7:00 PM

PRESENT:    Rick Griffin, Chairman
            Jim Waddell, Vice-chairman
            Rusty Bridle, Selectman
            Regina Barnes, Selectman
            Mary-Louise Woolsey, Selectman
            Frederick Welch, Town Manager
            Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I.  Public Comment

II.  Announcements and Community Calendar

Sel. Woolsey announced two letters she received praising the Fire Dept. for their services. She noted Seth Butler, Matt Brillard, and Sean Morrison were mentioned. She stated how heartwarming it is to receive the letters of appreciation and thanked the Dept. and all they do. Sel. Barnes noted she agreed with the Fire Dept. comments. She also noted attending the wake of Kate Pratt, a Hampton resident who did much for the Town, and that she will be missed.

Sel. Waddell announced the Rockingham Planning Commission meeting at the Hampton Academy on Jan. 8th, noting they will be discussing the housing shortage in NH. He wished everyone a happy new year and his sadness at Kate Pratt’s passing.

Sel. Bridle commented on Kate’s passing, noting the work she and Cliff did for the Town and state, and his working with them.

Chairman Griffin noted he too bids Kate a farewell, and noted some of her accomplishments. He wished everyone a happy new year.

III. Approval of Minutes

1. December 9, 2019 Public sessions

Sel. Woolsey noted a word correction.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE the Public and Non-public sessions minutes of December 9, 2019, SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. December 16, 2019 Public and Non-public sessions
Sel. Woolsey noted a name spelling correction.
Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE the Public and Non-public sessions minutes of December 16, 2019, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Cemetery Deed: Deborah Eldredge 16/I-1/2/1&3

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Appointments

1. Kristi Pulliam
   a. Default Budget review

Ms. Pulliam was there to ask the Board to approve the default budget amount due to a correction. She noted the correction due to the truck lease, and a $33,000.00 reduction. The new amount is $28,335,036.00.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the Default Budget Amount, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Chris Jacobs, DPW Director & Jen Hale, Deputy DPW Director
   a. Departmental Update

Ms. Hale discussed two bid requests the Board received in their packets, one for Elaine St., and one for demolition waste. She discussed the Elaine St. bid, they received four, with the lowest bidder being Jamco. She noted the dollar value of $266,000.00 and discussed Jamco notifying them of an error of $20,600.00, but with that addition, they are still the lowest bidder.

Sel. Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the Elaine Street bid (with correction) at $288,119.30, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Ms. Hale discussed the bid for Construction Waste Disposal. She noted our current contract is ReEnergy with a January 1st date. She noted the new bid was three years and they received two bids, with one not being a responsive bid. She recommended going with ReEnergy at $73.50 per ton with each haul being $336.00. There was consensus this needs a waiver.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE a Waiver for the Construction Waste Disposal bid, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the Construction Waste Disposal bid, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0
Ms. Hale discussed the requests for costing of Winnacunnet Road. She noted costs of different scenarios were put in the Board’s packets, also noting the numbers were there for High Street as well.

Chairman Griffin asked if this effects any warrant articles. She discussed the draft warrant article for using capital reserve funds up to $1,000,000.00 to start Winnacunnet Rd with a decision to be made. She noted there is no warrant article for High Street, but said they got the numbers to be ahead of the game.

Chairman Griffin asked for Mr. Welch’s opinion. Mr. Welch discussed the needs for both roadways, noting a possible resident petition for High Street. He noted having the money to start, but also, the timeframe would be two years out, due to all the other projects. He discussed a possible bid that someone would have to honor, and he discussed overlay, referencing Exeter Road. He noted it is a Board decision if they want to use capital reserves to start the project.

Dir. Jacobs noted the draft warrant article was a request at a prior meeting regarding the capital reserve funds. He stated he was for this way to go and listed time frames and procedures that needed to be done. Chairman Griffin asked what is he suggesting and Dir. Jacobs stated that they approve the draft warrant article as written, stating that would be the first step. Chairman Griffin asked about High Street, and the answer was that it was similar to the Winnacunnet Rd. with doing sections at a time.

Sel. Woolsey asked if DPW crews were doing any of these projects and the answer was no.

Sel. Barnes noted the warrant article for 2020 won’t get done till 2021, so putting it off, would mean 2022. She noted a petition for High Street will have to be discussed if they get one. She asked about Locke Road, noting the clay pipes and having to get the sewer line done and the cost of $850,000.00. The directors noted the urgency of getting Locke Rd. done, and it is a separate warrant article.

Sel. Waddell asked about the timing of these road warrant articles. Dir. Jacobs discussed the capital improvement plan and the need for all the roads to be done. This is just a plan to get things rolling and is a step in the process. Ms. Hale further discussed their plan, different types of roads, the infrastructure, the sorting process and priorities. She also discussed road conditions and where that places the roadway on the priority list. She noted how all of that changes the plan year to year.

Sel. Waddell reiterated the time frame of the discussion seems at too late a date in the warrant article process, and asked if the capital reserve fund would be depleted. The answer was there is $1.9 million in the fund. There was further general discussion on the fund. Dir. Jacobs noted the timing was due to the request from the meeting of the 25th, and discussed their warrant articles.

Sel. Bridle questioned about the roads on the west end of Ashworth that have already been voted on, are they higher on the list. The answer was no due to pavement conditions. He noted there are a lot of roads to do and Winnacunnet Rd. has seemed to have gone to the top of the list. Chairman Griffin complimented Ms. Hale’s great work.

Sel. Woolsey commented on a possible moratorium on building.
Sel. Barnes asked if the capital reserve fund is in control of the trustees of the trust fund. Mr. Welch stated it is held by them and Dir. Jacobs noted it takes a warrant article to use it. She noted that the $300,000.00 goes into it every year. She commented that the infrastructure needs have to be considered with development. She discussed the dangers of Winnacunnet and High St. roads, and noted the feedback she has gotten on those road conditions. She discussed using unassigned fund balance for these projects, noting the funds for the flood survey and the FEMA study. She commented the master plan survey is showing the need for work on roads and sidewalks.

Atty. Gearreald commented on the Winnacunnet Rd. warrant article, stating the language is fine, there is an “and” at the end and he suggested the non-lapsing language. Dir. Jacobs agreed.

Sel. Waddell noted his comments were not a criticism of DPW, but of everyone.

Ms. Hale discussed the transfer station building warrant article, noting the Board had asked for additional information. She noted the article is descriptive of what will be done. There were no questions.

Chairman Griffin asked about the trash. Dir. Jacobs noted his, Ms. Hale’s and Ms. Pulliam’s work on the contracts. Chairman Griffin asked about the trash pick up at the beach.

Sel. Barnes commented there should be a bin limit. Chairman Griffin agreed. There was discussion on a warrant article from 2011, and Sel. Barnes read the article. She noted the amendment to the article, regarding commercial businesses to purchase bins at the Town rate. She noted the article does not say commercial trash will be pick up and what’s in the amendment is not what has gone forth.

Chairman Griffin discussed the commercial bins, and it being 10, and the spirit of what the Board intended, noting how much that has changed over time.

Sel. Woolsey commented on the article from 2011. She asked about records from the cart purchases, and the answer was there is a record for every cart released. Chairman Griffin noted the intent of more bins being for recycling, noting that things change, this is a fluid situation and they need to move more fluidly than we have been.

Sel. Woolsey asked if we know about contamination in the recycling carts, and the answer is we don’t know. She noted she was ready to make a motion to restrict the number of carts. There was discussion on color and size of carts. Chairman Griffin asked for Mr. Welch’s suggestion. Mr. Welch discussed the practicality of a limit. He recommended a reasonable cart limit, the hiring of the consultant that was voted on.

Sel. Waddell noted all should have an opportunity to discuss. He discussed enforcing a limit if they already have one. He agreed about the consultant.

Sel. Bridle agreed with Sel. Waddell, noting the committee work, the bin limit, and the consultant, also noting the cart limit should be in discussions going forward, not overnight.

Chairman Griffin reiterated the length of time on these discussions. He asked if there is a bin limit, can people bring their trash themselves and the process. Dir. Jacobs discussed a few scenarios for that instance, noting people would find other means. He stated you are allowed to bring 1000 pounds a day to the transfer station. He discussed that they charge fees after that. There was discussion on some locations having 40 or so carts.
Sel. Barnes discussed talking with businesses about the bin limit and that it would force them to find other ways. Chairman Griffin discussed businesses being able to pass their costs along.

Sel. Woolsey asked about the frequency of pick up. Dir. Jacobs noted it would not change, in order to keep the beach area as clean as possible. She reiterated the recycling contamination unknowns. There was discussion that the contamination was not just a beach issue.

Sel. Bridle discussed the limit, and if someone has the 40 carts, and the answer was they would only pick up the ten. He asked if we could bill for the overage, and the answer was that the consulting firm was going to come up with a program that would be successful.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the Limit of 10 Bins, SECONDED by Selectman (no second at this time)

Sel. Waddell asked what facts are we doing this on. There was general discussion on the limit. Mr. Welch discussed the 2 limit per residential structure and a structure can have five residences in it, making the 10 limit being discussed. Ms. Hale noted the condo language being part of the issue.

