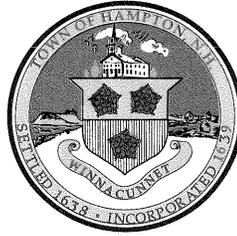


Town of Hampton



TOWN OF HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN October 26, 2009 Minutes

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

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

Art Gopalan, 20 Windmill Lane, spoke about the mandatory recycling and the switch from Waste Management to the single stream recycling. He thinks now would be a good time for the Town to show the revenue that will be generated from making this change. He also brought up some concerns with privatizing the Transfer Station and Wastewater.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Znoj announced that DOT will be holding a meeting on November 11th in Hampton Falls to discuss the bridge on I95 over the Taylor River doors will open at 6:30 that night. The other announcement is in regards to SAU 21 meeting on October 29th to participate in the superintendant search focus groups.

Mr. Lally reminded everyone of Halloween on Saturday night from 5:30 to 8 and asked everyone to be careful.

Mr. Bateman is confused by the letter from DOT stating the meeting is on Tuesday November 10th. Mr. Welch confirmed that the meeting is being held on the 10th not the 11th. The first set of letters that went out by DOT had the 11th but when they realized that was Veteran's Day so they changed the date.

Chairman Griffin commented to Mr. Gopalan that there is not talk of privatizing Public Works at this time.

III. Appointments

1. Chief Silver – Fire Departmental Update

Chief Silver gave his review of the past couple of months. The Seafood Festival went remarkably well this year. Provided the Board with a summary report of EMS and Fire Incidents. EMS calls thus far this year total a little over 1700 calls with the number of transports increasing. Have provided first aid kits to the Rec Department. Flu shots have been given to all Town employees wishing to be immunized and they are continuing to plan for H1N1. In regards to training they have logged just over 2900 hours, 23 members have completed EMT and Paramedic recertification training, hosted a command strategies and tactic class, joint training with Hampton Falls, CPR training continues to grow in community and provided CPR training to 30 PW employees. Fire Prevention has been busy especially since October is Fire Prevention month. Completed and closed grant for fire protective clothing. Although it was originally believed that Federal funds for fire stations had all been distributed it appears that this is not the case and there is a significant amount of funds still available. Liberty Mutual has a grant available in the amount of \$10,000 for the 10 fire departments who receive the most responses on a survey/quiz on their website. Chief Silver shared some things that are being done in the schools and support given to anyone looking to do a Senior Project. He reminds everyone who burns wood to have chimneys cleaned/inspected and have heating systems serviced. Please remember to check smoke detectors and change batteries.

Discussion

Mr. Nichols wonders if Chief Silver can make any suggestions to individuals who do not have health insurance or a regular doctor about receiving immunizations for the flu and H1N1. Chief Silver stated it is likely that down the line they will be offering some free immunization clinics.

Mr. Znoj questioned some of the calls and he would like to know what are good intent calls and service calls. Chief Silver explained that a good intent call is one in which someone believes they have seen an emergency when there actually is not one. A service call is much wider of a description it can range from changing an alarm condition to assisting a resident with changing a smoke detector.

Mr. Lally wonders if the 58 calls for mutual aid have to do with the fact that there is no ambulance at the beach. Chief Silver does not believe that these calls were necessarily for the beach district but were mainly for EMS calls. Mr. Lally brought this up because he noticed that there have only been 7 mutual aid calls out of town for Hampton yet we have received 58 calls. Chief Silver reported that the 7 calls were only for fire related calls and the calls for mutual aid are much higher and right in line with the 58 calls that Hampton received aid.

Mr. Nichols questioned the fact that the Town has 3 ambulances and wonders if the 3rd ambulance is only used for backup if one of the other ambulances is out of service. Chief Silver stated that all 3 ambulances are completely stocked and if staffing allows for it they can all be in service at the same time. Mr. Nichols wonders if the oldest ambulance will be traded in for the new ambulance. Chief Silver feels that since the trade in value is so low on these vehicles it might be put to a better use in the Town.

2. John Price, Director DPW – DPW Departmental Update

July department activity was reported previous to the change in the reporting schedule. This report contains only activities for the months of August and September. He thanked Chief Silver for CPR training. The transfer station was inspected this summer by DES and the only negative comment was in regards to the battery storage and they have since made the necessary changes.

There has been an awful lot of paving going on in Town. The parking spaces in front of the Library are being repaired.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj confirmed that the Vanderpool pump station repair is being done. Mr. Znoj also stated that recycling (tipping fees) are up at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Bateman commented that the guys doing the paving are doing a great job.

