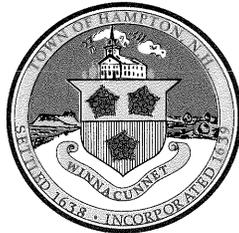


Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN JULY 20, 2009 MINUTES

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

7:00 PM Board of Selectmen Meeting

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- I. Public Comment Period
- II. Announcements and Community Calendar
- III. Appointments
 1. Michael Schwotzer – Finance Department
Discussion: Spoke under New Business.
 2. Ben Moore – NH Preservation Alliance Award
Discussion

Ben Moore appeared with Chet Reilly. Mr. Moore presented the 2009 NH Preservation Alliance Preservation Achievement Award to Chet. Mr. Moore detailed the history the Levitt House Barn preservation project. Ms. Etoile Holzaepfel from the NH Preservation Alliance joined Mr. Moore and Mr. Reilly. She discussed the mission of the NH Preservation Alliance, and their annual awards. Ms. Holzaepfel commended the work of the Hampton Historical Society and presented them with the 2009 Preservation Achievement Award.

Mr. Moore presented awards to Vic Lessard for his assistance in excavating the frost wall and foundation; to Misters John and Jack Hall with Delta Crane; Jack Dion of Dion Construction for completing the concrete work; to Paul Pow and his son Luke of Building Integrity, who did the roof and Aaron Sturgis with Preservation Temper Framing who provided technical advice. Mr. Moore thanked Charlotte Preston, Bob Wallace and Al Casassa for all their help with the

fundraising, noting that there is a fifteen thousand dollar fund established for maintaining the barn in the future. He invited the community to visit the barn noting that the Museum will be open from 1:00-4:00 pm of Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. There was discussion about completing and inventory of barns in NH. Mr. Moore mentioned that if the public would like to be involved through volunteering to contact the Historical Society. Mr. Moore also mentioned that the 8th annual pig roast benefiting the Historical Society on September 5, 2009, tickets are available at Marelli's downtown, the Tuck Museum and here at the Town Offices in the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Board complemented the work of the Hampton Historical Society. Chairman Griffin also mentioned that there is a fire museum, a beach cottage, a one-room schoolhouse and a collection of other artifacts.

3. Brian Warburton, DRED – Proclamation

Discussion

Mr. Bateman noted that Mr. Warburton asked his appointment to be put off, as he did not receive the information that he was to present.

4. Unitil – Emergency Response Plan

Discussion

Rich Francazio, the new director for emergency management at Unitil along with Ted Noonis and Scott Wade appeared. Mr. Francazio gave a history of his career. He noted that Unitil is committed to becoming a premier organization from the emergency management perspective. The ice storm of 2008 and the changes after the power outages were discussed including revisions several revisions to their emergency response plan. Regional emergency operation centers were detailed which will include a municipal rooms in order to foster correspondence between the town managers / administrators. Mr. Francazio noted that for events which take place longer than forty-eight hours there will be a conference call set up to include the emergency response team and elected officials. There was discussion about time-frames for implementation of the new emergency management plan and Mr. Francazio said that there are still drills that need to be conducted, but he felt that if there were a situation to occur this week, they would still be more prepared to respond than the ice storm of 2008. Mr. Znoj noted that one of the biggest problems with the ice storm was getting the proper resources to the deficient areas. Mr. Nichols asked about the number of resources / crews that Unitil has today, compared to 2008. Mr. Francazio said this is a difficult number to determine exactly, but noted that there are more resources and better organization available now, compared to the previous year. Mr. Nichols also asked about OMS computer software and Mr. Francazio noted that the program has the capability to access how many people are out of power for a certain event, the program also helps predict outages. Mr. Bateman said that the new plan is proactive, and wonders why this was not in place prior to the ice storm. There was discussion about previous deficiencies and how the new plan aims to prevent these in the event of another storm. Mr. Znoj noted information being available to the general public was the most important concept. Mr. Lally commented that the plan seemed inclusive but hopes they never have to use it.

