

Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2009

PRESENT: Richard Nichols, Vice Chairman
William Lally
Richard Bateman
Gerald Znoj
Frederick Welch, Town Manager

REGRETS: Richard Griffin, Chairman

7:00 PM

Vice-Chairman Nichols called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and introduced the members of the Board.

I. Public Comment Period

Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Ave, wanted to comment on an item on the consent agenda. In regards to the appointment of committee members, he informed the Board that Ann Kaiser is stepping down from her position on the Mosquito Control Commission. He would like the Board to solicit from the public anyone who might be interested in joining the Mosquito Control Commission.

Charlie Preston, 47 Glade Path, here to see if the Board can get some lighting in the Ashworth Ave Lot. It is the darkest lot on the beach. He would like to throw something out there for consideration by both this Board and the Hampton Beach Area Commission. He would like to see a question period added to the end of the meeting. Mr. Nichols commented that when the public comment period was moved to the beginning the Board has still allowed anyone who wanted to ask a question at the end to do so. Mr. Lally pointed out that on the agenda at the end there is Closing Comments.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Bateman expressed sympathy's to the people of Italy.

Mr. Znoj would like to give an early plug for the Earth Week Event that is about to occur. The activities start on April 18th and end on April 22nd. They have some very nice presentations, earth walks, Town cleanup and films scheduled.

Mr. Lally would like to thank Public Works for all the hard work in regards to the Ice Storm cleanup.

Mr. Bateman would like to point out that you cannot bring the following items to the hazardous waste cleanup: any ammunition, fireworks, explosives, gas grills or tanks, radioactive waste, infectious or biological waste, smoke detectors, auto or any other wet cell batteries, tires and white goods. Also, please watch the paper for other items that can be dropped off but will have a charge.

Mr. Nichols added that the hazardous waste cleanup is on May 9th from 9 to noon behind the old Town Hall.

Mr. Welch stated that anyone who is a property owner or resident may attend the hazardous waste cleanup.

Mr. Znoj asked if the schedule for Earth Week was online. Mr. Welch said that they are waiting for an updated schedule and as soon as it is received, it will be posted online.

III. Appointments

1. Parks and Recreation Director Dyana Martin - Departmental Update

Mrs. Martin updated the Board on all the activities that the Parks and Recreation Department have spoke on the following topics.

Removal of Christmas lights with the help of the Fire Department, all previous employees are returning, fixed dugout that was vandalized and Public Works helped to remove tree limbs from fields at Tuck; Tru Green Chemlawn has started their maintenance.

Opened up the Ashworth Lot this weekend, all lots will open Memorial Day Weekend and the Dept. is taking applications for the attendants at the parking lots.

Kudos to Katie Yeaton for a great job on the summer brochure. The Summer Brochure is now available and outlines all the seasons' activities for children and adults.

The Department has received a donation of \$500 from Hampton Lawn and Garden Club for the fishing derby, received a \$250 grant from the United States Tennis Association for the block party, Hampton Youth Association donated a shed for Tuck Field, received a donation of coffee and donuts from Jump N Jacks for the volunteers at the Easter Egg Dig and lastly a plug for a new sitcom this Thursday called Parks & Rec.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj asked about the lifeguard positions he thought the State covered this. Ms. Martin explained that over the years the Town has paid the State for lifeguards at both of the Town beaches. However, in the past three years or so they have not been able to provide lifeguards for the Town beaches. Some residents have expressed concerns so the Town is trying to provide lifeguards for Plaice Cove and Sun Valley. The money is in the budget for these lifeguards.

Mr. Znoj asked if she had forgotten to mention the information on the Fishing Derby. It was confirmed that the Fishing Derby is on May 16th and the kids do need to register at the Rec Department.

Mr. Znoj questioned where the seats are located for the Red Sox tickets. Ms. Martin pointed out that the seats this year are in different locations and that is why there are different prices for each game. There is a flier available in the Rec Department with the seating chart and the location of the seats for the tickets available.

Mr. Bateman expressed the ease of attending one of these games through the Rec Department.