Mr. Nichols asked about the preparation and cleanup for the Seafood Festival and he wonders if there is an understanding about the time spent on this event and cost to Mr. Price's budget. Mr. Price does not have this information but will get it for Mr. Nichols. Mr. Nichols wonders how he plans to monitor numbers on mandatory recycling. Mr. Price will be measuring this by looking at the tipping fees. There was an additional discussion in regards to the salt pile in Portsmouth.

Mr. Lally wonders if there is a mechanism in place if a business refuses to recycle. Mr. Welch stated that there is one in place and they will receive 2 warnings and then it will come before the Board to vote if they wish to stop picking up this businesses trash and suspend use of the Transfer Station.

Chairman Griffin really thinks that people really do want to try and recycle.

There was an additional discussion on what a great job the Recycling Committee has done with educating the community.

Mr. Nichols brought up the fact that Mary-Louise Woolsey plans to put forward the warrant article to stop commercial trash pickup. He wonders if it might be a good idea if Mr. Welch and Mr. Price give her some guidance to the writing of this warrant article since it can cause a nightmare if written incorrectly. Chairman Griffin does not want to give the impression that they are giving any support at all to this endeavor. Mr. Price will personally make himself available.

IV. Town Manager's Report

A bid has been awarded to Liberty Chevrolet for the purchase of one 2500 pickup truck. Liberty was the second low bidder and was selected as all of the plowing and other equipment is sized for that type of vehicle, the horsepower is also higher then on the other vehicles offered.

It is reaching during the year when it will be required to set our clocks back one hour. Please remember to install new batteries in your smoke and CO2 detectors for your own safety.

We would request the Board to waive bidding requirements for the Town Hall emergency generator. The grant submitted specified a CAT Generator Set. With the approach of winter we would like to install this equipment as soon as possible.

Today received a message from Unitil that there will be a planned power outage on Monday November 9th at 5:30 am. Mr. Welch listed the streets that are included.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal will be holding a coat drive on Saturday November 14th.

Discussion

There was a discussion in regards to the generator for the Town Hall and they did receive quotes earlier this year. It was also clarified that the State does not require that it be this particular type

of generator. If this goes out to bid there could be different results from the quotes received this is an unknown.

Mr. Nichols feels that this is an item that should be sent out to bid.

Mr. Znoj wonders if we go out to bid would this be able to be done in a month or so. Mr. Welch said that it would all be determined by weather and he cannot make these predictions. There was an additional discussion as to whether or not the generator he is looking at is only available from one vendor and this is true.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to waive the bidding process for the CAT Generator Set for the Town Hall. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 4-1-0 (Nichols)

V. Old Business

1. Vote on Medical Insurance – 1-year versus 2-year actual for rate design.

Mr. Nichols suggested that the Board needs to make a decision on the rate design for the Health Insurance. Mr. Schwotzer provided the Board with a quick analysis including that the bottom line savings of \$80,000 if choose the 1 year rate design. Mr. Welch pointed out that we are the only Town who is on a 2 year experience rating in the January pool.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj questioned whether historically the 2 year plan did help. Mr. Schwotzer pointed out that no matter whether you are on a 1 year or 2 year plan the experience rate will catch up with the Town.

Mr. Nichols MOTIONED to take Mr. Schwotzer recommendation and go with the 1 year experience rate for medical insurance. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Other Old Business

Mr. Znoj verified that the flooding problem of Steven Light on Riverview Terrace is being reviewed; Mr. Welch explained that this is being investigated and shared some of the thoughts with the Board. There was a continued discussion as to some of the options for a solution to this problem. The Board suggested that the Town at least get back to this gentleman to let him know that we are looking into this problem.

Mr. Znoj also mentioned the letter from Mary-Louise Woolsey and her six requests. Mr. Welch explained that some of these items are hard to calculate and come by. Mr. Welch has given this information to the Department Heads. Mr. Nichols commented that the legal item could possibly be completed by Atty. Gearreald. Mr. Nichols also added some suggestions as to how the other information can be obtained.

Mr. Welch announced that there will be a cable hearing here at the next Selectmen's meeting for anyone who is interested in sharing their thoughts about the cable. There was a discussion as to the recent agreement with Dover and that it was not real great. Mr. Welch shared some of the things that the cable company is hoping to do. Mr. Bateman added that this is one of those times when citizens need to come in and share their thoughts whether positive or negative.

