

# Town of Hampton



## TOWN OF HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN April 19, 2010 Minutes

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

7:00 PM

### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

- I. Public Comment Period - None
- II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Lally reminded everyone of all the festivities this weekend to celebrate Earth Day sponsored by the Recycling Committee.

Mr. Bateman announced that there is a blood drive tomorrow at the Hampton Academy Junior High.

Chairman Nichols reminded everyone to fill out their census form. According to the Federal website Hampton currently has a return rate of 71%.

### III. Appointments

#### 1. Ellen Lavin 2010 TAN

Ms. Lavin explained the 2010 Tan and the line of credit thru Provident Bank. This year we got a line of credit of \$6,675,000. What this does is give Ellen the opportunity to borrow as the Town needs it and she can only borrow up to the \$6,675,000. She reminded the Board that Citizens Bank had only allowed the Town to borrow the whole amount up front and with Provident Bank we can borrow as the money is needed and last year we only had to borrow \$2M. Presently, there is not a need to borrow at this time but she would like to be prepared. The rate on the loan is 2.5% above the Federal Home Loan bank rate which right now is about 2.78. The rate is variable but hopefully what we borrow we will pay back within two or three weeks. Tonight, she would ask the Board to approve the borrowing and then sign the note/line of credit rider and then there is also a certificate stating that we are authorized to borrow \$6,675,000.

#### Discussion

Chairman Nichols wonders what the amount of the line of credit was last year. Ellen explained that last year we were able to borrow more than the equation allows you to borrow; only up to

90% of where you think you are going to be short. She went on to explain that Mr. Schwotzer prepared a cash flow statement anticipating where the Town will be at the end of May. This information was used to set the amount for this year. There was some history given on how the borrowing has changed since the Town has gone to collecting taxes twice a year.

Mr. Znoj wonders if we are on a downward slide and Ellen feels that it pretty much remains the same.

Chairman Nichols commented on the Undesignated Fund Balance and how much the interest expense has dropped over the last couple of years. There was an additional discussion about the amount of interest paid and Ellen commented that this is the reason that at one time she suggested that we borrow from the Revenue Trust Fund. This might be worth considering next year.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve and sign the 2010 Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

## 2. Police Department Update

Chief Sullivan and Deputy Chief Sawyer were both present tonight for update. Chief Sullivan explained that he would first go over the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter calls for service and then he will discuss some other issues. The department has been very active in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter in drug activity with many high profile cases. Currently in regards to personnel they have had a number of fulltime employees out on extended leave for various reasons including work related injuries.

Deputy Chief Sawyer brought the Board up to date on where they are at with the part time employees. The letter has gone out to the Specials for picking shifts. They concluded the 2009 season with 36 active specials and looking at this year they have 8 to 9 folks who should be ready to join the department. This being said he would expect to start the season with approximately 40 special officers.

Activity for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter: up on the number of calls for service and down in all the other areas, part one crimes against person up 20% (part of this includes the increased number of reports from the schools about bullying), aggravated assaults and simple assaults both down with simple assaults being down by 11%, crimes against property up, crimes against society up about 10% and group B crimes: bad checks and disorderly conducts down about 14%.

Chief Sullivan in regards to the revised budget they are running about 4 ½ % to the good. In regards to preseason he reminded the Board that this was one of the areas of concern when budget cuts were being made. Chief Sullivan would like to discuss the preseason. He commented on the warm evening a couple of weeks ago the crowds came and they did not augment their shift at that time and it was unacceptable. There was not sufficient staff and both the Chief and the Deputy returned in uniform that night to help. This was not acceptable to the Chief and he has made a directive that they will augment shifts anytime they see 80 degrees. Anytime it is 80 or above they are going to add staff. The warmer it gets the more they will add staff. This will cost money and he fully anticipates having to ask the Board to put money back in their budget to cover these cost.

## Discussion

Chairman Nichols explained that he asked Chief Sullivan to look into this increased staffing during the random warm days throughout this time of year. Chairman Nichols is in favor of the plan that the Chief has come up with. He would suggest that the Board review this department's budget in July.

Mr. Griffin is in favor of this.

