

Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN August 03, 2009 Minutes

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

6:00PM

Non-Meeting with Legal Counsel - RSA 91-A:2., I., (c)

7:00 PM

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

Charlie Preston would like to follow up on the request for parking for residents during the Children's Festival between 10 and 4. He suggested that we open 20 spaces along Ashworth Ave and 13 spaces along Brown Ave.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Lally would like to thank John Nyhan for putting on the event last week in which the Governor came down to sign the bill to begin the work on the beach. He also thanked the owner's of the Casino for making the space available.

III. Appointments

1. Richard Ingram – NH State Retirement

Mr. Ingram would like to make a couple of comments and then hear from the Board. He believes that the times of turmoil are behind them although there are still challenges that lie ahead. He has been with the Retirement System for six months. In regards to investment return

everyone knows the state that the investment world has been in over the last year. Steps are being taken to help the long term stability of the system.

Discussion

Mr. Nichols mentioned that the asset level is down about 20% which in return effects the funding against future liabilities. He wonders how this affects the future rates for the Town. Mr. Ingram explained the process for determining the rates and if he had to guess he would not expect to see last year's loss impacting the rate by more than 40%.

Mr. Nichols commented the last he heard the investment return assumption the Retirement System was drawing on was 8 1/2% and he wonders if this is still the case. Mr. Ingram stated that it is currently at 8 1/2% but this is something that will be addressed in the next year.

Mr. Ingram confirmed that he reports to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Nichols pointed out that this Board is made up of 14 members 8 of which collect a pension from the System. Mr. Ingram pointed out that it is not uncommon for a Board to have a structure similar to the one that this Board has. He also explained that the Board of Trustees primary duty is to make sure that the right amount of money makes it into the fund to pay the benefits. The members of the Board of Trustees are not on the Board to create the benefit design. Any design functions are made by the Legislation not the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Bateman referred to an article that stated the Retirement System uses unorthodox accounting measures and wonders if these are still being used. Mr. Ingram explained that they are referring to an actuarial method and it is no longer being used. In 2007 they adopted the actuarial methodology used today and it is a commonly accepted method. Mr. Bateman discussed the fact that at one time the employer contribution amounts were lower than social security. He wonders why they did not see the downfall of this and try and make a correction. In 2006 NHRS ranked 6th from the bottom in comparison with other retirement systems. Mr. Ingram believes that we are currently in the middle of the pack. They also discussed if things would be different if employer contribution amounts had been higher in the past. Mr. Nichols added that the employee contributions remain the same but the employer contributions vary based on what the actuarial says is needed. Therefore since between 1995 and 2007 the stock market was up and the employer contributions were down.

Mr. Lally commented how over the past year this Board has become more active with the State Legislation and he wonders if other Town's are getting involved. Mr. Ingram does see this happening.

Mr. Znoj has read that the State is aging. He wonders if Mr. Ingram sees this as a problem with an increased number of retirees and not enough young people here working. Mr. Ingram does not see this as a problem and does not necessarily agree with those who think that the State is graying. There was an additional discussion on whether or not the Board of Trustees can make changes to the plan design and it was confirmed that these changes can only be made by Legislation. The State will be paying 30% of the employers cost for 2010, 25% for 2011 and back to 35% for 2012 for Police, Fire and Teachers.

Mr. Nichols added that the Governor signed HB641 last Wednesday so essentially all six of the Town's unions have an exemption to the spiking charges.

Chairman Griffin thanked Mr. Ingram for coming.

2. John Price – Public Works Department Monthly Update – The daily flows at the Treatment Plant have been up from all the rain. Vehicle maintenance department has serviced fire, recreation, building department and the cemetery. Highway has worked on repairing the drive thru at the Tax Office, performed repairs to Town parking lots, removed snow fence from Sand Sculpture Contest, removed items used for July 4th festivities and delivered crushed stone to the Ice Pond for Conservation. The Sewer and Drain Department spent most of the month on flooding problems. The Treatment Plant met with Smutty Nose about sewer/sludge into the system. At the Transfer Station we have recalibrated the scale. DES completed survey in regards to future trainings at the Transfer Station. Sidewalk repair on Winnacunnet Road has begun. He announced the streets that would be reclaimed after Labor Day. Starting today they have begun to separate the trash for residents compared to commercial trash.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj wonders if there is an attempt to refresh the report in regards to the pump station on Church Street. Mr. Welch said the cost will be updated but the work will remain the same. Mr. Znoj pointed out that we will have some data points for the summer trash but believes that this will need to be done again in October or November.

Mr. Lally confirmed that if someone hires an outside company to pick up their trash the trash still ends up at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Nichols wonders how drainage impacts the capacity at the Treatment Plant. Mr. Price explained that it can get into the manholes and they are currently watching a particular area of the Town where there is an increased amount going into a certain pump station. This could be the result of sump pump use.

Chairman Griffin wonders if there are problems with the drains at the beach as opposed to the drains uptown. Mr. Price did explain that one of the problems with the drains at the beach is that one of the pipes that leads to the Marsh is smashed and needs repairing. This repair is the responsibility of the State.

Chairman Griffin also asked about the crosswalk on Church Street that leads from the parking lot to the Church. It has been there in the past and is no longer there. Mr. Price will investigate this.

There were other questions about crosswalks and Mr. Welch stated that the budget for crosswalks has been exhausted for this year and they will be taken care of next year. There was also a discussion about the blue paint being used and how slick this paint is.

There are also issues with crosswalks on Ocean Blvd which is the problem of the State. This will be discussed with the State Legislatures.

3. Janis Haynes – Request for “No Parking Signage” at the End of Nudd Avenue. Ms. Haynes explained that there is currently a “No Parking Sign” but it is faded and not very clear. She would like the Town to replace this sign.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj clarified that she is just looking to have this sign replaced.

Mr. Lally feels that this should be done and Mr. Price will make sure this is done.

4. Joseph Alexander – Leased Land – 11 G Street – Mr. Alexander explained that he is interested in purchasing this property. He expressed concerns with the lease agreement and the fact that the lease is for 20 years. He shared with the Board how banks are hesitant to give a mortgage for a property on leased land and if they do they will only issue for the length of the lease or five years less. Therefore he would request that the Town change the length of the lease to 30 years. He would also like to see verbiage added to the lease saying the lease is renewable, transferable and inheritable.

Discussion

Atty. Gearreald explained that Mr. Alexander has discussed this with him and the Assessing Department. Atty. Gearreald had suggested that Mr. Alexander meet with the Board and explain the issue with leased land. Atty. Gearreald feels that the only way this can be done safely is by way of a vote at Town Meeting.

Discussion on the ramification of lease land leases and mortgages for the building on the land. The Board agreed that they would like to help but that it would need to be done as a Town Meeting warrant article.

5. Chris Muns and Jim Waddell on the “Report” of the Concord Delegation Report to the People of Hampton. They are here in support of a proposal that was first laid out in a letter. The proposal is for a series of televised reports/legislative updates to the people by the five State Representatives and the State Senator. The idea would be to have the first one in September, one in January and one in April. These sessions would be opened to the public and the suggested format was explained to the Board. The next step would be to confirm a date and a venue. They would also like to have invitations sent out by the Board of Selectmen to the legislators.

Discussion

Mr. Bateman wonders if they have had any contact with channel 22.

Mr. Nickerson explained that this is the wrong forum for channel 22. First of all it is not what channel 22's license is for they have an educational government channel not a public educational government channel. Mr. Nickerson did inform the Board that they did try this last year but it just did not work and shared some of the cost involved with this event. He suggested that if it is done it needs to be done in the Selectmen's meeting room.

Mr. Nichols thinks it is a great idea but thinks that it needs to be done in the Selectmen's room like Mr. Nickerson suggested.

Mr. Znoj also likes the idea.

Mr. Lally agrees that it should be arranged with Mr. Nickerson.

It was summarized that this will be supported by the Board and it should be arranged with channel 22.

6. Nathan Page and Judy Wilson – Old Stage Road Bridge and Landing Road Culverts DES Standard Dredge and Fill Application. Looking to the Board for the conditional approval of the Board. Ms. Wilson spoke on the donations that have been received. She spoke of the wood donation that they received from Wakeda Campground in Hampton Falls. Mr. Savage would like to start milling this wood and they need the approval of this Board.

Mr. Page explained that they will be working with the Fire Inspector and the Building Inspectors from both Town's.

Discussion

Atty. Gearreald explained that under the agreement no work is to be done without the approval of both Boards. Atty. Gearreald would suggest that there not be a motion but instead a consensus until the Town hears back from the Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Nichols does not feel that Mr. Savage needs the Boards approval to begin milling the wood.

Mr. Bateman asked how one can make a donation. To make a donation send checks to the Town of Hampton and note in memo area Old Stage Road Bridge.

The Board agreed that there is a consensus but no formal vote will be taken.

Mr. Welch reminded them not to order anything until they have heard back from the Attorney General.

Mr. Page and Ms. Goethel would like to speak on the culvert on Landing Road. Ms. Goethel explained the funding of this project. Ms. Goethel fills that the application should go quickly and the project is on Town land. Ms. Goethel will be sure to have everything in writing from the State and that all the money spent from the General Fund will be reimbursed. They need a signature on the DES application.

Mr. Znoj confirmed the exact location of the culverts at the dead end of Landing Road.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to allow the Chairman permission to sign the DES Standard Dredge and Fill Application on the Landing Road culvert. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE:5-0-0

There was an additional discussion on the mowing of the Phragmites in the Fall. There was a consensus among the Board to have this mowing done. Ms. Goethel also explained the proper way to mow and dispose of the Phragmites. More information will be posted on channel 22 and can be obtained from the Conservation Commission.

IV. Minutes of July 20, 2009

Page 4: Sixth paragraph last sentence change the word "month" to "Year".

Page 5: First paragraph change the word budged to "budgeted" in the second sentence and add "Mr. Schwotzer agreed to begin a full year forecasting in conjunction with his report on the July Actuals" to the fifth sentence.

Page 6: Second Paragraph, last sentence add the word "perform" after the word Chief. Fifth paragraph third sentence reword to read "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 MOTIONED to approve the minutes July 20, 2009 as amended. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Town Manager's Report

The State Department of Transportation is commencing the process of constructing the high speed Easy-Pass at the Hampton Toll Booths. A pre-construction meeting and activities are scheduled for early August 2009.

The Town has been notified regarding the requirements for the use of the Winnacunnet High School for the 2010 State and Federal Primaries and elections.

The Board will be reviewing those requirements at your next meeting to determine the placement of those elections.

I understand that the new trails at the Ice Pond will be open on August 8, 2009

The project to rewire the Fire Department Dispatch has been completed in large part with the assistance of Paul Paquette and Jonathan True.

The Town is in the process of issuing its first wind turbine permit to the Winnacunnet High School.

I have had Public Works find the report on the Church Street Pump Station upgrades for your review and information.

Construction will be commencing on the Winnacunnet Road sidewalk extension this week.

Discussion

Mr. Nichols thanked Mr. Welch for the Wright Pierce report on the Church Street Pump Station it answered a lot of questions.

VI. Old Business

1. Old Stage Road Bridge Project Approvals – Discussed above.
2. Discussion on Use of the Church Street Parking Lots

Chairman Griffin explained that it has been brought to the Boards attention that the Leased Lot on Church Street currently only has 2 spaces leased out. He wonders if the Board might want to lower the current price of \$500 for the season. The season runs from May 15th to October 15th.

Discussion

Mr. Bateman would suggest that the Board lower the price to \$200 for a season.

Mr. Nichols pointed out that this lot has 60 spaces. He does not have a problem with lowering the price, he suggested that the lot might be divided and use 30 spaces for leases and 30 spaces for daily rentals. To get something going quickly this year we might want to prorate the amount of the lease for the remainder of the season.