Dep. Town Manager Sullivan discussed making the limit of 10 being a goal for the consultants, as well as any possible recovery costs if over the limit.

Chairman Griffin reiterated the limit needed to be set now.

Sel. Woolsey commented we are discussing carts, not barrels, and they are blue and green.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the Limit of 10 Bins, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

Sel. Waddell stated he will be voting against as it is not based on fact, it’s based on opinion.

Sel. Bridle agreed, stating we are putting the cart before the horse.

Chairman Griffin stated he felt it being a mistake to wait any longer.

Sel. Barnes noted the number did not come from anywhere, but was established for residential. She commented having heard the Town should be run more like a business. She noted DPW drowning in trash and many other things, and hoping to alleviate some of it. She reiterated something needs to be done now.

VOTE: 3-2-0(Bridle, Waddell)

Sel. Bridle reiterated his no vote was due to wanting to wait for more information from the consultant.

There was general discussion on how to go forward the next day.

Mr. Welch noted the need to fund the contracts for solid waste. He discussed having to appropriate funds for contracts that will need to start July 1st.

Sel. Woolsey asked if there will be a new vendor, and the answer was that has yet to be determined. Ms. Hale discussed the bids, negotiation with costs and the need to fund new contracts with increased costs. Mr. Welch noted the increase starting July 1st, for the rest of
this municipal year will be $425,127.00. He recommended that money come from the unassigned fund balance.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE to MOVE to the Warrant Articles the Solid Waste Increase of $425,127.00, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

Sel. Waddell asked if this comes from unassigned fund balance, will we have enough left. Mr. Welch stated the amount of the balance, and what has been recommended to be used, and what would be left. He also stated that it would be above the recommended amount and the amount of uncollected property tax.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Sel. Woolsey announced that DPW employee Joe Bishop has achieved Road Scholar 1. She thanked the department for participation in the program and offered congratulations to Mr. Bishop.

Sel. Waddell asked about Christmas Trees on King’s Highway and Dir. Jacobs stated they started pick up today and follow the trash schedule.

Dir. Jacobs asked if there needed to be discussion on the lease of side arm and rear load trash trucks.

Mr. Welsh noted the default budget has been adjusted to the new amounts that came in.

Sel. Barnes asked if there was an update on the permit for the brewery. Mr. Jacobs stated he had the draft permit with him, received today. He discussed the BOD lowering to 400 listed in the permit. There was discussion on their digesters, Dir. Jacobs discussed plant loading being down, and referencing that process.

Sel. Woolsey asked about residual chlorine, and the answer was it was all set now.

VI. Town Manager’s Report

1. Warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting may continue to be submitted until January 14, 2020. Please remember to have the valid signatures of 25 registered voters and submit the petition to the Office of the Board of Selectmen.
2. Those who desire to obtain exemptions from property taxes may obtain the necessary forms at the Assessing Office. Petitions must be submitted by April 15, 2020.
3. Applications for abatements from property taxes must be submitted by March 1, 2020. The necessary forms are available at the Assessing office.
4. Property owners in the Hampton Beach Precinct who do not rent or lease their property may file for abatement of the portion of the property tax devoted to entertainment expenses of the Precinct by April 15, 2020. The form is available at the Assessing Office.
5. The dates to sign up for public office in the Town are Jan. 22nd to Jan. 31st noting the deliberative session is Feb. 1st.

Sel. Bridle asked for the public office requirement dates to be put on the website and Mr. Welch stated he would do so.

VII. Old Business
1. Petition for removal of Unitil’s Re-closure device on Pole #38, King’s Hwy & 17th Street

Mr. Welch stated he feels we do not have the experience to find one way or the other in this matter. He stated he believes this should go before the Public Utilities Commission.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED for the Board to Not Decide on this Petition due to lack of engineering expertise to properly evaluate the merits of the petition and the consequences for utility operations and customs, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Sel. Woolsey stated she appreciated the Town Manager’s comments but feels this is outrageous. She noted the distress to the neighborhood. She stated her vote against.

