Board.

VII. Consent Agenda

Mr. Schwotzer requested of the Board to suspend the rules of the agenda deadline and to accept and approve the late submittal of the Abba Taxi Service license.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to suspend the rules for submittal for the Selectmen's' Agenda and to approve the Taxi License for Abba. Mr. Lally SECONDED

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VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

1. Notice of Welfare Lien on 99 Mace Road

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bateman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VIII. Public Comments

IX. Closing Comments

X. Adjournment

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:20PM. Mr. Bateman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM



Chairman

Non-Meeting with Counsel – RSA 91-A:2,1,c