

Hampton Board of Selectmen
May 02, 2011 Minutes

PRESENT: Richard Nichols, Chairman
William Lally, Vice-Chairman
Richard Griffin, Selectmen
Gerald Znoj, Selectmen
Michael Pierce, Selectmen
Frederick Welch, Town Manager
Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney
Wanda Robertson, Assistant Town Attorney

7:00 PM Public Meeting

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Public Comment Period – None

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Mr. Griffin mentioned the many comments he has heard about how wonderful it looks down at the beach. He thinks it is a time for good things to happen there and he hopes it does.

Mr. Lally thanked the United States Navy Seals for the job they did yesterday. They are the real heroes of our time and he hopes to meet one of them someday and shake their hand.

Chairman Nichols announced a clean up at Bicentennial Park and the Wall area this Saturday May 7th from 9 am to noon. He provided some further information about the details of the clean up.

III. Appointments

1. Greg Grady – 11th Annual Master Sand Sculpture Competition – Mr. Lally mentioned that the request from Mr. Grady said May 16th. Scheduled for May 16, 2011.

IV. Town Manager's Report

A bid was awarded this week to Hi-Way Safety Systems, Inc for painting centerlines and edge lines for \$12,375.00 as the low bidder of four received bids.

A bid was awarded this week for the Brown Avenue tide gate to W.P. Davis Excavating for \$8,800 as the lowest bidder of six bidders.

The Town has been advised by the State Department of Transportation that our Highway Block grant has been increased by 20% to \$61,962.01 because of the \$30 vehicle registration fee for 2010-2011.

Discussion

Chairman Nichols clarified that this comes on the Town's calendar year but is based on receipts they received during their fiscal year. Mr. Welch explained that we receive money every quarter and this is their last quarter payment. He explained in further detail how the amount is calculated. Chairman Nichols added that this does not apply to the Town's second half of the fiscal year.

The Town has been notified by the State Department of Environmental Services that they have received and accepted the Town's sampling and data collection program required under the Sewer Moratorium Consent Order. He commented on the enormous amount of work that Mr. Znoj has put into this.

The Selectmen's request to decrease the assessment from the Solid Waste District be decreased was presented to the District on April 27th and it was voted to not discontinue the practice of purchasing food for the Districts Committee at meeting or to decrease the Town's assessment.

The State of NH has advised that they have granted to the Police Department a highway safety project Hampton Pedestrian Patrols. The note would become effective May 2011 and as we progress through the summer there will a total of 20 days in the contract period any cost to the Town will be reimbursed through the State.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj wonders what this includes and Mr. Welch has not been told yet. He would assume that it has to do with getting people to use the crosswalks especially down at the beach.

He has received three license requests from Unitil for poles to be set down on Fuller Acres. He explained why the poles are needed and that the Board of Selectmen must license them.

Discussion

Chairman Nichols questioned if this is something the Board should approve tonight and is there anything that Mr. Welch thinks should be questioned. Mr. Welch explained that we are not gaining any additional poles but instead just relocating some poles. He does not believe that there is any reason to not accept.

Mr. Pierce asked about the new pole down on Atlantic Ave. Mr. Welch stated that the other pole will be removed but not by the Town.

The United State Department of Commerce and Economic Development will be sending an assessment team here to have a meeting over at the Seabrook Library on Tuesday May 10th from 10 am to 3 pm to talk about fishing. They would like to hear the public's opinions on some of the regulations. Chairman Nichols asked for this information to be put on the Website and emailed to him.

Mr. Welch did approve today a proposal for the Police Department to upgrade the computer network. The bid was awarded to the low bidder Portsmouth Computer Group for \$27,800.

We have a request from Mr. Webb president of the James House Association for an 1800 farm plow that was dropped off at the Transfer Station. This needs the Boards approval but will save the Town from having to dispose of it.

The Board received today an activated sludge process from the WWTP including the Hampton testing schedule.

They received today a letter from the State appointing Bill Gegas as the new South Seacoast Regional Supervisor for the Bureau of Parks Operations effective April 8th. His office will be located in Allenstown.

The BOS have received two requests for appointment to the Leased Land Real Estate Commission Ute Pineo and Tom McGuirk

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to nominate Ute Pineo and Tom McGuirk to two of the three vacant positions on Leased Land Real Estate Commission. Mr. Griffin SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Town currently has vacancies on Boards and Commissions as follows: one Real Estate Leased Land Commissioners, one member of the Mosquito Control Commission, two members of the Insurance Committee, one member of the Highway Safety Committee.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj asked Mr. Welch to explain the responsibilities of the Insurance Advisory Committee. Mr. Welch explained that there are questions that sometimes come up over the course of the year and this committee would address these issues. Mr. Welch added that it is beneficial to have some individuals with knowledge in the field that you can turn to when you have questions. They also discussed the profile of a person who would be good for this committee. They discussed the Real Estate Leased Land Commission Committee and that there is not many cases that come before the committee. They also went into further details on what a member of this committee would be responsible of doing

Questions for the Manager

Mr. Griffin wonders if there have been any complaints about people bringing trash to the curb to early on Sunday. Mr. Welch stated they have had several complaints over the past years but it is not limited to Sunday. Mr. Griffin shared some of the complaints he received over this past weekend. He does not feel people are abiding by the ordinance.

Mr. Griffin also asked about the blocks at the end of Bradford Ave and the people who live there see no reason for this if there is a need they would rather see a snow fence. Mr. Welch will have to take a look at this.

Mr. Griffin mentioned that he ran into Maury Friedman and it was suggested that maybe there be a joint meeting especially to discuss the recycling. Chairman Nichols thinks that if this is done they should also discuss the CIP. He shared some information on how Portsmouth handles their CIP. Mr. Welch has spoken with the Chairman of the CIP and it appears we are doing things similar to Portsmouth.

Mr. Griffin clarified that the costs of the new trash/recycling barrels is around \$47. There was also a discussion about who will receive barrels and how many each household receives.

Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Welch to provide clarification on this next week and make sure the plan is updated with this information. Mr. Welch stated that every Friday the Board will receive an update on the plan and the section that has been changed will be underlined.

Mr. Znoj would like to have a little discussion on the openings we have on committees. The current procedure is that an interested person comes in and gives their name to the Administrative Assistant who provides the Board with this individual's name. Mr. Znoj would suggest that the interested person should contact the Committee Chair who in turn would then provide the name to Kristina to be approved by the Board. Another suggestion would be that a Committee Chair should have some say in how many committee members their Board has.

Mr. Griffin stated that in the past, the Committee Chairman had always brought nominations forward to this Board for approval, but that has not occurred recently. Chairman Nichols agrees with Mr. Znoj that interested members should go through the Committee Chairs.

Mr. Znoj shared an example that happened recently when a Committee Chair had a recommendation to give to Kristina, but did not bring it to Kristina and in the meantime, someone else had gone to Kristina and she put that individual forward for approval. Chairman Nichols thinks that if someone does come in to see Kristina that she sends an email to the Committee Chair with individual's information.

Mr. Griffin does not think anyone should be turned away and this Board and not the Committee Chairs should make the decision. As for the situation discussed about the person above being overlooked, he thinks that this person should be added to the Recycling Committee. Mr. Znoj believes that the Recycling Chairman is going to be contacting Kristina with the information soon. There was an additional discussion on how the process should work.

Chairman Nichols MOTIONED that when an applicant applies for a position on a committee independent of coming directly from that committee that Kristina informs the Chairman of that Committee. Mr. Znoj SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman Nichols mentioned that we still have an issue with the recycling committee, which now has five members after the appointment made last week. There is then the sixth individual who has an interest and a discussion with the Chairman.

Mr. Znoj will go back to the Committee Chair and suggest that if they would like to have a sixth member they should make a recommendation to this Board. The Board all agreed that they would be willing to approve a sixth member for the Recycling Committee.

Mr. Pierce questioned if there are any statutes limiting the number of members and there are for some committees, which the Board would be made aware of at the time. The Board agreed that they do not want to discourage people from wanting to be on a committee.

Mr. Znoj also commented on the test plan being put in place at the WWTP and it is a much-disciplined plan. The next thing to be addressed is the spare parts program. We now have to execute and are ready for the summer in Mr. Znoj's opinion.

Chairman Nichols commented on the cost of the head wall of \$8,800 for the Brown Ave tide gate. The cost of the valve was \$5,000 or \$10,000 and then \$20,000 for BETA Group. He is amazed at how the cost of a small wall can cost so much.

Chairman Nichols commented that he would be in favor of dropping the issue about the lunch cost for the Solid Waste District. The Board agreed.

Chairman Nichols asked if someone would like to make a motion on the license for the three poles in Fuller Acres.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to approve the licenses for the four poles from Unitil and the telephone company – Pole Petitions, Fuller Acres relocations. Mr. Pierce SECONDED.

VOTE: 5-0-0

The Board agreed to allow Mr. Webb to have the old farm plow that was disposed of at Public Works.

Chairman Nichols commented on the updated recycling plan and there are some variables that he thinks need to be addressed including: barrels on one side of the street on the letter streets, parking bans, Ocean Blvd pick up only on Westside of street and we need to address the areas we go on private property. Chairman Nichols also asked for an electronic copy of the plan each week. The Board discussed some of the areas on private property further.

Chairman Nichols clarified from last week that we do take credit cards at the Transfer Station.

Mr. Znoj commented that we need to take down the Old Town Hall. Mr. Griffin thought that this could be an item to discuss with the Planning Board. Mr. Znoj wonders if we get some backhoes from Public Works with some volunteer labor and get this done.

Chairman Nichols commented that it appears there is a consensus amongst the Board that this needs to be done. He asked Mr. Welch to come back to the Board in a week or so with some ideas on how this can be done at little to no cost. They also discussed looking to contractors or residents who want to take the building down for free and keep any materials such as windows at no cost.

V. Old Business

1. Short and Long Term Plans for Managing DPW

Chairman Nichols put this on the agenda after the announcement made last week. He asked Mr. Welch for an update on where we are at with Deputy Director and the Director position and the plans of what will be done in the interim.

Mr. Welch stated the Director position has been advertised on NH websites since last week, it will be advertised in local papers, as well as the Union Leader and Portland Paper; also, they have advertised on the Maine and Massachusetts Municipal websites. Resumes are to be submitted by May 16th. We continue to receive resumes for the Deputy position and have received some for the Director position. He provided some general information about the candidates.

Mr. Znoj and he have spoken to some of the candidates for the Deputy Director position. Mr. Welch has spoken to the Director and asked for his recommendation for an Acting Director once he leaves and he expects to hear something from him in a couple of days. He explained that they have set up the divisions based on the re-organization and there is a prime person in each division that reports to the Director. He discussed some of the work that is being done and needs to be done. He discussed the recycling and engineer work, drainage work, WWTP, prep work for 2011 paving season, Tide Mill Road exploratory work, engineering criteria for drainage work off of Rte 1 due to come back soon, number of bids in progress

which he listed out for the Board, budget monitoring and bid and spending documents must be approved.

Discussion

Mr. Znoj wonders if we have sold any compost yet. Mr. Welch stated that we had entire pile that was processed and is now gone.

Mr. Welch explained that we have a very large pile of aggregate that has been processed and we would like to sell some of this.

Mr. Pierce commented on the sidewalk on Atlantic Ave and explained his concerns and complaints he has received. He wonders if we can fill in this gap with asphalt or something and would like this added to the list of things to be done.

Chairman Nichols commented on getting a former employee to come in as Acting Director and he thinks this would be the way to go since there would be no learning curve involved. Mr. Welch plans to discuss this with Mr. Price. Chairman Nichols thinks that since we have two positions with high salaries open we should not hesitate on having to spend some money to have someone in the position in the interim especially since we are going into the summer. This is something that really needs to happen quickly. He is not in favor of dumping this job on one of the existing Foreman. If we were unable to find someone, he would be in favor of the three or four foreman reporting directly to Mr. Welch.

Mr. Grffin is also in favor of this given Mr. Welch's background. Mr. Welch agrees that this cannot be placed on a Working Foreman. Chairman Nichols asked Mr. Welch to come back to the Board with an update.

Mr. Griffin commented on the condition of the sidewalk in front of his property. Mr. Welch will talk to the State about this. They also discussed the drainage problems in this area including some concerns with the marsh and flooding in his neighbor's yard. Mr. Welch commented that there are many areas like this along Ocean Blvd.

Mr. Znoj commented on the situation at Public Works and the importance of Mr. Welch keeping up to date on all the different things being done like the update he provided tonight. On the recycling issue, he wonders if it would be beneficial to bring Mark Richardson and the Foreman for the rubbish group in here to discuss this with the Board.

Chairman Nichols thinks this is a good idea and Mr. Welch will get in touch with them to see when they would be able to come in and discuss with the Board.

VI. New Business

Chairman Nichols brought up a letter they received regarding a property at 419 Ocean Blvd. The Assessor has been down there and the property owner has received an abatement for 2010. The property owner is asking the Board to consider the abatement for 2007 and 2008.

Mr. Lally thinks that we should ask Mr. Tinker to look into this and give the Board a report on 2007 and 2008. Chairman Nichols agrees with Mr. Lally to have Mr. Tinker look into this but he does have a few concerns with going back and doing this and wonders where we draw the line.

Mr. Welch was asked to have Mr. Tinker provide the Board with a report on this. The Board agreed that they do need to get back to this individual with some kind of an answer.

VII. Closing Comments - None

VIII. Adjournment

A motion made by Chairman Nichols and seconded by Mr. Znoj and unanimously by roll call vote entered into Nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (d).

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Znoj and Seconded by Mr. Pierce

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman