

# Town of Hampton



## TOWN OF HAMPTON MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008

PRESENT: William Lally, Chairman  
Richard Griffin, Vice Chairman  
James Workman  
Richard Nichols  
Richard Bateman  
Frederick Welch, Town Manager  
Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney

7:00 PM Non-Meeting with Legal Counsel – RSA 91-A:2, I,c

7:30 PM BOS Meeting

Chairman Lally called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Lally introduced those in attendance.

### I. Public Hearing on Emergency Lane and Fire Lane status for “Ina Avenue”

Questions: No Questions

Mr. Griffin moved that the Board declare Ina Avenue Street to be an emergency lane under RSA 231:59-a for the limited purpose only of enabling the Town of Hampton to continue to plow snow from said Avenue during snow season, effective after and until rescinded by the Board and to make the written findings submitted herewith in support of this Motion, which is accompanied by the joint memo dated April 5, 2007 from the Public Works Director, Fire Chief, and Police Chief; and, to declare Ina Avenue to be a fire lane as described in the written findings, based on the recommendation of Fire Chief Silver.

Written findings for minutes regarding designation of Ina Avenue as an emergency lane under NH RSA 231:59-a

The Hampton Board of Selectmen make the following written findings in support of their decision to declare Ina Avenue as an emergency lane under RSA 231:59-a to the limited extent of enabling the Town only to plow snow from said Avenue during snow season:

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1. This private road is among the list of 29 or so of such roads that the Town has plowed snow on for years.
2. The homes located on the private roads like this road in the Hampton Beach area tend to be older homes that are located in very close proximity to one another with very little setback from lot lines, heightening the risk that fires, once started will spread widely and quickly unless rapidly contained.
3. The proximity of this road at Hampton Beach to the shore makes its location subject to higher winds, again heightening the risk that fires, once started, will spread widely and quickly unless rapidly contained.
4. The Public Works Director, Fire Chief and Police Chief have written the attached joint memo to this Board dated April 5, 2007 recommending that this road among others, be declared emergency lanes under RSA 231:59-a. The findings of these Departments Heads are incorporated by reference as part of these findings as they address the public need for keeping such roads passable by emergency vehicles and identify the public welfare and safety interests that surpass or differ from any private benefits to landowners abutting such roads.
5. This Board has declared this road to be a fire lane on both sides such that vehicles may be towed as necessary to enable effective plowing of snow to occur.
6. Snow plowing shall be limited to the paved width of this road.
7. No objection has been raised to this road being declared an emergency lane under N.H. RSA 231:59-a.

Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

## II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Bateman spoke of a discount prescription plan available to all citizens of Rockingham County and across the Country. It provides individuals with a 20% discount at 9 out of 10 local pharmacies. Brochures are available at the Town Office.

Mr. Griffin wanted to mention the Jingle Bell Craft Fair this Saturday.

Mr. Workman announced this past weekend was the boy scouts and girl scouts scouting for food. The American Legion will be hosting Veteran's Day Ceremonies on Tuesday at 8 o'clock at the Marine Memorial at the beach and at 11 o'clock at the American Legion Hall on High Street. Lastly, next Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November the Seacoast Firefighters Toy Bank is having their annual "Chili Cook-Off Festival" at Wally's

Chairman Lally announced the passing of Dot Bergquist who was an employee of the Town for many years. A service will be held tomorrow at the Post Road Cemetery at 10 AM. He also mentioned that today is the 233<sup>rd</sup> birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

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III. Appointments

1. Michael Schwotzer – Finance Director – The report will be available online. Topics covered were: projection for yearend savings is at \$706,000, closed out \$350,000 worth of purchase orders, income statement and the fact that FEMA reimbursement from over a year ago has come in, operating budget is at 79.9%, MIS is over target by 6%, breakdown was given by department and where they each stand, and lastly the Treasurer confirmed today that we did not have to borrow any TAN's for the second half of the year.

Questions:

Mr. Nichols asked if Mr. Schwotzer could predict a range that the Town is going to come in at year-end. Mr. Schwotzer feels that we will come in somewhere between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

2. Robert Estey – Town Assessor – Chairman Lally explained that Mr. Estey had been asked to come in and discuss the assessments. Mr. Estey explained that the last time a re-valuation was done was in 2003. The State required the Town to do this and the values were as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, which was before everything tanked in July. The lowest areas were beach related.

Mr. Estey read a statement on the first tax bill of this year that let all taxpayers know that their second bill would reflect the re-valuations. He suggested that if residents would like to discuss their bill they should make an appointment with the Assessing Office. Residents have a chance to appeal but must show why they think their valuation is incorrect.

Questions:

Mr. Griffin asked if the values of the land at the beach have gone up that much. Mr. Estey explained that the reason they went up was that these areas were under assessed. Mr. Griffin asked if commercial property is treated the same as residential and Mr. Estey confirmed that is true.

Mr. Nichols asked what the date was to file an appeal. Mr. Estey said the deadline to file an appeal is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Nichols asked about the new software and when it would be available. Mr. Estey provided a contract for the Board to sign for the new software.

Mr. Griffin asked about the Elderly Exemption and why Hampton is the 11<sup>th</sup> lowest out of 12 surrounding Towns. Mr. Estey explained the amounts that individuals receive are based on age. Mr. Estey also explained that the Town had set these amounts by putting together a warrant article that the Town voters voted on.

IV. Minutes – November 03, 2008

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the minutes of November 03, 2008. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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V. Old Business

1. Town Manager's Report

- The 370<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Hampton's Creation will take place on November 23 at the Congregational Church at 10 AM.
- Veterans Day activities will take place tomorrow November 11th starting at 8 AM as follows:
  - 8:00 AM Marine Memorial, Hampton Beach
  - 9:00 AM Weare Park Hampton Falls
  - 10:00 AM Public Library North Hampton
  - 11:00 AM American Legion Post 365 at 69 High Street, Hampton.Please be present to honor our veterans.
- The New Hampshire Retirement System is proposing a change that will require added costs to the Town if the Retirement Board approves the changes. Basically, it will require all summer employees and part time employees of 35 hours or more per week to be members of the retirement system. I have requested Town Counsel to draft objections to this process and present them to the State Retirement Board.
- The letter was sent to the State Retirement Board 20 days ago regarding the spiking charges and no response has been received. I have called the House Speakers legal counsel requesting a push to get the letter reply sent out.

There was a discussion about the ordinance in regards to political signs on Town Property, the warrant article on the Yale University Urban Design Workshop, draft of the Permanent Building Committee Charge, and letter to Precinct regarding Fire Station.

Questions:

Mr. Nichols gave an update from the Speaker of the House in regards to the anti-spiking provision for NHRS. A letter is being drafted in response to the letter that was sent by the Town and should go out by this Friday. In addition, the bills for the January retirements are not due to go out until April. Therefore, there will be time to get this problem fixed before the bills arrive. There will be a meeting this Wednesday at NHRS and it is anticipated that some recommendations will be made as to how they are going to go about fixing this problem.

Mr. Welch explained that this meeting is being held at the most inconvenient time because almost all the Officials in the State will be attending the Municipal Conference in Manchester. The only thing that is on the docket now for changing the rules and regulations is the 35 hour a week for summer employees.

Mr. Bateman asked about the rule change for Group 1 which does not fall under the Town's umbrella but does Mr. Welch see a tax impact under the schools.

Mr. Welch explained that this new rule will have a tax impact both under the school provision and under the municipal end for the Town.

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Mr. Nichols commented on the quote for the asbestos removal from the old Town Hall at \$1,800.

Mr. Welch explained that since the quote was so low the work is going to be done now.

VI. New Business

1. Vote on Ambulance Bid received from Hampton Falls.

Discussion:

Mr. Bateman wanted to make sure that the community understood that this Bid is not related to the Town's Mutual Aid agreement with Hampton Falls and that this is a separate issue.

The Board agreed that this is not something that the Town is interested in doing, since it would require the Town to hire more staff.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to indicate that the Board has addressed the issue in regard to the Ambulance Bid received from Hampton Falls and that the Town is not interested on bidding. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VII. Consent Agenda

1. High Street Cemetery Deeds: Perry; Brunnelle; Eastman; Lilly; Tzvetanov; Tobin; Nevins; Gale

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

VIII. Closing Comments

Mr. Bateman emphasized that Mr. Estey is one of the fairest individuals to deal with and thanked him for coming before the Board.

IX. Adjournment

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 08:45 PM

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Chairman