

Note: Draft minutes are subject to corrections, additions and deletions.

March 16, 2020

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Jim Waddell, Chairman
Regina Barnes, Vice-chairman
Rusty Bridle, Selectman
Mary-Louise Woolsey, Selectman
Chuck Rage, Selectman
Frederick Welch, Town Manager
Jamie Sullivan, Deputy Town Manager

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Oath of Office – Swearing in of Elected Officials - CANCELLED

1. Town of Hampton Elected Officials
2. Hampton School District Elected Officials

II. Promotional Ceremony - CANCELLED

1. Lieutenant Michael Brillard to Captain
2. Firefighter Matthew Cray to Lieutenant

III. Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen

1. Election of Chairman & Vice-chairman

Sel. Bridle stated that he and Sel. Rage were sworn in today.

Vice-chairman Waddell welcomed Sel. Rage and welcomed back Sel. Bridle to the board.

Chairman

MOTIONED by Selectman Barnes to nominate Selectman Waddell as Chairman
SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Vice-chairman

MOTIONED by Selectman Waddell to nominate Selectman Barnes as Vice-chairman
SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 4-0-1(Bridle)

2. Appointment of Member and Alternate Member to the Budget Committee

Selectmen's Representative

MOTIONED by Selectman Bridle to nominate Selectman Barnes as the Selectmen's representative
SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Alternate Representative

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MOTIONED by Selectman Waddell to nominate Selectman Bridle as the alternate representative SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

VOTE: 5-0-0

3. Appointment of Selectmen's Representative and Alternate to the Planning Board

Selectmen's Representative

MOTIONED by Selectman Bridle to nominate Selectman Waddell as the Selectmen's Representative SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

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

Alternate Representative

MOTIONED by Selectman Barnes to nominate Selectman Woolsey as the Selectmen's Alternate Representative SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Announcements and Community Calendar

Chairman Waddell announced that Dep. Town Manager James Sullivan, Town Manager Fred Welch, and Police Chief Richard Sawyer would be giving a brief on the Coronavirus situation and then there would be question.

Dep. Town Manager Sullivan stated he would like to keep everyone apprised. He noted Chief Sawyer is the head of Emergency Management as Director. He discussed the Emergency Management team being on top of the issue all along, noting monitoring and meetings on a daily basis. He noted the biggest recommendation is that all follow the recommendations of the CDC and NH Dept. of Health and Human Services. He noted getting information from them as a source that is trustworthy, also discussing the team at Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, and noted this is a constantly evolving situation. He discussed what is new and mentioned the closing of schools and distance learning and all of the planning for students in need, and the meals program. He encouraged any questions to be directed to the schools, or anyone at the town. He discussed contingency plans for the town office, and asked the board to authorize the town manager to implement plans as necessary. He highlighted plans for the workforce, and noted the recommendation to reduce the public access to them, noting the challenge of DMV issues, but they are being worked on. He assured everyone that all will be done to keep everyone safe and with continuity of operations, noting we are prepared as best we can be. He encouraged everyone to remain calm and communicate.

Chief Sawyer noted this is an ever evolving situation and noted it's rapidness in changing. He noted the conference calls and the upcoming executive order by the governor to close bars and limit restaurants to take out only, with gatherings being less than 50 people. He discussed enforcement of those issues and challenges, and, waiting to hear from the Attorney General's office for direction, and also noted possible changes and more restrictions. He asked for people's understanding in why this is all being done, to stop this virus, and noting trying to avoid an entire state shutdown.

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Sel. Woolsey commented she appreciated what the dept. heads will be doing to protect employees and discussed office doors being locked. Dep. Town Manager discussed the transactions that can be done online, he noted people waiting in line would be an issue, and he discussed the possibility of using the drive thru, and noted planning the least restrictive options. She noted notices on Ch 22 and he discussed the banner scrolling, noting possible expanding on that with programing.

Sel. Barnes commented that there is much you can do online for those who are comfortable with that. She noted her comfort with management handling all that this will come to.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE Management to Make All Minute to Minute Decisions as Necessary relating to Coronavirus Issues, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

Sel. Bridle noted this is a fine idea, and we should leave it to management with keeping the board informed.

Dep. Town Manager reiterated some actions being worked on.

Sel. Barnes asked about employees being concerned and that they should be urged to seek out one of management staff. Dep. Town Manager discussed one memo already circulated and that health of employees is imperative.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Chairman Waddell asked Mr. Welch for comment. He noted what had been previously discussed and already sending one employee home who was at a health risk, with that person having a computer and working from home. He stated that if anyone has any issue at all, you can always call, noting we are protecting people that we serve. He encouraged people to do March car registrations online, you need your current registration and payment, with Chief Sawyer noting that a possible day or two late registration will not be a police priority. There was general discussion on state park plates or new registration and the consensus was to just call and ask for direction.

Chairman Waddell commented on checking on the elderly and asked if there was a list and the Chief noted there is a special needs list. Dep. Town Manager encourage all to check on family and neighbors preferably with a phone call, and to reach out if assistance is needed. Sel. Waddell asked who should they call, and the answer was call the police dept. for a wellness check. Dep. Town Manager also encouraged people to call if other resources are needed. Chairman Waddell asked about links to CDC, etc. and the answer was they are on the website, and again people are encouraged to go to official sources rather than social media.

Chairman Waddell asked if someone does not have a cell phone and they need help, could they drive up to the window and the answer was yes, that is correct, and he suggested that be on the website.

Sel. Woolsey asked if personnel has access to masks and hand sanitizer, and the answer was yes. The chief also discussed doing an inventory of protective gear, and that right now we have what we need, but are looking to procure more should this be a prolonged event. Dep. Town Manager also discussed contingency plans should that be necessary. Sel. Woolsey asked about state response being timely. Mr. Welch commented that the state is contacting us multiply times a day with updates. She asked about the upcoming tourist season, and the

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Chief noted there are going to be discussions on that tomorrow and he will receive the information, and there was general discussion that warm weather would bring tourists our way.

Dep. Town Manager reiterated good hygiene and social distancing, the more we do now, the better we will be on the other end.

Sel. Barnes asked about cases in our area. The Chief noted that information can't be shared, we can only know county numbers. He also noted that 911 is trained in questions to ask so that police and fire know any potential issues going in.

Sel. Barnes commented welcome back to Rusty and welcome Chuck.

Sel. Rage announced the Hampton Beach Village District has their yearly meeting on the 27th of March but they are limbo on the meeting waiting for guidelines from the state. He will let everyone know when he has more information and it will be on town, village, and Ch 22 websites.

Chairman Waddell discussed the rumor mill that is ongoing and encouraged people to check everything out themselves with the proper authorities. He encouraged everyone to help out the local restaurants, continue to get take out from those offering, it will help all.

VI. Approval of Minutes

1. February 3, 2020

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the minutes of February 3, 2020, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 4-0-1(Rage)

2. February 24, 2020

The minutes were approved at the March 9th BoS meeting.

VOTE: 4-0-0

VII. Consent Agenda

1. Bench donations to Parks and Recreation Department: Defranzo and Sullivan
2. Recreation Advisory Committee Appointments: Skip Webb, Full member; Bonnie Serowick, Alternate member
3. Re-appointment of TAC representatives to the Rockingham MPO Technical Advisory Committee: Chris Jacobs and Jen Hale

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE the Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

VIII. Appointments

1. Brian McCain, Chairman Cable Committee
 - a. Part-time Media Coordinator hourly pay raise
 - b. Part-time Media Coordinator increase from 20 hours to up to 28 hours a week

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Mr. McCain asked for a pay increase for the media coordinator, stating his experience and talent, and the excellent job he is doing. Mr. McCain is asking for an increase from \$20 per hour to \$25 per hour, noting what others in the position receive, reiterating his great job and that he could not speak more highly of him. Sel. Waddell asked where the money comes from and the answer was the cable fund. He also asked what the fund is for, and the answer is the studio, personnel and programming. Sel. Bridle stated he would make a motion and should he include the 28 hours as well. Mr. McCain explained how Mr. Gould is running out of time to accomplish tasks.

Sel. Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE the MEDIA COORDINATOR Increase in Salary and Hours, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey.

Chairman Waddell noted the importance of the increased hours if meetings go to only being televised.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Town Manager's Report

1. With the failure of Warrant Article 28, the Department of Public Works is preparing options for the repair-rebuild or rental of replacement equipment for solid waste vehicles for the remainder of the 2020 and later time frames for the collection of solid wastes. We should have those costs in the very near future.
2. Appeals from the valuation of property closed on March 1, 2020. Assessing has received 65 appeals from the present valuations on properties. A list will be provided to the Selectmen.
3. Bid documents have been released for the work to be performed in the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
4. Notices of the impending sewer replacement on Elaine Ave have been sent to residents. Work is expected to begin at the end of April.
5. Bid opening for the completion of Lafayette Road work is scheduled for March 12, 2020, and they have been opened. DPW noted there is \$1,450,000.00 available and one bid came in at \$1,991,650.00, from Massachusetts. The bid is being redone.
6. Please do not flush materials other than toilet paper, other items will plug the sewer pipes. Those other items should go in the trash, that includes items that say they are flushable.

Sel. Bridle asked about the Lafayette Road bid, and noted he heard part of the problem was working at night and should we look at that. Mr. Welch discussed that it is being looked at, but the traffic issue would be substantial, and he discussed signage from DOT regarding Rt 1 being closed. He agreed that they lost several companies bidding due to employees who did not want to work at night. There was general discussion of daytime paving.

Sel. Barnes commented that if we have to do it during the day, we do, and when can we start. Mr. Welch answered that it needs to go back out to bid, so sometime late summer. She discussed the stopping and starting of paving as well, and Mr. Welch noted the additional cost of that.

Sel. Rage discussed the impact of the virus on local businesses and the double whammy of the impact for this type of project and needing to look at that. Mr. Welch noted how late in

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the year it would be now, as we are almost in April. He also explained a change in the scope of the work.

Sel. Woolsey asked about the order of signing, and Mr. Welch answered it does not matter as long as three people sign. She reiterated nothing into the toilet but the toilet paper.

Chairman Waddell asked about agendas, asking if they could come out earlier than Fridays. Mr. Welch stated yes, they could do the cutoff a couple days earlier and get them out earlier. He also noted an agenda is for convenience and anything can be added under old or new business.

Sel. Woolsey asked about the cutoff and the answer was Wednesday at noon or Tuesday evening. She expressed her concern about meeting every other week.

Sel. Barnes thanked the Chairman for the agenda change and that she felt Friday didn't work and was happy this was brought up.

X. Old Business - None

XI. New Business

Sel. Barnes stated for everyone to stay safe.

XII. Closing Comments

Sel. Rage stated for everyone to stay safe, and he thanked the town of Hampton for their trust in him.

Sel. Bridle thanked the voters and encouraged all to work together.

Chairman Waddell asked all to stay safe and get your information from CDC and DHHS, and Ch 22 and the Town's website, and the Facebook pages for the town, the Rec. Dept., Pol. and Fire, and In the Know Hampton.

XIII. Adjournment

At 19:46 PM, the Selectmen adjourned the Public Session on MOTION of Selectman Rage, SECONDED by Selectman Woolsey, which passed unanimously (5-0-0).

James Waddell, Chairman