Mr. Lally asked about having a line item for preseason coverage and if it still exists. Chief Sullivan stated that the line item is still in the budget but it was affected by the budget cuts.

Chief Sullivan was also asked by the Board to discuss the Mounted Patrol. He first reminded everyone that they have had this discussion many times over the past couple of years and the funding for this patrol. Chief Sullivan explained that over the last couple of years the Mounted Patrol has been operating more as a ceremonial unit. There needs to be an infusion of training to bring this patrol up to a unit that can be used as a police unit. His original budget was around \$51,000 of which \$21,000 is spent on boarding and feeding the horses. The remainder of the money was to be used for equipment, significant amount of training time and paying someone to teach these riding skills. He spoke about how there needs to be training for both the horses and the riders and the need for them to be comfortable with each other. Chief Sullivan stated that the Board had given permission for the horses to be adopted. He mentioned that there are businesses out there who are working to save this unit by raising enough money to feed and board the horses for the next year. If the Board wishes to do this he would suspect that it would cost around \$17,000 for the remainder of 2010. With this amount of money they would be able to maintain the horses and possibly provide a very limited schedule, however, it would be more ceremonial than anything else. He also reminded the Board that the two riders are currently out on leave.

#### Discussion

Mr. Lally commented that many business owners have contacted him about raising funds and even having a fundraiser. He wonders what the Chief thinks about this, if these business owners were to raise the funds to house the horses until next year. The Chief is fine with that since he does not want to cut the horses. The Chief would suggest that maybe the Board might want to pay out another \$1,500 to cover another month for the horses. Mr. Lally said that the group would like to hold a fundraiser in late May. Chief Sullivan stated that if this is what the Board wants, they need to rescind the vote by the Board to put the horses out to adoption. The Chief would also like guidance as to where the money is going to come from to cover these two months until the fundraiser in May.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED to rescind the vote to put the horses out for adoption and to review the matter based on the success of the fundraising prior to the end of May. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman Nichols does not feel that we are wasting our time since it appears that they will be able to raise the funds needed to house the horses until next year.

Mr. Znoj does not think that it is cost effective to have this unit in this area. He does not see this as a good investment since it can only be used maybe 12 to 15 weeks out of the year. He does feel that it is a good marketing tool and a nice thing to have. Chief Sullivan reminded everyone that the one thing that is being forgotten is that this unit is the best tool in their arsenal unit to use for crowd control for public safety and that is the goal of what this unit should be. Mr. Znoj does

not believe that this can be achieved with only having two horses as they currently have and how often do the horses work. Chief Sullivan explained that the horses and officers would be on a certain schedule focusing on the big nights like Wednesday through Saturday and then bring the officers back for overtime on other large events. Mr. Znoj sees what he is saying but thinks that this is an expense that should be paid by the Chamber of Commerce and business owners.

Mr. Griffin stated that we will have to see what happens with the fundraising efforts and stated that in Boston the horses are not funded by tax payer dollars.

Mr. Znoj reminded everyone that this is a commitment year after year.

Mr. Bateman believes that since the taxpayers have voted twice to keep this unit by a large majority vote that it is their job as Selectmen to keep the unit. Chairman Nichols stated that the last vote was in 2006 and the warrant article was for somewhere around \$36,000. The vote in favor was about 550 more than the vote against.

Chairman Nichols clarified that it is the Chief's preference to not have this unit as strictly a ceremonial unit but instead have it as a fully trained unit that can be used for crowd management and postcard type events. Chief Sullivan stated that was his recommendation in the beginning. Chairman Nichols agrees with Mr. Znoj that this is a want as opposed to a need but having said that if this is what the voters want then it is reasonable for the Board to give them the opportunity to vote on that. He thinks that the approach would be to put it in as a warrant article for funding as opposed to in the budget were it can be removed, which may not be approved.

Mr. Lally stated that this is a unit that also helps to reduce arrest since they are used to modify crime.

Mr. Znoj added that the State is down shifting its costs on to the Town's and therefore we really need to look at what we really need to have and what is nice to have.

Chairman Nichols agrees that things have changed since the vote in 2006 but he believes that it is reasonable to give the voters a chance to vote.