5. Fire Chief Christopher Silver – Commendations

Discussion

Chief Silver would like to recognize the valiant efforts of the Fire Department and the Community. Chief Silver recognized Fire Captain David Madson, Fire Lieutenant John Stevens, Fire Alarm Operator Sandra Bridle, Fire Fighters James Correll, Buck Frost, Nathan Denio, Jason Newman, Jed Carpenter and Probationary Fire Fighter David Marcott for their efforts on June 14, 2009 where they responded to a call that there were two persons in the ocean from overturned fishing vessel in the vicinity of Concord Avenue. Chief Silver then presented awards to Ryan Granger and Steven Patallais for using their private vessel to respond to the victims in the ocean on 06/14/09. Chief Silver finally presented an award to Mr. Sawers for helping find the second victim in the water.

There was discussion about the fire at Remick's Funeral Home.

IV. Minutes of July 06, 2009

Page 7: In the second paragraph, "Mr. Znoj clarified that where benefits are recognized for a period of two Mr. Myers Company would receive 50% of savings." Changed to "Mr. Znoj clarified that where benefits are recognized for a period of two years Mr. Myers Company would receive 50% of savings."

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Town Manager's Report

A bid was awarded to All Phase Construction of Raymond, NH as the low bidder to construct the 477 feet of sidewalk at a cost of \$20,000 from Landing Road to the entrance of Winnacunnet High School on Winnacunnet Road.

A bid was awarded to Chappell Tractor East, LLC as the low bidder for a replacement slope mower in the amount of \$7,275.00.

A proposal was awarded to Accurate Roofing & Construction for emergency repair work on the Town Hall to correct roof leakage on the sum of \$1400.

For residents registering their vehicles during the month of July, please remember that the Town Clerk closes at 11:30 AM on Fridays, and July 31st, the last day of the month is a Friday. Please register your car before the 31st.

Discussion

The 28A suit was discussed, and the Board noted they were in favor of supporting this.

Mr. Nichols MOTIONED to communicate the Board's support of the 28A lawsuit being undertaken. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman Griffin noted he read the Portsmouth Herald story that 13% of WHS freshmen have a 4th grade reading ability. He spoke with the previous president of UNH and who said that this number was staggering, and would have an effect on the local community; the drop out rate was also discussed.

Mr. Nichols discussed the complaint from 24 Harbor Road, Mr. Welch noted paperwork has been received and once the town attorney returns from vacation and reviews this, there will be a recommendation given to the board.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to establish a handicap parking space at the corner of J Street and Ocean Blvd, which will be indicated by handicap parking signage Mr. Lally SECONDED.

There was discussion about the need for the space, as it has been a problem for someone specific recently, though the space will be open to anybody with handicap designation.

VOTE: 4-0-1 Mr. Znoj abstained

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to establish single lane parking in the triangle of dirt of Ocean Blvd and Haverhill St. including a sign reading 'no double parking' which may be affixed to a pole which already holds a sign Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Bateman noted that the Police Department is spending too much time responding to double parked cars, and if it were posted, it could be enforced. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Welch commented that they have also seen double-parked cars there.

Mr. Bateman mentioned that the land rent payments have had one large increase and would like to investigate whether or not the town has the means to put this into a step increase, which would be paid over a two to three year time frame, lessening financial strain. Mr. Nichols discussed land renting verses owning in terms of costs. Chairman Griffin asked if with the addition of a new Tax Assessor, this could also be addressed and Mr. Welch noted that in order to do this a warrant article would need to be presented for town meeting vote. Mr. Lally said that this was discussed last year so during the March 2008 voting he spoke to some people about it and he agreed that it should be drafted as a warrant article. Chairman Griffin asked if land renting costs were often lower than land ownership costs why the board would move to help further lower those costs. It was noted that the goal was not to lower overall costs but to spread the cost out over a period of time, relieving some of the burden of the sudden large increase. Interest rates and who regulated them was discussed. The board mentioned giving the renters payment extension of 90 days. Mr. Bateman said he would like to see citizens with leased land draft an article. Mr. Welch noted that currently late payment interest is 18% per year, which regardless of any future warrant article regarding a 90-day extension would still be incurred.

