

Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2008

PRESENT: William Lally, Chairman
Richard Griffin, Vice Chairman
James Workman
Richard Nichols
Richard Bateman
Kristina Ostman, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS: Frederick Welch, Town Manager

7:00 PM

Chairman Lally called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Lally introduced those in attendance.

I. Public Comment Period – No Public Comment

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Griffin reminded voters to please vote tomorrow, it is well worth the time spent waiting.

Mr. Workman spoke about the issue of placing signs on public property and the fact that Chairman Lally mentioned it last week. The signs were removed but many of them came back over the course of the week. He is not talking so much about the Federal candidates but more your local candidates that were coming up. Mr. Workman wants people to remember that these are your neighbors and they are going to be representing Hampton and by putting signs in the public right of way they are not representing Hampton very well. He knows that many of these individuals who flaunted the law like such will not get his vote and he knows that they will not get a lot of others votes as well.

Chairman Lally spoke about the placement of signs and that he mentioned it last Monday since it has been an issue for several years.

Chairman Lally reminded the voters to please vote and that this is the first year of no straight ticket voting.

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III. Appointments

1. Chief Silver – Monthly Department Update

Chief Silver gave the Selectmen a summary of the Department and noted many of the positive returns of the Department. In particular the Seafood Festival; personnel wise Jed Carpentier has completed probationary period, James McDade will be joining the department and still have an opening for Fire Alarm Operator; the administering of Flu shots (at no cost to the employee or the Town) to Town Employees to ensure their health; the Fire Department Open House and the activities that occurred, especially for children; October was fire prevention month and a lot of credit goes to the Fire Prevention Officer and Fire Inspector; new training opportunities for fire department employees which include CPR Certification and placement of AED (Automated External Defibrillators) in the schools and the training on the device.

Notable items: Grant funding will be reduced due to the changes in eligibility; the recent fire at 933 Ocean Boulevard, the fire did not spread from the unit due to the quick response of the department; the unit did not have a working smoke detector; and mutual aid was only needed for Station coverage; and education and instruction on using auxiliary home heating devices.

Questions:

Mr. Griffin thanked Chief Silver for a good report and the enthusiasm he has brought.

Mr. Nichols wondered what the ratio is to ambulance calls and transports. Chief Silver said that the department has had a little over 1600 calls and transports are a little over 800 which would be about 55% to 60%. Mr. Nichols also asked if the new hire was the last of the additions or a slot from some other reason like retirement or transfer. Chief Silver explained that it was to fill an unforeseen vacancy.

Mr. Workman echoed what Chief Silver said about the Open House it was a good time had by all.

Chairman Lally asked about the flu shots and if doses are still available. Chief Silver said that there are still vaccines available if Town employees have not received their shot.

IV. Minutes – October 27, 2008 – No Changes

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the minutes of October 27, 2008. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Old Business

1. Town Manager's Report

Discussion:

Both Mr. Nichols and Mr. Griffin spoke about the Agenda not having been posted on the Web Site, although it was posted on the Town Office door.

Mr. Griffin spoke to the issue of the increase in taxes for citizens of Hampton and in particular the neighborhood of Ancient Highway. Mr. Nichols and Chairman Lally both confirmed that the citizens do have time to make an appeal.

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Mr. Griffin also asked about the Elderly Exemption and how it is very low and out of line with surrounding towns. The rate should be changed to a higher exemption. The Selectmen requested that the Town Manager follow up on this item.

Mr. Nichols spoke about the assessing system "Vision System Program" which allows citizens to review their property taxes in a user friendly manner and that it could be done on-line, which would free up the Assessors Department and make the department more efficient.

Mr. Nichols MOTIONED to allow the Assessor to spend \$2800.00 to purchase the "Vision" Assessing System Program; not a warrant article and within the 2008 Budget. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VI. New Business – No Comment

VII. Consent Agenda

1. Abatements: 17 Watson Lane; 21 Hickory Lane; 160 Lafayette Road; Woodland Road; and Clambank Marsh
2. Added Taxes: 933 Ocean Boulevard and the Town Leased Parking Lot

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

VIII. Closing Comments:

Discussion:

The Selectmen discussed the times that they will be at the polls since someone needs to be present. There is also a need to have a minimum of three Selectmen present at the end of the night for signing the votes. Mr. Griffin, Mr. Workman and Chairman Lally all confirmed that they will be present for different parts of the day and the end of the night. Mr. Bateman and Mr. Nichols will also try and be present in the evening.

Mr. Cushing and Mr. Pierce spoke about the water rate increase and that the Town should be at the hearing at the PUC on Wednesday to voice their opposition to the rate increase.

Mr. Bateman encouraged everyone to vote because their vote does count. Mr. Bateman read a synopsis of what "One Vote" did throughout History.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to adjourn. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 07:43 PM


Chairman