Mr. Znoj pointed out that from what he read the Easter Egg Dig was quite a success.

Mr. Bateman paid his compliments to the Rec Department for making such tremendous plans and he truly believes that the Town's Rec Department is one of those jewels that go in a crown. He encourages residents to stop in to the Rec Department to pick up one of the summer brochures.

Mr. Lally thanked the HYA, Jump N Jacks, Hampton Rod and Gun Club and US Tennis Association for their donations and grants.

Ms. Martin is working on a grant right now from Rockingham County for scholarships so kids can go to camp.

Mr. Nichols asked about the lighting in the Parking Lots. Ms. Martin would love to do it however; she does not have the money in the budget. She has promised Mr. Preston that she will put it in the warrant article next year for the revolving fund. If she had the money to do it, she would definitely do it. Mr. Nichols asked if she had a dollar figure for this and Ms. Martin did not have any cost at this time. She did comment that the lights at Eaton Park cost about \$1,000.

Mr. Bateman pointed out that there is one pole in place but the light does not work.

Mr. Nichols asked if Mr. Welch could get some sort of cost together for this lighting to be done.

Ms. Martin will also look into putting together some quotes on lights for the Ashworth Ave Lot.

2. Tax Collector - Donna Bennett

Mrs. Bennett explained that she is before the Board to introduce herself as the new Tax Collector to the Board and the residents at home tonight.

Mrs. Bennett would also like to share a few things with the Board and the residents. The computers are currently down and she is doing her best to serve the public. The Tax Office will be closed next Tuesday April 14th so that she can attend the spring workshop. The most important reason she is here tonight is to ask for approval to hire the new Deputy Tax Collector.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to move the approval of Fran Mounsey to come in as the Deputy Tax Collector. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0-0

3. John Nyhan - Hampton Beach Area Commission

Mr. Nyhan explained to the Board that about 6 months ago, the former chairman Fred Rice came before the Board and gave the Board an annual report of the Commission. Mr. Nyhan thought it would be important for the Commission to come back after about 5-6 months to give another update.

The first item he would like to discuss is the Hampton Beach redevelopment project. The Public Works Committee of the House took the steps to add \$14.5 million into the beach project. It still has to go through the Senate and into the capital budget. After speaking with the Governor before a Chamber Event, he is now helping to find funds for this project. The State Reps and Senators are working very hard behind the scenes. He is looking for green technology to save money that way. The Commission is meeting with Department of Transportation, there are a number of activities, and cost related items within the project that can be covered by DOT. He thinks that they are doing as much as they can to make this project happen.

Mr. Nyhan would also like to mention that the Hampton Beach Area Commission is now taking on a very aggressive agenda. They really work as a Commission to focus on how else or what else can they do to fulfill the obligations of the Commission and also fulfill what the Hampton Beach Master plan says they should be doing.

They have officially created within their commission grant writing capabilities. This means they can actually go out as a commission and apply for grants. They are putting together workshops to determine what projects they should go after. He assures the Board that any projects that are related to the Town will first be brought to the Board for approval. They would like to improve the look when one crosses over the bridge into Hampton. Through grants, they are now actively working with the Rockingham County Planning Commission.

Mr. Nyhan will try to bring the information provided to him by Mr. Welch in regards to the monorail system back to the front burner. One area that he feels they are not doing a good job with is in the area of economic development. He feels that it is important to focus on the Beach area and we, as a community need to figure out how we can bring economic development back to the Beach.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj asked on the development that has been approved by the Finance Committee of \$14 million for the Beach is that project considered shovel ready. How fast can they get shovels to the ground and get those two or three facilities put together.

Mr. Nyhan responded that the biggest thing before it becomes shovel ready is the permitting component. They have been told by the architects given the ok to move forward with the project they would try very hard to fast track the permits and actually start the projects next fall. If this full project is funded, we are talking about a four-maybe 5-year project.

Mr. Bateman added that before you can tear down the stage you need to build satellite bathrooms.

Mr. Znoj suggested starting with the two new facilities first and then work on the shell. Mr. Nyhan believes that is the plan.

Mr. Bateman shared with the Board how back in 1980 the Town tried to get a new bridge and now 20 years later the bridge is being reconstructed for \$11 million. The State is beginning to realize that Hampton and Seabrook are the gateway into New Hampshire.

Mr. Nyhan can assure them that there are investors waiting on the sidelines to see if the State comes through.

Mr. Lally commented that the voters of Hampton have stepped up to the plate. He appreciates all that the Commission has done and the Board will do anything that they can to help.

Mr. Nichols asked if Mr. Nyhan knows how much the total budget is for the Public Works Committee.

Mr. Nyhan believes that it is around \$123 million.

Mr. Nichols wonders if the \$14.5 million for the beach project got in by expanding the overall budget or by reshuffling priorities.

Mr. Nyhan stated that the Governor actually put in about \$83 million for school aid the past two years. Last year the house and the senate allowed this \$83 million to come out of the capital budget. However, it was a onetime deal and was removed from the capital budget this year. This in turn allowed more money to become available for return on investment types of projects.

Mr. Nichols complimented Mr. Nyhan and the rest of the Commission on the changes made over the past year.

IV. Minutes of March 30, 2009

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the minutes of March 30, 2009. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 3-0-1 (Znoj)

V. Town Manager's Report

The Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 9 AM to 12 Noon at the Old Town Hall Parking Lot. The next Household Hazardous Waste Day will be September 26, 2009 from 9 AM to 12 Noon at the Highway Garage, Middle Road, Brentwood, New Hampshire.

Effective Thursday, April 2, 2009 the Frost Ban Posting was lifted on all Town Roadways.

In answer to a question asked last week there are 33 structures connected to sewer on the Exeter-Hampton Town Line.

The annual mosquito control contract has been completed and Dragon Mosquito will begin services in April. The annual cost for 2009 will be \$69,500.

For the first quarter of 2009, there were 1,269,577 total hits on the Town website.

Please note that the Transfer Station will be closed Sunday for Easter.

We have received a number of complaints about dogs on the beach. Most of the complaints come from the State Beach and he has spoken with Mr. Warburton. Dogs are not allowed on

State Beaches at all. He would like to remind residents that dogs are allowed on Town beaches from Labor Day through Memorial Day anytime and from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 6 pm to 8 am but animal waste must be removed immediately.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj pointed out that the dogs not being allowed on the beach is not happening.

Mr. Nichols commented that he is down there all the time and it does seem to be worse this year for some reason.

Mr. Znoj stated that if the complaints are still being received in May and June than maybe it will be time to enforce the fines.

Mr. Nichols commented that the problem is not as bad on North Beach as it is on the main beach.

Mr. Znoj stated that it might not be bad on the beach at North Beach but the sidewalk is littered with waste.

Mr. Bateman firmly believes that those that are the violators will be the loudest voices when they get penalized.

Mr. Nichols asked about the process of reorganizing the budget and wonders when Mr. Welch sees the Board sitting down and doing this. Mr. Welch pointed out that April 9th is crossover day in the legislature and it appears at this point that they are going to put all the money back in. If that is the case, we will not have to cut anything short of achieving the goal the Selectmen came up with for a set dollar amount for the tax rate.

Mr. Znoj wonders if that includes the general revenue fund that they were talking about. Mr. Welch said that it does include the Meals and Rooms and the Revenue Sharing Block Grant. The real taste of the pudding is going to come on the 8th when the House votes on the Finance Committees recommendation of the budget. They are going to recommend those things go back in and it will be an amendment to the Governor's budget.

Mr. Znoj asked about the step back of 30/35% for Retirement. Mr. Welch said that is still in the budget. Mr. Nichols pointed out that the employee retirement rates are being increased to 11% for Group II and 7% for Group I. Mr. Nichols believes that the intention there is for a wash with the 30/35%. Mr. Welch said that a number of other taxes are being proposed to put back in.

Mr. Znoj asked what the critical dates are again. Mr. Welch stated that April 8th the House will vote on the Finance Committee Budget. So by the 9th we will know what the vote indicates. We will then know whether we have to come to the Selectmen, everything or just the dollar amount that the Board has indicated the tax rate will be.

Mr. Nichols would like to discuss the budget on the 20th. He believes that we will have some sort of economic impact on the revenues. The revenues are currently forecasted at 6.226 million back in August or September. Mr. Nichols feels that even if the State does pass the budget we still need to cut back on some things. He believes that we need to take a hard look at overtime.

Mr. Welch commented that when he asked the department heads to make the budget cuts he asked them to do so on the ¼ million dollars increments.

Mr. Znoj agrees with Mr. Nichols that the overtime needs to be looked at.

Mr. Welch pointed out that the Board has already received request for negotiations so they will need to hold some non-public meetings to see where they want to go with this.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. New Business

1. Parks and Recreation

- a. Acceptance of a grant from the United States Tennis Association(USTA) for \$250.00
- b. Acceptance of a donation of \$1813.00 for a 8 x 14' storage shed from the Hampton Youth Association
- c. Acceptance of a donation from the Hampton Rod and Gun Club for \$500.00 for the Fishing Derby

2. Police Department

- a. Acceptance of \$2548.00 for the Highway Safety Grant for DWI Patrols

Discussion

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the above grants and donations for the Parks and Recreation with the exception that acceptance amount for the shed be increase to \$2,000.00. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to accept the above grant for the Police Department. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Discussion

Mr. Bateman would like to jump in and comment on a letter written to Chief Sullivan from John Galvin. John Galvin is retiring on April 14th and has been with the department for a very long time. He has served well and is going to stay on in a part time position. He would like to thank John for his over 30 years of service and wish him well.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- 1. Authorize Recommital Warrant for 2009 Land Rents
- 2. Authorize Recommital Warrant for 2008 Property Taxes
- 3. Support and approve the NHDES-Coastal Program to eradicate "Perennial Pepperweed"
- 4. Committee Appointments
- 5. Liquor License recommendation for 931 Ocean Blvd
- 6. Proclamation – National Arbor Day April 24th

Discussion

Mr. Welch explained that the Committee Appointments are individuals who have requested that they be appointed to their respective committees.

Mr. Nichols stated the 2009 appointments with a term expiration of 2012 will be as follows: Jay Diener to the Conservation Commission, Sharon Raymond to the Conservation Commission, Fred Rice to the Heritage Commission, John Nickerson to Highway Safety, George Wall to Highway Safety, Sheila Cragg to the Recreation Advisory Council, Darold Mosher to the Recreation Advisory Council and Kim Warburton to the Recreation Advisory Council. Mr. Nichols would like to point out that there is an opening on the Mosquito Control Commission.

The 2009 appointments with a term expiration of 2011 will be as follows: Neal Carnaby to Highway Safety as an alternate, Rebecca Scott as a Recreation Advisory Council alternate, Skip Webb as a Recreation Advisory Council alternate, Maurice Friedman as Rockingham Planning Commission alternate, Susan Hughes as a Library Trustee alternate and Kristine Sawyer as a Library Trustee alternate.

We also have vacancies for an alternate for the Conservation Commission, a fulltime member to the Energy Committee and three vacancies to the Insurance Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lally asked if the Board was told last week that they need some alternates to the Recycling Committee. Mr. Welch confirmed then that is true but they have not received the request in writing yet.

Mr. Nichols would like to pull the Liquor License recommendation for 931 Ocean Blvd for clarification. We have received some recommendations from the Chief. Mr. Nichols asked if the Board agrees that the vote on the consent agenda will reflect the stipulations from the Chief.

Mr. Znoj MOTIONED to move the Consent Agenda. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0-0

IX. Closing Comments

Mr. Bateman feels that Mr. Preston had a good idea last year in regards to lights in the Ashworth Ave Lot and it was not followed through with. He thinks looking at this would be a proactive move by the Board.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Znoj MOTIONED to adjourn. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM


Chairman