3. Parker Diamond "PICK UP LITTER" Program – Not present tonight
4. Maryrae Preston "Sun Valley Seawall Project"

Ms. Preston and her contractor present tonight. She reminded everyone that a couple of years ago they got permission to gain beach access by the passing of Article 31 put before the Town. They have permits from the State and both the Planning Board and Conservation have allowed them. They now need the go ahead from the Board.

#### Discussion

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve the work regarding the "Sun Valley Seawall Project. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

#### IV. Minutes of April 05, 2010 & April 12, 2010

Minutes of April 05, 2010

Page 5: Second Paragraph. In Mr. Griffin's comment regarding Tide Mill Road; replace the word "already" with "always".

Page 5: Third Paragraph. Mr. Lally's comment. "Mr. Lally commented on Mr. Lessard's question, in that he understood the answer of the question of "what" Mr. Lessard should do, which is something that Mr. Lessard does not want to do and that which is to sue the Town. Mr. Lally is not recommending to Mr. Lessard that he sue the Town."

Page 8: Third Paragraph. In Chairman Nichols comment regarding his interpretation; replace the word "is" with "his".

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to approve the minutes of April 05, 2010 as amended. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Minutes of April 12, 2010

Page 4: First sentence, replace the word "recyclable" with "recycling".

Page 7: Last paragraph. Add "the DPW Director and Representative Stiles" who were also present at the meeting.

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to approve the minutes of April 12, 2010 as amended. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

#### V. Town Manager's Report

The Perambulation of the Hampton – Hampton Falls Town Line has been completed as directed by the Board and a draft of the perambulation report is in your hands for review. The final report is also being reviewed in Hampton Falls. I expect that it will be signed within the week and filed with the Secretary of State, the Town Clerks, and the Boards of Selectmen. We have now completed the perambulations of Seabrook and Hampton Falls and this evening I have the necessary documents for the Boards signature to request the perambulation of Exeter.

Please note that the Town received notice from Unitil of a rate increase filing that will be implemented in 2011 of \$10.1 million dollars.

I have signed the contract with State DOT to enter into a cooperative agreement to provide one-foot pixel resolution, aerial orthoimagery of the Town. A part of the cost will be paid by the State and ARRA Federal grant fund with a small portion that was budgeted due from the Town.

Please remember that the spring leaf collection program begins April 26<sup>th</sup>. Leaves, pine needles and grass clippings will be picked up on the same day as your regular trash collection. Materials must be in biodegradable bags or loose in barrels.

The Town is actively working on a list of projects dealing with drainage that will be discussed at next week's meeting with the Public Works Director. We will have some preliminary engineering proposals to present to the Board in this area that will hopefully begin the resolution of flooding problems that were experienced over the last few weeks. A part of the program is the updating of the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan or Emergency Response Plan and our Disaster Recovery Plan along with filings for ARRA funds that will be made before May 28<sup>th</sup>.

The mailings to single family residential properties in the Beach Precinct were mailed as directed. Property owners who are eligible for the decreased tax rate should complete the form and return it to the Assessor's Office by May 1<sup>st</sup> so that the requests can be processed to the

Beach Commissioners for approval and return in time to list the exemption on your coming tax bill.

The Town Hall has a display case in the front lobby. With the Boards permission we would like to extend to the Historical Society permission to utilize the case for periodic displays dealing with Hampton's history.

The Library has granted a request from the Hampton Democrats to clean-up the Library yard and have requested the Town to supply 1 to 2 cubic yards of dirt to assist in that cleanup and beautification project.

The Town has been requested to assist in the filing of an application of a CDBG for \$500,000 for Smuttynose for 25 new jobs. Would the Board be in favor of assisting in this area at no cost to the Town.

The amendments to Town Ordinances at Town Meeting made our entire town beaches carry in-carry out facilities. Would the Board approve a sign designating them as such to be posted at each beach entrance.

The State DOT is indicating that they will be making a decision on the Taylor River Dam and wish to announce in a meeting to be held at the Hampton Town Hall sometime during the last week in May or the beginning of June.

We need the Board to approve the Recycling Committee application to hold the Earth Day event on Saturday.