Sel. Barnes noted the petitioner is in the audience, could they come and discuss.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to ALLOW the petitioner to speak, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 2-3-0(Griffin, Bridle, Waddell)

Sel. Barnes stated she has been told by Mr. Lagano that what they did has not worked, noting it was done in late fall where sun is not as high as summer. She stated she agreed with Sel. Woolsey. She discussed a letter received from Unitil and the issue of the reclosers being put up because of development. She noted speaking with people in the neighborhood who did research and found the recloser being due to the condo’s at Little Jacks. She also noted the other reclosures in Town and it being an infrastructure issue, also noting the master plan and if any absorption rates have been hit. She discussed Unitil needing the reclosures, noting overdevelopment.

Chairman Griffin discussed Hampton’s population, noting it is the same today as in 2000.

Sel. Woolsey discussed part of the Board’s job being to advocate for residents, noting this is a sad situation.

Sel. Waddell read his motion again.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED for the Board to Not Decide on this Petition due to lack of engineering expertise to properly evaluate the merits of the petition and the consequences for utility operations and customs, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 3-2-0(Woolsey, Barnes)

2. Appointment to NH Coastal Resilience and Cultural and Historic District Commission

Mr. Welch noted we have a volunteer, Rayann Dionne. There was discussion and clarification that the appointment is Rayann Dionne.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to Appoint Rayann Dionne to the NH Coastal Resilience and Cultural and Historic District Commission, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Change to agenda: Discussion on Warrant Article for Master Plan.

Town Planner, Jason Bachand and Planning Board Chair and Vice-Chair, Tracy Emerick and Ann Carnaby. Mr. Bachand discussed the master plan steering committee. He discussed the
warrant article created, requesting $125,000.00 for the comprehensive update of the master plan. He discussed how they came up with that number, noting the steering committee’s support. He discussed the key points of the article, noting law requires it, enhancing quality of life for residents, and grant applications.

Mr. Emerick discussed the question of flooding and noted the state offering a grant to Hampton with its high risk for flooding. He discussed the vision section and the land use section of the master plan. He noted the article mentions flooding due to the funding from the state. He discussed bids and coordinated working with community and state.

Ms. Carnaby discussed the survey, the master plan, and needing public input. She noted the consultant proposal includes another survey. She discussed the 20 questions of the survey, and mentioned people owning property, but not living in Town can take the survey, and there is the ability to edit your survey. She noted people without computers or devises can go to the library to take it. She noted the survey will run through the end of January.

Sel. Woolsey commended all involved, noting its huge benefit to the Town.

Chairman Griffin noted being impressed with the approach, noting this the time. He commended Jason, Ann, and Tracy.

Sel. Barnes discussed taking the survey and loving the questions. She discussed watching the meetings. She asked how many have taken the survey to date, and the answer was that many more people have looked at the survey than have answered questions. There was discussion on needing more people to take the survey and moving it on the website to make it easier.

Mr. Bachand noted the meetings start with public comments and people are encouraged to come out and do so.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to Approve the Warrant Article for the Master Plan, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

3. 2020 Warrant Articles
   a. American Legion Post 35 Petitioned Warrant Article

Mr. Welch noted the Legion petition was voted down last year and they have petitioned again for grave marking flag holders. The amount is $6500.00.

Sel. Waddell asked what is needed and Mr. Welch stated due to the funds, the Board and the budget committee need to make a recommendation.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to Recommend the American Legion Post 35 Petitioned Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 4-0-1(Woolsey)

b. Step Up Parents NH Petitioned Warrant Article

Mr. Welch explained the petition being for $500.00 for Step Up Parents, for assistance to grant parents and relatives to be caregivers for parents with substance abuse issues. There was a discussion that this is first year and may go on the subsequent ones.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to Recommend the Step Up Parents NH Petitioned Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.
c. Question of Warrant Article for creating Business Licenses

Mr. Welch noted this is on for information purposes. He noted Hampton does not have business licenses, and the question is do we want to do this.

Chairman Griffin noted he has never seen the need for this and does not see it now. There was general agreement all around, with the consensus answer being no to creating business licenses.

Mr. Welch noted there are a number of warrant articles that have been discussed but it is not known where the Board stands. He was looking to see if the warrant articles continue and what date will formal recommendations be done. Winnacunnet Rd Reconstruction, $1,000,000.00 to come from capital reserve funds. Mr. Welch noted there is 1.9 million in the fund with 1.5 already earmarked for Rt. 1. He discussed the bill paying process for the fund, and the timeframe for engineering.

Chairman Griffin asked Mr. Welch his recommendation and the answer was you have to start somewhere and he recommends starting here.

Sel. Woolsey asked if this is the article that needs the non-lapsing language and the answer was yes.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with the Winnacunnet Road Reconstruction Warrant Article including Non-Lapsing Language, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

Sel. Barnes asked if the road has to be listed specifically in the article and Mr. Welch answered no, noted it is for all roads, but the money has to be earmarked for the road.

Chairman Griffin asked about what is happening to the streets at the beach. Mr. Welch noted it has been brought up several times, but there is not a warrant article for this year. He discussed the 12 million dollar bond that was done before he was here and there being no plan.

There was general discussion on those roads being done as opposed to Winnacunnet, as well as funding out of surplus, or adding them to this article.

Sel. Bridle asked about cost for the ones at the beach, and if the engineering has been done. Mr. Welch stated the engineering was not done, he also discussed updating bids, and previous state approval.

Sel. Bridle noted infiltration and asked if the million dollars was needed to start Winnacunnet Road. Mr. Welch explained the warrant article funding process for the road.

Chairman Griffin noted the construction down at the beach. Mr. Welch noted he could draft the warrant article.

Sel. Woolsey asked about her motion and Sel. Barnes noted that if there was another million dollar article, she was not ready to vote, not seeing the big picture. Sel. Barnes noted the Finance Director numbers of underspent budget, and the question she had for the auditors about a state requirement. She read the policy on the unassigned fund balance. She noted she made a calculation with the policy and the 12/31 financials. She discussed all her
calculations, a balance of uncollected taxes from the tax collector, what Mr. Welch has recommended, and what is left over. She stated she believes we could do another million dollar article, use the unassigned fund balance, and start getting these things done. She withdrew her second to Sel. Woolsey’s motion.

Mr. Welch noted interest would be needed for tax anticipation notes for funding.

Sel. Waddell stated he will not vote on opinion. He noted if we are going to discuss unassigned fund balance, he would like input from Mr. Welch and the Finance Director.

Sel. Woolsey withdrew her motion.

Mr. Welch discussed appropriation of state revenue, roughly $116,000.00 which is earmarked for Elaine Street. He stated that same amount will be coming in 2020, and we either have a warrant article to earmark it, or it goes to unassigned fund balance. He noted there are needs for Fire and Police and communications equipment, and he noted a drafted warrant article for that purpose. He recommended going forward with that and read the article.

Chairman Griffin MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with State Appropriation Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Welch discussed the Recycling Revolving Account and that it has been discussed, but not voted on.

Chairman Griffin asked if Mr. Welch recommended and he stated most assuredly.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with Recycling Revolving Account Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Welch discussed the Heating System on Second Floor of the Town Office and that it has been discussed, but not voted on.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with Heating System on Second Floor of the Town Office Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

There was discussion that the Fema Grant Program article has not been done. Chairman Griffin read the article.

Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with Fema Grant Program Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Sel. Barnes noted the 75% reimbursement and that the Town would be responsible for an unknown 25%. She will not be supporting it. She asked about Town input for how many people. Chairman Griffin stated he thought it was a standard thing.

There was general discussion on flooding and costs and Town commitment regarding the properties. Mr. Welch detailed this is not committing money, just setting the program up. There was discussion on the 25%, and eligibility for people. Mr. Welch clarified this is not to appropriate funds.
VOTE: 4-1-0(Woolsey)

Conservation Fund
Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE Going Forward with Conservation Fund Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

There was discussion on how this went last year.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Mr. Welch suggested taking up all warrant articles at the meeting of Jan. 13th.

VIII. New Business

1. Agreement with the NHDOT for assignment of Pipe Agreement railroad
Mr. Welch discussed the sewer pipe underneath the railroad, and the state agreement, and the excusal of the fee for ten years.
Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE the Agreement with the NHDOT for assignment of Pipe Agreement railroad, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. NHDOT Municipal Work zone agreement for paving Route 101 west from Tide Mill Creek to Brown Avenue
Mr. Welch explained this is standard and we have signed many times before.
Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE NHDOT Municipal Work zone agreement for paving Route 101 west from Tide Mill Creek to Brown Avenue, SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

3. Dedication of Annual Report - Warren White

VOTE: 5-0-0

4. Approval of Annual Report cover
Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the Approval of Annual Report cover, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Closing Comments
Sel. Barnes asked about cars without inspection stickers still parked in the High Street parking lot. Mr. Welch stated he would check on it. Sel. Bridle discussed the intention of the overnight parking at that lot.

X. Adjournment
At 9:10 PM, the Selectmen adjourned the Public Session on MOTION of Selectman Woolsey, SECONDED by Selectman Waddell, which passed unanimously (5-0-0).

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Rick Griffin, Chairman