Board of Selectmen
March 21, 2011 Minutes

PRESENT: Richard Nichols, Chairman
William Lally, Vice-Chairman
Richard Griffin, Selectmen
Gerald Znoj, Selectmen
Michael Pierce, Selectmen
Frederick Welch, Town Manager

6:00 PM Non-meeting with Legal Counsel - RSA 91-A:2., I., (b)

7:00 PM Public Meeting

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Presentation of Recognition of Service "Twenty Years" – No one was present.

II. Public Comment Period

Jay Diener, 206 Woodland Road, here representing the Conservation Committee and they would like to thank the Town for their support on Batchelder's Farm. They are in the process of selling rain barrels again this year the cost is $75 and he provided more details on the rain barrels.

Bruce Theriault, 511 Ocean Blvd, is a candidate for the position of Village District Commissioner in Hampton Beach. He provided some history on his background including a Fire Commissioner in Derry, NH. He shared the reason he is getting involved in Town politics. He talked about the need to extend the season at the beach. He spoke about the money the State is spending at the Beach.

Mr. Pierce questioned if he is running unopposed and he is not there is another candidate Maureen Buckley. Since the election is on Friday, Chairman Nichols commented that if Ms. Buckley is watching and would like to come down the Board would be happy to let her speak.

Maury Freedman, 30 Hampton Meadows, commented on the 2011 objectives and shared three items he would like the Board to include in their objectives.

III. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Pierce mentioned the Celebration of Life for Ansell Palmer. He shared how nice the ceremony was and what a great person Ansell was.

Mr. Griffin would like to send some good wishes to Colonel Paul Lessard who has been in Haven Health for about a month now. He has done many good things for this town and the

Country. Mr. Lally also wishes the Colonel well.

Chairman Nichols brought up the program March for Meals and anyone interested in helping can contact Nancy Singleton at 929-1108.

IV. Appointments

1. William Murphy, BZ on the Corner (Ocean Market) – Loading Zone at 9 Ocean Blvd Request

Mr. Murphy would like to talk to the Board about a loading zone in front of the store. There are currently three parking spaces and he is asking to use two of the parking spaces as a loading zone. He explained where the trucks have been parking to make the deliveries.

Discussion

Chairman Nichols pointed out that recently he has seen the same car parked down there diagonally. Mr. Murphy commented that was happening during the winter when there was snow but is not happening now.

Mr. Lally clarified that this would only be during business hours. Mr. Znoj asked for some clarification on how the loading zone would work. Mr. Lally explained that the sign could be posted with timeframes such as loading zone between 7 am to 4 pm. Mr. Lally would be in support of this as long as it is posted as a loading zone with a timeframe. There was a discussion about the many parking issues down at the beach.

Mr. Pierce added that we could do this as a timeframe and seasonal. Mr. Lally would leave it year round since the business is year round.

Chairman Nichols would suggest that we let at least a week go by on this before any decisions are made so that if anyone else wants to speak on this they can. He also asked Mr. Welch to get the Police Chiefs opinion and the item will be put back on the agenda next week.

2. Cliff Sinnott, Rockingham Planning Commission – Intermodal Transportation

Cliff Sinnott explained to the Board that the Rockingham Planning Commission has have submitted a grant application with DOT to undertake a feasibility study of a project on Rte 1 that was identified several years ago under the Rte 1 Corridor Study and has sort of just sat there. The grant application has been submitted and they would like to add a letter of support from this Board. If the Board is not in support of this, they will withdraw their application. The project has to do with the Rte 1/Rte 101 interchange. He provided some history on the Corridor Study. He talked about how much land this interchange takes up. They have prepared a summary of the project and what exactly they are applying for. Nothing can happen until they can begin to look at this specific idea and see if it can or cannot work at this sight. He has provided the Board with the application.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj asked about the possibility of a bus stop for a bus that would go to Manchester. This is a possibility. Mr. Znoj had Mr. Sinnott explain the map in further detail for the Board. Mr. Sinnott expressed once again that this is just a feasibility study and we might find that nothing can be done here.

Mr. Pierce expressed concern on where the money would come from for such a project. He wonders why the parking lots could not be added without having to move the road all around. He added that the State and Federal Government have no money. He showed some ideas of where parking lots might be added. Mr. Sinnott agreed that it would be very expensive. Mr. Pierce asked about the possibility of a trail way stop here like in Newburyport. He also clarified that tonight Mr. Sinnott is only asking for the Board's support for a study.

Mr. Griffin commented that is something the Planning Board has looked into and it would be good to have a study done on this area. Mr. Sinnott added some of the things the study would help us to know.

Chairman Nichols clarified that they are not looking for any money from the Town. There was a consensus amongst the Board to send a letter in support of this grant for a feasibility study.