VI. New Business

1. Michael Schwotzer – Presentation of Proposed Budget

Mr. Schwotzer provided the Board with his analysis. He spoke about the \$500,000 budget adjustment that the Selectmen recommended at the budget review on Thursday night. There was \$300,000 cut in overtime and it was spread across all departments. After making these overtime adjustments and calculating the changes to retirement accounts you come up with another \$40,000. Mr. Schwotzer went over some of the other suggestions made by Mr. Nichols and what Mr. Schwotzer found when he did his analysis. Some things that Mr. Schwotzer did find that could produce savings: the mounted patrol at \$41,600 and tipping fees an additional \$26,000. So from where Mr. Schwotzer started he came up with \$519,000 in adjustments with a new bottom line of \$24,365,934. This leaves him still \$105,000 away from the target number for the tax rate. However, by increasing revenues you can get to the target tax rate. Therefore he would suggest that we move or book 35% of next year's EMS income to the departmental income totally approximately \$175,000. Mr. Schwotzer also did an analysis of how this all compares to what has happened thus far this year.

Discussion

Mr. Nichols is in agreement with what Mr. Schwotzer has done. Mr. Nichols pointed out that the mounted patrol is not something that he suggested last week. There was a discussion about the EMS fund and the balance. Chief Silver explained the percent change in this account over the past couple of years. Mr. Nichols shared his thoughts on the EMS fund and with his calculations show that at the end of 2010 the balance would be \$150,000. He wonders if it is possible to reduce the balance to \$110,000 in order to keep the mounted patrol in the budget for \$41,000. Mr. Welch provided some more information as to how the numbers were derived and the discussions that took place over the last few days to come up with these amounts. Mr. Nichols reiterated that he is in favor of the suggestions made by Mr. Schwotzer he just wanted some further information in regards to the reasons behind coming up with the balance needed in the EMS fund. Mr. Welch explained that he spoke with the Chief in regards to the mounted patrol and it was decided that they would rather have boots on the street as opposed to horseshoes.

Mr. Bateman shared information that he read today in regards to the drop in number of mounted patrols around the country.

Mr. Nichols MOTIONED to approve Mr. Schwotzer's proposed budget of \$24,365,934 along with the movement of 35% of EMS revenues from fund 27 to the general fund resulting in a net tax effect spending in operating of \$24,190,934. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Lally would just like to comment that some of the other small departments are going to be hit with these cuts. He expressed some concerns with cuts made to the welfare budget. He thanked Mr. Schwotzer for his hard work.

Mr. Znoj agrees with the changes made.

Mr. Bateman thinks that we are staring at reality.

Chairman Griffin confirmed that Mr. Schwotzer is comfortable with the figures. Mr. Schwotzer believes that this is the best he can do with what he was asked to do.

Mr. Bateman thanked Mr. Nichols and Mr. Schwotzer for the way they have worked together on these numbers.

Mr. Nichols would like to bring up the default budget and he would like to suggest that we use the revised 2009 budget as the basis for the default budget. This would result in the base budget being \$24,453,760. Mr. Schwotzer needs to do a complete analysis before he can sit down and have this discussion. The other thing Mr. Nichols thinks is an adjustment is in order for the health insurance line item which goes back to the 23% increase in the budget in 2005 and the health insurance amount was essentially \$2.242M. This same number was used in the default budget and the actual amount for the year was \$496,000 less. That number continued to carry forward in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Since the default continues to carry this number forward he thinks that there needs to be a onetime adjustment. Mr. Schwotzer's initial analysis is that the default budget actually got reset in 2008 when Mr. Welch's budget passed. He does need to do an analysis but this would be his initial response.

Mr. Schwotzer will prepare the default budget for the meeting in two weeks.

Mr. Znoj agrees with Mr. Nichols that the default budget should be based on the revised 2009 budget.

Mr. Bateman will wait to hear from Mr. Schwotzer.

Other New Business

Mr. Znoj would just like to add that the meeting on November 10th with DOT also includes the removal of the Taylor River Dam.

Chairman Griffin would like to ask about purchasing power through other companies like Glacial Industries. Mr. Welch has passed this information along to the Energy Committee for their review.

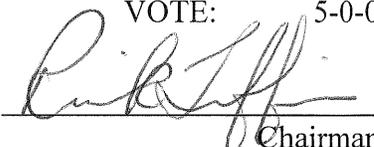
2. Final Budget Motions – discussed above

VII. Closing Comments - None

VIII. Adjournment

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

The Board adjourned at 9:10 PM

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman

The Board went into a Non-Meeting with Legal Counsel under RSA 91-A:2., I., (c)