Mr. Welch explained how the businesses or individuals are issued placard cards to place in their vehicles showing they hold a lease. Mr. Welch would also suggest that if the Board decides to lower the price that they will need to issue partial refunds to the current lease holders in this lot.

Mr. Znoj is in favor of lowering the price and he would also suggest offering a prorated price to the Ashworth who is currently looking for 50 spaces.

Chairman Griffin pointed out that the Ashworth's request is for certain days in August and not for the whole season.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to reduce the lease rate in the Church Street Lot from \$500 to \$200 and offer a rate of \$75 for the remainder of this season, which ends on 10/15/2009. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Discussion on Charlie Preston's request for parking during the Children's Festival

Chairman Griffin read a letter submitted by Ms. Martin in regards to this request. At a minimum according to Ms. Martin this could cost the Town \$1,650. Chairman Griffin also shared the total revenue amounts for the Ashworth Ave Lot for the last couple of years in August.

Mr. Znoj thinks that Mr. Preston's idea is good and he would be in favor of his request.

Mr. Lally is curious as to how this will be monitored. It was agreed that in order to park in this lot during this time you would need to have a resident parking sticker. Mr. Lally would recommend meeting in the middle and opening up 20 spaces for this event as opposed to the 33 requested.

Mr. Bateman commented on how the State Park offers half price parking every Wednesday. He would be in favor of Mr. Preston's request.

Mr. Nichols is also in favor and would go with Mr. Lally's idea of offering 20 spaces.

There was a consensus amongst the Board to offer 20 spaces for residents to park in the Ashworth Ave Lot between the hours of 10 and 4 during the week of the Children's Festival.

3. Naming of the Municipal Parking Lots

Mr. Welch explained that the Board has been given a list of suggested names for the Municipal Parking Lots. Chairman Griffin read the list of suggested names for the parking lots.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to approve the list of suggested names for the Naming of the Municipal Parking Lots. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VII. New Business

1. Seafood Festival request for the extension of time for Ashworth Avenue to be two-way.

Mr. Welch explained that it is difficult and dangerous to perform the cleanup from the Seafood Festival at night when it is dark. Therefore both Chiefs and members of the Chamber are asking to extend the closure of route 1A and allow two-way traffic on Ashworth Avenue until noon on Monday.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to approve the Seafood Festival request for the extension of time for Ashworth Avenue to be two-way. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Authorization of filing DES Standard Dredge and Fill Application on the Landing Road Culverts and authorization of Chairman's signature – discussed above

Other New Business

Mr. Nichols would like to know if something is in the works in regards to an update from Comcast and the Cable Committee as to the progress being made in negotiating a contract. Mr. Welch stated this is in the works and the Board will be updated.

VIII. Consent Agenda

1. Lane Library Trustee Appointment – Robert Lamothe
2. Re-signing of the Supplement Loan Agreement for the Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvements
3. Seafood Festival Sidewalk Vendor License Permits (6)
4. Solicitation Permit – Hampton Firefighters – Voluntary Toll Both Event
5. Raffle Permit – Hampton Historical Society/Tuck Museum
6. Raffle Permit – Hampton Area Lions Club
7. Parade License – Children’s Festival Parade – Hampton Area chamber of Commerce
- ~~8. Use of Town Property – Bi-Centennial – Francon Family Chiropratic~~

Discussion:

Mr. Nichols suggested that item number 8 be removed until further information can be presented to the Board. This business is from Beverly, MA and he is not sure that it is fair to offer use of Town property to individuals who have no ties to the Town.

Chairman Griffin believes that Ms. Martin might know a little more about this and it will be discussed again next week.

Mr. Znoj MOTIONED to move the Consent Agenda items #1 to #7 with the exception of item #8. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Closing Comments - None

X. Adjournment

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to adjourn. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM

Chairman

The Board of Selectmen reconvene the non-meeting with Legal Counsel under RSA 91-A:2., I., (c).