There have been questions about putting totes for recycling at the various recreation facilities and Town parking lots. There are no funds to do this and Public Works has two left that they will be putting out on Ocean Blvd. Public Works also needs additional units and another 50 units is \$3,090 which is what is needed to put around Town.

The Town through the Gebhart's along with the beautification committee down at the beach has received a \$300 action grant for wildlife habitat enhancement.

#### Discussion

Chairman Nichols would suggest that the Taylor River Dam discussion with DOT be held as a special Selectmen's meeting including Hampton Falls Selectmen.

Mr. Griffin asked about the rate increase from Unitil in 2011 and he thinks it is the best interest of the Town to have representation. Mr. Welch stated that the Board needs to instruct counsel as to what they would like him to do and whether or not they want him to be an intervener.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED that the Town be an intervener in the Unitil rate increase request. Mr. Bateman SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Griffin wonders what would be required of the Town in the request to assist in the filing of the CDBG application by Smuttynose. Mr. Welch explained that we actually do nothing but the Selectmen have to hold a public hearing. In the long run we actually make out by receiving more money then what was expended.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED that the Town assist in the application filing for the CDBG by Smuttynose. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

Chairman Nichols thinks that since we have mandated recycling we need to provide these recycling totes. Chairman Nichols thinks that if we are not going to be hiring lifeguards again this year maybe we should tap that line item again like we did for the totes. Chairman Nichols provided some information that he got from a lifeguard last year in regards as to why it is hard to staff lifeguards. The Board agreed to take the money from the lifeguard line item to purchase the needed recycling totes and if for some reasons we do hire lifeguards we will then have to find the money somewhere else.

There was a consensus amongst the Board to allow the Historical Society use of the display case in the Town Office.

Mr. Znoj asked what the dirt was going to be used for that the Library requested. Mr. Welch explained that currently there are the little white rocks under the benches in front of the Library and it is going to be replaced with dirt.

There was a consensus amongst the Board to allow the Library to have the requested 2 yards of dirt.

Chairman Nichols wonders if in regards to the signs for carry in/carry out will there still be trash barrels at Brown's Beach and the other side of Sun Valley leading out to the bridge. Mr. Welch said the trash barrels would be removed. Chairman Nichols thinks that the signs should be put up but the trash barrels should not be removed.

There was a consensus amongst the Board to purchase the carry in/carry out signs , and to leave the trash barrels.

Chairman Nichols has four historical issues that he would like the Town Manager to address tonight or report on next week. What is the progress on the sewer abatements? Mr. Welch stated that the Public Works department has been working diligently on this and hope to have the process done by the end of the week at which time they will go up to Finance to have the checks cut.

Chairman Nichols wonders if there is any feedback from the State on the issues to deal with the Grist Mill. Mr. Welch commented that he has a very large report that he is working his way through. The State has basically given two options: we can repair the dam and come into compliance with State regulations costing somewhere in the upper 6 to 7 digit figure or we can get a permit from the State and go in and remove all the base stones holding the water back and reduce the pond to a brook. This would be something that the Town would have to decide which direction to take at Town Meeting. Mr. Welch would suggest that an RFP be put out to determine how much it would cost to do an engineering study. There is a memo from legal on this and it will be deferred for discussion until next week. There was some additional history given on the responsibility of maintaining this dam. The Board thought that the Conservation Committee should be present along with anyone else interested in the dam.

Chairman Nichols referenced a memo that appeared to be a second request to Winnacunnet for use of the building for voting. Mr. Welch explained that one issue was that Winnacunnet administration said that they could not give us permission until their schedule was formulated next September. The problem being that the election is September 11<sup>th</sup>. If Winnacunnet does not allow this than the election will have to be held at Marston. Mr. Griffin thinks that the elections should be held at Marston especially since it is only a primary. Several members of the

Board felt that the elections should go back to being held at Marston school with maybe the exception being Presidential elections. Mr. Bateman would suggest that if we do go back to Marston maybe the traffic pattern should be that you enter off of High Street and exit onto Hobbs Road. The Board liked the traffic idea suggested by Mr. Bateman. Chairman Nichols thinks that another aspect to take into consideration is that the problem at Marston arose in 2008 when there was 70+ articles. Chairman Nichols asked that Mr. Welch contact the school district tomorrow to reserve use of the Marston School for voting.

Chairman Nichols wonders where we are at in regards to the senior discount with Comcast. Atty. Gearreald stated that the senior discount is one of the items being discussed during negotiations. Therefore we are not going to know until negotiations are complete. Mr. Bateman commented that this is the only organization that gives a senior discount by shifting the cost onto others.

Chairman Nichols would like to elaborate on the drainage issues and grants. There is reason to believe that as a function of this disaster declaration based on the February 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> storm that there will be moderate maybe substantial amount of money that is available for natural disaster mitigation. He has asked Mr. Welch to look into the competitiveness of these funds. This particular money is within the State. It is absolutely positively critical that we give this our best shot and have the Natural Disaster Mitigation Plan completed by the 28<sup>th</sup> and the engineering work being done by the BETA group.

## VI. Old Business

Mr. Znoj would like to know how Mr. Welch's meeting went with the Army Corp of Engineers in regards to the flood gates. It went very well not only in regards to flood gates but also about flooding problems. We received their blessing to get the needed State permit. Mr. Price will be meeting with the gentleman who actually issues the permits and we are going to work through our problems. Mr. Welch stated that we only need a permit for one of the flood gates and it should be a go. There was a discussion about where the flood gates are going to be installed.

Mr. Znoj thinks that in regards to the Grist Mill building there also needs to be some repairs to shingles. Mr. Welch stated that Public Works has replaced some of the windows. Mr. Welch also stated that we will continue to make repairs as time allows.

Mr. Znoj mentioned the replacement of the two blowers as requested by Mr. Price. Mr. Welch stated that Mr. Price is coming next week to discuss this along with some grant opportunities. There was a discussion as to whether or not this is something that should be brought before the Energy Committee. Mr. Welch stated that it might be some interesting information but that this has to do with the Town and Unitil.

Mr. Lally asked about Seabrook and Exeter leaving Unitil. Mr. Welch stated that they hired a private firm to wheel power to them. They are purchasing power from another supplier to be delivered over the lines of Unitil to them for their municipal facilities. Mr. Welch would like to find a way to do this by buying Federal power at a couple cents a kilowatt. He added that there are many companies who sell power at these lower rates but you are locked into a contract lasting several years. There was an additional discussion as to whether or not this would help with power outages and it would not since Unitil is strictly the distribution center not the supplier of the energy. Therefore nothing would change since Unitil would still be the one responding.

Mr. Bateman would like to know if it's possible to put the information from Pat Remick in regards to "Donor Town's" on the website. This will help the residents to understand the impact of "Donor Town's" and contact their legislators.

Mr. Bateman explained that Mr. Blondeau has expressed concerns on if his licenses will still be available when he rebuilds. Mr. Welch stated that the licenses are restricted for the use of this business and cannot be given to anyone else. Therefore when he rebuilds his licenses will still be available to him and possibly more if needed.

Mr. Znoj wonders if the donation of the \$1,500 authorized by the Board to the Coalition and if the check has been cut yet.

## VII. New Business

### 1. RSA 79 E – Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (TIF)

Nancy Stiles and John Nyhan present tonight to discuss this topic. Mr. Griffin would like to hear what Ms. Stiles has to say since she has done a lot of work on this. Ms. Stiles explained that this started after the State Reps met with the property owners at the beach whose businesses were destroyed in the fire. She feels that Mr. Welch has pretty well explained RSA 79 E and further questions should probably be answered by the Atty. This RSA allows a community if it chooses to adopt revitalization tax relief incentives and it would take a vote of the people and would need to go on the warrant. It can also be rescinded by vote of the people and it would also be suggested that some sort of time frame be set when putting this into place such as maybe 10 years. There is criteria that must be met and is set by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Stiles would like to ask the Board to think about instead of just doing this for the "A" block that it is extended to the whole seasonal business district as well as the uptown business district. Ms. Stiles also pointed out that the business district uptown ends at the circle out here and might need to be extended down to the Hampton Falls line. This might be the incentive that the Town needs. She went into further detail about understanding/defining the RSA.