VI. New Business

1. 2010 Budget Discussion

Discussion

Mike Schwotzer said that the June 2009 income and expenses have been posted online and are available for review. He discussed June's budget report noting that halfway through the year they are 4% behind the budgeted target, it was clarified that at this rate they will be 8% behind at the end of the year. He noted that the parking lots have been running behind due to rain. There was discussion about budgets for motor vehicle registrations, departmental income, land rent, expenses, building maintenance, health insurance, police, fire, highways and streets and municipal sanitation. Mr. Znoj asked about the State of NH revenue and the real estate fund shortfall and Mr. Schwotzer noted timing issues. There was discussion about 2008 PO's being

on the budget. Mr. Schwotzer said that the PO's reflected in the 2009 budget were dollars that were committed from the 2008 budget. Mr. Znoj was surprised to see that 90% of the Fire Departments budgeted sick leave had been used. Mr. Znoj asked what was repaired, in terms of Fire Department repair services, it was noted that the Chief could address this question later in the meeting. Paving and sidewalks as well as the OT's call bank were discussed. Mr. Znoj said that Parks and Recreation is using more budgeted overtime at this point in the year than would be feasible to do at the same rate continuing forward. Mr. Nichols would like to see the forecast next month, as he had done previously and Mr. Schwotzer agreed to begin a full year forecasting in conjunction with his report on the July Actuals. Mr. Nichols also wanted to know about the status of the audit, it was noted that Mr. Schwotzer has received the draft, there was a hang-up on one piece of paper but is in the final steps of processing it, Mr. Nichols requested the balance sheet when it was completed.

Mr. Nichols said that in reading the document he noticed it was characterized as a partial list, Mr. Welch noted that it is because he is still waiting on reports for a couple of things including sprinkler systems and the drive through roof failure. Mr. Nichols said that the numbers come to about 4.1 million dollars, which represents about 16% over last years tax spending. He said the public wants the lowest taxes as possible and this year the town needs to make an effort to reduce overtime, and think about combining police and fire dispatch. Mr. Nichols said that the \$35,000 in energy improvements and wondered how the \$35,000 that was approved last year was spent. Mr. Welch noted that it is being spent on getting a new generator installed, but is waiting on the possibility of a State Grant to cover this expense. If the expense is covered, they will work on repairing the electrical systems in the building bringing them up to grade, which return will reduce electrical usage. Another thing that needs to be done is modernize the water usage in the building, as there are problems with toilets and sinks. The dumbwaiter will be removed to address the need for conduit space. The antiquated call system was also mentioned. Mr. Nichols asked about DPW considering the \$340,000.00 and that they may have more success on equipment specific warrant articles. Mr. Lally said that the margins of vote in the negative are getting wider, if there was a year there were less services offered to the public, they would be more inclined to vote for these articles. The Church Street pump station was discussed. Mr. Nichols thought that if there were two or three priority items that people could understand they may be able to gain public acceptance and have it passed through vote. There was discussion about reducing the overall number of warrant articles. The salt shed was also discussed. Mr. Price, Director of Public Works noted that a local Massachusetts community has just constructed a salt shed and that they are planning to visit it soon. Mr. Price's main concern in cutting back on the salt was that at the end of last winter, the salt was increasingly hard to get to and he was worried about public safety. Mr. Nichols said that he understands the concern but is worried that with the high price tag associate to it that it will not pass, storing less reduces the costs listed in the warrant article, which may have a better likelihood of passing. Mr. Price suggested three different proposals in size and cost, and to have the board decide which would be best. The cost benefit of the shed was discussed. Mr. Bateman said that in the previously proposed salt shed if there were money put to them because of the location and the possibility of drainage to the marsh, Mr. Price said that they would look at this carefully, fine per day is \$25,000.00 for seepage beyond the facility, especially with the close proximity of the marsh. Another area of the town to build the salt shed was discussed. Mr. Znoj asked what were the most threatening things on the provided list if something were to go wrong such as the pump station on Church Street. Mr. Price said that the department is keeping a close eye on that pump station as it is over

20 years in age; its pumps and facilities are beginning to show signs of failure, which left unchecked, would result in enormous consequences for the beach area. Mr. Welch noted that there is no backup. There was discussion about increasing public awareness of this pump station and a more cost effective proposal being presented. Chairman Griffin read a letter that was received from Theresa LaBroad of 1 Wooden Street complementing Mr. Price on his efforts at 6 Dow Avenue. Mr. Price noted that he would not be able to do his job effectively without the help of his department.