Barbara Kravitz another commissioner who represents Hampton. One of the things they have been asking is how can we harvest RPC to benefit Hampton. She talked about how they got started with this. This is a good way to get some answers from the Corridor Study. She is very pleased to hear the Board's general support. She added that Warren Bamburry has been a strong advocate for transportation in Hampton but could not be here tonight.

Mr. Griffin asked if Mr. Steffen could give the Board an update on the corner of Winnacunnet by the Galley Hatch. Mr. Steffen explained the following: received approval of the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) application from DOT for improvements of Route 1 and of Winnacunnet Road, which includes signal coordination up along Route 1. DOT will be assigning a project manager to work with the Town, multi year project, should have more information on a timeframe schedule when we get closer to summer and funds become available in the fall. Mr. Znoj asked if this was part of the Intermodal Study and it is in the Route 1 Corridor Study.

Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Steffen about the financial responsibility of the Town. Mr. Steffen explained that based on the information he did for the application the cost was around $192,000 and 80% would be federally funded and 20% would be Town funded at around $48,000. Since it is a phased project, the financial impact could be phased over time. Chairman Nichols asked if there was a 2011 impact that should be included in the Default Budget discussion next week in regards to Public Works. Mr. Steffen will look into any financial impact for 2011 and get back to Mr. Schwotzer. Mr. Pierce questioned if we needed voter approval and it does not, he is not sure if he likes that.

Chairman Nichols asked Maureen Buckley if she would like to come forward and speak at this point.

Maureen Buckley introduced herself to the Board and explained that she is also running for Village Precinct Commissioner. She provided some history on her past and the fact that she has lived in the Precinct for 20 years. She was a Precinct Commissioner before and gave some examples of the things she accomplished at that time. She shared some of the events that she has helped run at the beach. One of the major reasons she decided to run was to help repair some of the damaged done in regards to the relationships of the major entities that contribute to the success of the tourism of Hampton Beach. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak tonight and asked all voters in the Precinct to get out and vote.

V. Town Manager's Report

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has issued our renewal permit for the storm water system at the Department of Public Works complex on Hardardt's Way that is in compliance with Federal guidelines.

The Fire Chief has recommended and I have appointed Lieutenant John Stevens to the position of Fire Captain.

In accordance with the vote of Town Meeting, I have submitted to our Legislative Delegation the text of Article 30, changing the Town's fiscal year, requesting that this home rule legislation be enacted during the current legislative session. Senator Stiles is working diligently on the request.

The plastic disks continue to present themselves on the beach. As of today, the Town of Hooksett has taken full responsibility for the situation and will pay for the cleanup, all our cleanup bill will be sent to the Town of Hooksett. We will continue to retrieve the disks on a regular basis and would encourage individuals, environmental groups and other to continue to volunteer their time and efforts in the cleanup. Please use gloves when handling the disks. While the State has said there is no contamination it is best not to take chances. Use proper precautions.

In accordance with Town meeting, we have begun to analyze the flow from the State facilities that are going into various locations in the Town. They are in the process of setting up a chart to determine the cost, number of gallons and how much we will bill. This will come to the Board once it is complete.

Something of interest came up today there is going to be a survey of Great Meadow. According to the map, the boundaries are unknown, a gentleman has bought some land out there, and he wants to know where his boundaries are. Mr. Welch explained that Great Meadow is between Mill Pond and Ice Pond. The Town owns a piece of land out there and the entranceway into it.

The Town received a letter from Comcast regarding contract negotiations.

In regards to Article 5 dealing with the WWTP, they have had a preliminary meeting with the State to determine the cost to do each of the items. They should have this information for the Board in a couple of weeks. We will be filing by May 1st for SRF funding for these particular items.

They received an update from DRED on the redevelopment of the beach. He read the update for the Board on the work that is currently underway. They will be working continuously with hopefully a lot of the work being done be the end of May. Limited Public Parking is available till June. Construction of the sidewalks in front of the Seashell in progressing, but will not be completed until the Seashell is completed.

The Board has received a letter from the Hampton Police Association to begin negotiations for 2011.

He received a dispatch from the Fire Chief in regards to the consequences of the nuclear accident in Japan and it assures that there is no threat of radiation from this accident here. Homeland Security will keep us advised. He does want to clarify that potassium iodide is not available at the Town Office but can be obtained from the State.

He explained that the MS-2 Form was reviewed and approved by the Board last week but it was not voted on or approved on the Consent Agenda so it has been added this week.

He provided the Board with a packet that includes the cost involved with the work to be done to convert the Old Salt Shed for the Boards review. The cost will be put in the budget for this year.

With the Boards approval, he would like to take off Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week, and request that the Board appoint Mike Schwotzer as the Acting Town Manager for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED to appoint Mike Schwotzer as the Acting Town Manager for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VI. Old Business

1. Reuse of the Old Salt Shed at the Transfer Station

Mr. Znoj expressed the real need for this space for the employees down there. Mr. Znoj also pointed out that the space would be used for a swap shop.