#### Discussion

Chairman Nichols stated that his understanding of the law was that if a business was worth \$1M and after rebuilding was now worth \$1.5M for 5 years they would pay taxes on the \$1M amount. However from what he has heard from Ms. Stiles this is not the case and that the Board has some latitude in regards to how it is set up. Ms. Stiles stated that she does believe this to be true but that the Board should refer to their legal department for a better interpretation of the law. Mr. Welch thinks that it is more open for the Board to set reasonable parameters. He thinks the Board has some latitude but should refer to counsel.

Chairman Nichols is not sure how he feels about expanding the area beyond the block where the fire was. He is not sure if this would pass. Ms. Stiles also pointed out that once the project is complete at the beach the east side of Ocean Blvd is going to look a lot different.

Mr. Griffin strongly agrees with Ms. Stiles that the area should be expanded to include the business districts as described by Ms. Stiles. He also pointed out that the Town would not lose any tax dollars by doing this but instead could gain income in the future. Mr. Griffin would like to know what Mr. Nyhan thinks about all this.

Mr. Nyhan thinks that these types of things and these types of discussions are critical right now. These are the types of things that he would like to see proposed at the Economic Summit. There

are a lot of good ideas that he hopes to gain from the Summit. He shared some thoughts about what one might think when driving north on Route 1 and seeing the many empty buildings. He spoke about how he has spoken with the 3 property owners on the beach and how they want to rebuild and remain property owners on the beach. Mr. Nyhan really wants to know how they can help these and other business owners on the beach and then uptown.

Mr. Griffin reiterated as how this will build the tax base in Town and that is what we need for the future.

Chairman Nichols also mentioned how when a business shuts down another one no longer replaces it. Ms. Stiles mentioned how if an investor knew that they might get a tax break they might be more interested in a property. There was an additional example given as to how the tax break would work and how it would be different for the fire victims as opposed to another business owner. Chairman Nichols would be in favor of allowing the business owner receive the tax relief for the 5 years.

Mr. Griffin stated that this has been going on in regards to the empty lots at the beach even when the economy was good.

Chairman Nichols wonders how Ms. Stiles feels about whether or not this will pass. Ms. Stiles thinks that by extending it to more businesses and not just the fire victims it will have a greater chance at passing. Mr. Nyhan thinks that word has already started to spread out that the Selectmen want to help with this and by the Board taking the initiative this will be a very positive thing.

Mr. Griffin pointed out that Hampton has never had a reputation of being a very business friendly Town and this could help.

Chairman Nichols is looking forward to the Summit to help understand some of these things further. Mr. Nyhan thinks that one component that needs to be included is the expanding of the season so that revenue is increased. There was additional discussion on what needs to be done to improve the area and draw people to the area year round.

Ms. Stiles added that one thing in the RSA is to follow the master plan.

Mr. Bateman commented that Mr. Nyhan has been a wonderful supporter for the beach and he believes that he has been very successful at the job. Mr. Bateman thinks that if we are going to revitalize it can't just be in one pocket but needs to be across the area.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that there does need to be an appeals process but into place. Mr. Griffin wonders about the industrial properties. Mr. Lally and Chairman Nichols thinks that whole areas need to be done as discussed tonight like the beach and Route 1.

Mr. Lally agrees that the Economic Summit will be very informative. Mr. Nyhan stated that there will be a lot of communications going out over the next couple of weeks about the Summit. He invites people to come and speak and share their ideas. Mr. Nyhan shared some additional information on how the Summit will be run and who some of the speakers will be.

## 2. Assessing Settlement Agreement "1 Merrill Industrial Drive, Units 105-109"

Atty. Gearreald explained that this is actually a court order. The Assessor and Atty. Gearreald have both met with the owner' and come up with the agreement. Atty. Gearreald explained that some units were assessed for less because they were coded by the prior Assessor as being under

construction and were receiving the “quantity discount concept” which is being done away with. Another unit was re-measured by the Assessor and the card was inaccurate for this property.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED to accept the Assessor’s recommendation and reduce the valuation on 1 Merrill Industrial Drive Unit 106 from \$171,000 to \$145,700. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

3. 2010 Board Objectives – will be discussed next week.
4. Ashworth Hotel – Lease of Parking Spaces at Island Path Parking Lot for employees.

Mr. Demarco explained that last year it was done for events and not for employees. He explained how there are about 50 spots in the Church Street Leased Lot and how only about 3 spots are currently being used. The lease price at this point is \$500. Mr. Demarco added that other businesses have approached him wanting to lease additional spots.

#### Discussion

Mr. Griffin stated that last year the Board discussed wanting to lower the rate for the Church Street Leased Lot.

Chairman Nichols would support lowering the lease amount but feels that the amount should be the same for everyone.

Mr. Griffin would still like to know what was done last year for the Ashworth. Mr. Demarco explained that last year they were charged \$5 if it was during the week and \$10 on the weekend. Mr. Griffin would be in favor of doing the same thing this year. Mr. Demarco reminded the Board that when this was done last it was the Church Street Lot not Island Path as requested this year.

The Board agreed that everything would be done the same for everyone.

Mr. Griffin stated that he thinks the question needs to be answered as to how much it would cost for the Ashworth to have the 30 spots requested in the Island Path Lot. There was a discussion on the number of spaces in Island Path and the number of times they turnover in a day. Mr. Demarco stated that reserving additional spaces in this lot will be challenging.

Chairman Nichols thinks that at this point the Church Street option should be given to the Ashworth.

Mr. Lally thinks that the Church Street Lot is a better option for the Ashworth. He also mentioned that if the workers are Town residents they can park for free in the lot right next to this one.

Mr. Bateman’s only opposition would be doing this for only one business. Chairman Nichols stated that it would not be just for the Ashworth it would be lowered for all the leased spots.

Mr. Griffin thinks that \$300 would be fair for the lease amount in Church Street Lot. He also thinks that the Board should come up with some sort of rate for the Island Path Lot like the Ashworth asked for.

Chairman Nichols thinks that the answer to the Ashworth would be that we are not interested in leasing Island Path but we have lowered the lease amount in the Church Street Lot.

Mr. Demarco did suggest that on the back of the placard for the Church Street Lot there should be a map with the location of the leased lot.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED that the price for the summer lease (May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>) for the Church Street Leased Lot be reduced from \$500 to \$300. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Demarco also pointed out the increase in handicap parking that they have had over the past few years and the impact since they can park for free.

#### Other New Business

Mr. Griffin shared a letter received in regards to the duty to provide assistance and this concerns the Fire Department fire boat. The letter shared an incident when they were in need of help and radioed the fire rescue boat which happened to be in the Harbor at the time on its way to training in Portsmouth. The response they received is that they could not help at this time.

Mr. Welch spoke with the Chief about this today and the person writing the letter was not even on the boat at the time, it was his son. According to the Chief what happened was that this individual radioed the fire boat asking if everything was ok and did not state that they were in any trouble at all. The crew on the fire boat responded that everything was fine and that they were on their way to a training event. Mr. Welch went on to explain that the operator of the other vessel switched frequency and then called for help. The Chief has spoken with the father and the son. Chairman Nichols would request that Mr. Welch set up a meeting with the Chief, the captain of the boat at the time, the person who wrote the letter, the father and the son who was operating the other vessel at the time to get to the bottom of what happened.

#### VIII. Consent Agenda

1. Highway Safety Appointment – Lawrence M. Douglas
2. Recycling Committee applications to hold the Earth Day event on Saturday.
3. Mr. Welch added the authority of the Chairman of the Board to sign a letter to the Exeter Board of Selectmen for the perambulation and to sign a letter directed to Mr. Welch to conduct on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Bateman MOTIONED to Move the Consent Agenda. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

#### IX. Closing Comments – None

#### X. Adjournment

Mr. Znoj MOTIONED to adjourn. Mr. Lally SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0



Chairman

Non-meeting with Legal Counsel - RSA 91-A:2., I., (b)

On a roll call vote, all members present, the Board voted unanimously to enter into a Nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3., II., (a), (b), (c), (d), (e)