Mr. Nichols brought up the replacement pumper, which was on the warrant last year, and he commented that people may be more receptive if there was explanation of the price. There was further discussion about the replacement of the pumper. The combination of fire and police dispatch centers was mentioned and Chief Sullivan and Chief Silver noted that this is not outside of the realm of possibilities, but if they are to change direction, the both of them will discuss cost savings. Mr. Znoj said that he would like to see the Chief perform an analysis of the department and the way it is organized.

Chairman Griffin read a letter from Senator Jeanne Shaheen to Mr. Ashley, Assistant Administrator of Grant Programs for FEMA in support of the assistance to the fire fighters grant AFG application submitted by Hampton NH for the new fire station. There was further discussion about the design and plans for the new fire station.

Mr. Sullivan addressed special issues including mounted police.

Mr. Znoj asked Ms. Martin, Director of Parks and Recreation to explain the overtime. She noted one employee is a union employee, seven or eight years ago there was overtime accounted for. The program coordinator was re-categorized from salary to nonexempt so overtime is given to him, and also noted that the summer is the time where they use the most overtime, that is why the numbers look like they have surpassed their target for the year. Ms. Martin said that there is playground equipment that is breaking, the lawnmowers are breaking and there are other parks maintenance that need to be addressed. Mr. Znoj suggested if there was money left over this year to fix the picnic tables, and she agreed. There was discussion about department priorities and the necessity of beautification. There was discussion about the pay per day parking lots. Ms. Martin also mentioned that they are taking flag football registration from 3-8th grade through August 7.

Mr. Nichols commented that they need to be creative when doing the budget since people will not be in a spending mood next March. Mr. Lally agreed with this and thinks there needs to be an intelligently crafted document increases the chances of the budget passing. Mr. Znoj thinks that each department's organization needs to be looked at, including the historic line items to the actual budgeted line items. Mr. Bateman said that spending all the money at the end of the year is a good idea but is demoralizing at times, and perhaps they do not want to wait until the end of the year and make some of the strategic purchases now. Transparency and the increasingly better oversight was discussed. Mr. Schwotzer said that the year end spending comes down to things that had gotten cut out of the budget and which could not be purchased until it discovered that there're may be potential funds for these. They do not represent unexpected costs.

There was discussion about a letter received from Chris Muns and that it would be in the best interest of the board to make this an agenda item and to have his republican counterparts present as well.

VII. Consent Agenda

1. Hampton Cemetery Deed – Nicolopoulos
2. Hampton Cemetery Deed – Latour and Hall-Latour
3. Hampton Cemetery Deed – Hopkins
4. Lease Land Agreement [New] – 4 Ninth Street, Margaret Wilkins
5. 17 Carlson Road – Anne Kalip – Entertainment License
6. McGuirk Memorial Golf Tournament – Firefighter Bagpipe Band Parade – Parade and Public Gathering License
7. Jenness Road Closure Request – Caroline Holmes
8. Wally's Pub – 144 Ashworth Avenue – Dance Hall Permit
9. ~~Cinnamon Rainbow Surf Co. 931 Ocean Blvd Request to use the "10 Minute Limit" parking area at the Cusack and Ocean Blvd Parking Lot~~
10. Notice of Welfare Lien
11. PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Form for 2010

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to move the Consent Agenda with the exception of item #9. Mr. Nichols SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VIII. Closing Comments

Charles Preston discussed parking, noting he was requesting parking during the Children's Festival week and possibly Wednesday night if there is no show at the Casino for residents in the front of the Police Station, instead of in the dark at Island Path. There was discussion about grass and that the showcase at Hampton Beach should be the Police Station and parking lot. He said it is currently embarrassing how high the grass and weeds are, and that this job should be a concern for the town.

At 10:08 PM; by roll call with all members present and voting unanimously the Board of Selectmen entered into a Non-Public meeting under RSA 91-A:3., II., (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) to discuss personnel matters.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to adjourn the public portion of the meeting. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:09 PM


Chairman