Discussion

Chairman Nichols clarified that there are 2 other lunch rooms and is not sure why there is a need for a 3rd one. Mr. Welch explained that these employees usually eat right on sight do to the limited time and staff. Chairman Nichols asked if the cost of $11,000 and is a not to exceed amount or an estimate. Mr. Znoj expressed some concern with some of the cost and the need to put some of these things out to bid. They also discussed the labor cost involved, which the labor would be done by employees. Some of the other items discussed were: heat, electricity, water and if the cost will be covered in DPW budget. Chairman Nichols would like a specific line in the budget to address this cost. There also needs to be an understanding of how the swap shop is going to work. Mr. Welch believes that it will be run by some volunteers and you would put things in for free and take things out for free. Chairman Nichols is in favor of the concept but is not willing to approve without some more details on how it is going to work. Mr. Znoj thinks that they can certainly get working on the lunchroom. There was an additional discussion on what exactly was being approved and the need for some set plans/footprint. There also needs to be some ideas of what can and cannot be brought in. Mr. Welch stated that we could go down, measure out the area, and lay it out for the Board. Chairman Nichols reiterated that he is in favor of the concept but there needs to be more details before he feels the Board can approve this.

Mr. Lally explained that it is something that has been discussed by the Recycling Committee and he mentioned the need for more members.

Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Welch to come back next week with some more details and to have this money put into the DPW budget.

Other Old Business

Chairman Nichols brought up the warrant article for the roads and the lack of commonality between the roads in the warrant article and the study done in 2009. Mr. Welch explained that the difference is the roads in the study all require excavation, replacement of drains and

sewer. Mr. Welch talked further about some of the roads discussed. Chairman Nichols wonders why we paid for the study by the BETA Group. Mr. Welch explained that the study was not a waste of money they just have not scheduled things to be done the right way in the study. The main problem being that sewer and drain repairs are not listed in the study and he has Public Works working on a plan for the repairs that need to be made. Chairman Nichols reiterated that the study does not seem to reflect the plans being made by the Town and therefore was a waste of money. He also discussed the $400,000 set aside for road reconstruction this year, which was discussed in the BETA study. Chairman Nichols thinks that a lesson needs to be learned here. Mr. Pierce asked how we come up with a plan. Mr. Welch explained in detail how the decisions are made on what roads should be dug up this year and which roads should have drainage repairs. Mr. Znoj expressed that in future years there will be a balance between roads that need pavement repairs and roads that need drainage repairs.

Chairman Nichols would like to bring up the research from the Fire Chief on the reverse 911. He was pleasantly surprised to see a price range of $10,000 to $25,000 a year. He thinks that with a price like this it might be worth looking into a little further. The Chief will be in next week to discuss this further. Chairman Nichols asked for the following information next week: a list of the uses other than emergency, understand benefits and possible need for the new Hampton School District.

VII. New Business

1. American Legion Hampton Post 35 "Global War On Terrorism Monument" Cruise the Beach Rod & Custom Car Show – Use of Public Park and Beach June 11, 2011

Chairman Nichols clarified that they are asking for the use of Ashworth Ave. He does not have an issue with this at all and he has spoken with Dyana who is fine with this date. Mr. Welch added that the rain date would be the 12th. There was a consensus amongst the Board that the Ashworth Ave Lot could be used.

2. 2011 Objectives of the Board of Selectmen

Chairman Nichols suggested that the dialogue be started.

Mr. Lally would like to see the following: level tax rate, union negotiations and maybe the way to go this year would be a Beach Fire Station.

Chairman Nichols would like to comment on the Fire Station and we need to have a dialogue with the Fire Chief next week. He does think that the Board needs to agree to have a fire related article and it needs to include the beach. He does not think that the Board should decide at this moment as to it being only a one station project and the cost needs to be down.

Mr. Pierce thinks that it is important to get moving on this since we have the plan.

Mr. Griffin would like to see the following: union contracts, Fire Stations, possible combined dispatch, and long-range master plan for the WWTP including Church Street Pump Station.

Chairman Nichols agrees that the possibility of combined dispatch needs to be put into any future building plans.

Mr. Znoj agrees with what he has heard so far and added the following: fire station strategies really needs to be discussed with an open mind, WWTP importance of implementing plans, successfully budget for new fiscal period and successfully implementing the recycling program. Chairman Nichols does not think the budgeting for the fiscal period is an actual objective for the Board.

Mr. Pierce has one other comment on the fact that he has advocated since he became a member of the Budget Committee to have more Police Officers on the ground at the beach in the summer. He thinks that we need to work harder to get more Police Specials. He is not sure if this is an objective but is definitely a problem that needs to be addressed. The Board all agreed that this is necessary but is more of an objective for the Police and support what Jamie tells the Board he needs.

Chairman Nichols would like to add the following: drainage implementation of what is already in progress and define an approach for next year,

Mr. Griffin added the need to limit the number of warrant articles and Mr. Znoj added that we need to find a way to keep the lengthy ordinances off the ballot. Chairman Nichols commented on the number of articles and some history on the number of articles starting in 1991 through the current year. The most common range was the mid 40's. He also looked at this year and he really only came up with four or five that could have possibly been done away with. Mr. Lally commented on putting the Human Services together in one article was a great move. It was agreed that there is a need to keep off the ordinances such as the Pedi Cab that was on this year. There was an additional discussion on the possible ways to limit some of the warrant articles such as the Cable and Recreation Fund and limiting some of the language like the zoning articles. These changes must be made through legislation. Mr. Pierce feels that the more articles the more democracy but there is a limit to how much people can take. The Board agreed that this would not be an objective but definitely something that they will work on as a Board.

Chairman Nichols clarified that the Board has come up with the following objectives: level tax rate, Fire Station Plans, union contracts, WWTP master plans and the successful development, drainage implementation that is in progress and continued into next year and implementation of bringing recycling in house by July 1st. Chairman Nichols will prepare a draft for the Board to look at.

3. Memorandum of Understanding with DRED –Town of Hooksett's Plastic Discs - Covered in Mr. Welch's report.

Other New Business

Mr. Pierce provided the Board with an update from the Budget Committee meeting including: the new chair is Eileen Latimer, divided the budget committee into groups to look at separate sections in more detail and monthly financials with more detail. Does the Budget Committee want to have a CIP representative? Chairman Nichols stated that Mr. Znoj is the Selectmen Representative to the CIP and Chairman Nichols is the alternate. Mr. Znoj commented on the meetings that they did have last year and he thought they had some good discussions. He shared some of the discussions that they had. Mr. Welch has put out a memorandum to the Department Heads to have their information in by a certain date. There was also a discussion on the schools. Mr. Znoj stated that the mechanisms are in place. Mr.

Griffin brought up some of the concerns of the Planning Board with the CIP. Mr. Znoj shared some more thoughts about some of the realities involved and management discretion.

VIII. Consent Agenda

1. Elderly and Veteran Exemptions: Allen, Kristin M & Stephen; Balsiger, Therese C; Balsiger, Verlin W; Bernard, Ernest Jr & Janet M; Bosen, Clare; Carr, Gregory L; Chapman, Wayne N & Mary R; Chawzuik, Joan T; Chevalier, Richard B & June; Clews, Frederick C Jr & Susan; Coleman, Gregory C & Rena; Conner, Natalie H; Connors, Marguerite J; Cook, Jeffrey & Andrea J; Cooper, James A & Wendy Jo; Conroy, Christopher & Brenda; Correll, Joan V; Corson, Peter D & Cynthia; Cote, Denise B; Cote, Ernest J Jr & Joan M; Covatis, Evanthea & Card, Dorothy; Covey, James A & Elizabeth A; Crowley, Catherine; Cullen, Lorraine R; Curtis, Peter L & Judith; Cuddy, Margaret & Joseph; Dunham, Patricia R; Harvey, Delmont; Malcolm, Dorothy M; De Loura Le Doux Bouvier-Cosmos, Robert; Major, Lorraine C; Mitchell, John M & Janet D; Morrison, Christopher J; Nownes, Allaire B; Perry, Abbey Lee; Russell, Anne S; Rybak, Michael J & Patricia A; Sabbagh, Thomas; Smallwood, Thomas M; Sullivan, Henry P Jr & Drucilla; White, June; Wright, Rosanna J; Zahrdnt, Kenneth
2. Owen Carter, 29 Ocean Blvd – License for Coin Operated Amusement Devices
3. MS-2 – Report of Appropriations Actually Voted

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

VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Closing Comments

Chairman Nichols commented on an article in the Sunday paper about a $22M tax break and the elderly exemption burden being shifted to other taxpayers. Chairman Nichols feels the need to point out to people that there is a major math error the $360 and $840 in additional taxes should be $36 and $84. He added some information for Hampton such as: elderly exemptions total $28,524,000 less than 1% of total taxable properties, there is means testing so not everyone qualifies, elderly exemption adds about 15 cents to the tax rate, about $54 to the tax bill of the average home at $363,000, maximum exemption is $165,000 and the currently elderly exemption was approved by the voters in 2009. He hopes the Portsmouth Herald corrects the math.

Mr. Griffin wants to point out that this Board talks about what is happening at the schools but there is a separate Board that over sees the schools.

X. Adjournment

Mr. Znoj MOTIONED to adjourn. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman