

# Town of Hampton



## TOWN OF HAMPTON MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

### I. Public Hearing on "Solid Waste Ordinance"

Discussion:

Mary Louise Woolsley thinks that the ordinance is terrific and beautifully written. The only thing that she feels needs to be added to the ordinance is how it is going to be reinforced.

Art Gopalen, 21 Mill Lane, the item that attracted him was the savings. He would like more details on implementation and education to residents.

Vincent Ghika, 13 Noel Street, is 100% in favor of the plan. The only thing he would suggest is that the fines start out low.

Ed McDonald, 25 Epping Ave, thinks that the Town is a little too ambitious to set a goal of 50% by 2010. He also feels that the recycling fine is too high and needs to be reduced. He expressed concerns on the language in many sections being too restrictive.

Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney, agrees with Ms. Woolsey that the ordinance is very well written, however some of the language needed to be changed and suggestions were given.

Fred Rice, 15 Heather Lane, nobody wants to see recycling more than he does, he also feels that the recycling goal of 50% is not realistic. The ordinance is a little too broad.

Mike Pierce, 16 Hedman Ave, feels this is a great step forward.

Bill Bowley, Towle Farm Road, spoke on the fact that education is the key to getting recycling done.

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Mr. Nichols agrees with the comments on the fine being high and thinks that maybe steps might be the way to go. Mr. Welch said there are things to work on and if a step plan is put in each step would have to be defined. Mr. Workman suggested that the fine should read up to \$500 instead of a flat \$500. Mr. Griffin agreed that would be a good solution. Mr. Bateman expressed that this fine would not be assessed on the average resident for something as simple as mixing cans with rubbish.

Mr. Workman does not feel that it is fatal to leave the goal at 50%. He questioned 5d and if the violation was a little too harsh. Mr. Griffin suggested changing the language to read may cancel the issued permit.

Mr. Griffin appreciates everyone's comments and his only suggestion would be to change the year for the 50% goal to 2012.

Chairman Lally does not have a problem with the 50% goal but also would not have a problem with changing the date to 2012. He suggested the changing of the language as the Town Attorney recommended.

The Board suggested that the changes be made and the ordinance be brought back for a vote.

## II. Public Comment Period

Ed McDonald, 25 Epping Ave, suggested that there be a Public Input Period at the beginning and a Public Comment Period at the end of each meeting.

## III. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Workman reminded the public that the Seacoast Firefighter Toy Bank is having their annual Chili Cook Off Festival at Wally's this Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Lally informed the public that fuel assistance is available to them through Rockingham Community Action. Rockingham Community Action is located in Portsmouth and their number is 431-2911. Also the Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Auction is Wednesday night at the Galley Hatch Conference Center doors open at 5:30.

## IV. Appointments

### 1. John Price, Public Works Director – Monthly Department Update

Mr. Price outlined the Department of Public Works activities for the month of October. Highlighting the following items: 4 no dumping signs posted on Vanderpool Lane, mounted the spreaders, plows and wings brought out of storage, trash barrels from beach have been stored, sewer for Liquor Store, cleaning of catch basins, WWTP seasonal maintenance, Transfer Station stickers have been ordered and issued, Supervisor at the Transfer Station has been nominated and elected to the NRRRA Board of Trustees, transported voting equipment, and 8 employees attended the 2 day solid waste training in Concord.

Questions from the Board

Chairman Lally complimented them on a job well done.

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2. Warren Bambury – Elderly Tax Exemption

Mr. Bambury discussed the differences between Hampton and the towns of Seabrook, Exeter, No. Hampton, Rye, Portsmouth and Hampton Falls and the difference in the amounts given to the elderly for exemptions. He would suggest bringing the exemption for 65 and older up to \$120,000, 75 and older up to \$150,000, and the 80 and older up to \$165,000.

Questions from the Board

Mr. Nichols questioned whether the net asset number is low and should possibly be raised.

Mr. Griffin agrees and thinks the numbers should be higher. He believes that the elderly in this Town need some sort of relief.

Mr. Bambury can provide the Board with the amounts used by the surrounding Towns.

V. Minutes – November 10, 2008

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the minutes of November 10, 2008. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VI. Old Business

1. Town Manager's Report

- The Town entered testimony, with three other communities, concerning the change in the Retirement Systems regulations changes proposing to charge for retirement memberships for summer time and part time employees. A hearing was held last Wednesday and the retirement Board cancelled the change subject to further work and refinements to the proposed rule change. It would appear that a new proposal will be issued as early as 30-days from now.
- I understand that the Retirement System conducted a mid-term study of rate changes given the current down turn in the market. Given those changes, it is projected that the 2011 rates for Group 1 Employees could increase 20% and Group Two Employee could increase by 40% over current retirement rates.
- Reminder to remove all political signs.
- The musical "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will take place on Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup> and residents can contact the Recreation Department for further details.

Questions from the Board

Mr. Nichols wondered if at the NHRS meeting on Wednesday was there any discussion on the anti spiking provision. Mr. Welch confirmed that there was no discussion.

Mr. Welch informed the Board that there is talk of doing away with all State Aide to help correct the State's deficit.

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Mr. Bateman would like to discuss taxes and especially the leased land at the Beach. Not only did they have an increase in taxes but were also affected by the rent fee. Mr. Gearreald explained that there was a Town meeting vote to affect all leases entered into after 1996 it added in addition to paying real estate taxes there would be a rent fee of 2% of assessed valuation. Mr. Gearreald explained to change the rent factor there would need to be a Town vote.

The Board agreed that there is a lot of talk about the increase in taxes.

Chairman Lally questioned Mr. Welch about the due date being December 31<sup>st</sup> and can we offer a grace period to some of these individuals with such an increase. Mr. Welch explained that the due date is Statutory so it cannot be changed. However individuals need to come in and file an appeal if they feel it is warranted.

Mr. Nichols asked about any progress on the Beach Fire Station Lease. Mr. Welch did not have much to report at this time.

VII. New Business

1. (2) Draft Warrant Articles – (1) Yale University Design Workshop 20-year plan for development of a “Town Center”; and (2) 20-year Plan for “Town Center”

Questions from the Board

Mr. Nichols thinks the idea is a good one but the timing is not right. Mr. Griffin also agrees with Mr. Nichols and this type of thing might work better once we have a Building Committee in place.

The remainder of the Board agreed to not put this article forward.

VIII. Closing Comments

Mr. Nichols asked about the email that was received from a gentleman making allegations that had to do with the responsiveness of the Police Department. He feels that at some point the Board should be briefed.

Mr. Welch explained that the information has been passed onto the Police Chief and the Board will be briefed once the investigation is complete.

IX. Adjournment

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 09:14 PM

  
Chairman

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