

June 24, 2020

7:00 p.m. Board of Selectmen - Electronic Meeting by teleconference

As Chairman of the Hampton Board of Selectmen, I have determined that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of several of the Board members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming we are:

We are utilizing a teleconference service for this electronic Meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public may join this electronic meeting by calling toll free **1-857-444-0744** and use the code **156034**. If anybody has a problem, please call **603-929-5805**.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. RSA 21-P:43

1. Vote to Accept Grant Funding in the amount of \$93,758.24 from NH Department of Justice to the Hampton Police Department

Chief Sawyer explained the grant being a Covid19 supplemental program to assist law enforcement with the Covid19 response. He discussed the application being for equipment, (a new ATV) and salaries, overtime for four officers.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to ACCEPT the Grant Funding in the amount of \$93,758.24 from NH Department of Justice to the Hampton Police Department, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Sel. Barnes asked about the ATV being used in the orange zone, which is the closed off area of Ocean Blvd and the chief explained yes, as well as the beach and parking lots, and they can use the vehicle where needed.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: abstain, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 4-0-1

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Dep. Town Manager Sullivan explained the need for a waiver for the ATV purchase.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to WAIVE the Purchase Policy for the ATV Purchased with the Grant Funding from NH Department of Justice, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Sel. Rage commented being glad we are purchasing locally.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: abstain, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 4-0-1

## II. Public Comment

Chairman Waddell noted the procedure for public comments.

Sel. Bridle offered condolences to Norm Silberdick on the passing of his son. Sel. Barnes noted going to school with Andrew and how sad.

Paul Moran, 6 N Street, discussed N Street, thanked Dep. Hobbs for getting a do not enter sign from Ashworth, but it is not enough. He commented on hoping the playgrounds in town can open. He asked for consideration in opening Ocean Blvd, noting it will be a disaster for the fourth of July weekend.

Kim Heintzelman, 7 Homestead Circle, noted she also owns property at North Beach and she is the chair of the Hampton Chamber of Commerce. She discussed the chamber working with the town, the village district and state agencies to open the beach safely. She noted seeing adjustments being made to maintain social distancing and capacity control. She noted challenges, but things are working and evolving, and noted state and local officials working on trash issues. She commented on continuing to be impressed by town departments, highlighting Chief Sawyer and team, and state police. She commented on us all, being in this together.

David Morrison, 30 King's Highway, commented on the current traffic pattern, thanking all who worked on, and it is working well. He discussed the rerouting of traffic northbound, to O Street, noting it is disrupting an entire neighborhood. He discussed he would like to see the northbound traffic routed to the Ashworth Hotel, to the two way Ashworth Ave. He discussed Sat. night at the beach, the chief doing a good job with the situation, and the amount of trash, thanking the beach businesses that helped in picking it up. He discussed the trash and recycling committee and that he was a member, and their recommendations regarding reducing glass, and trash tonnage, and receptacles for the beach entrances. He noted the board at the time did not implement and asked them to revisit the report and reestablish the committee.

Judy Holder, 72 Island Path, discussed Sat. traffic on 101 and parking being full by 11:30am, and offered a suggestion of a sign, notifying people when parking is full, signs at 101 and Ocean Blvd., also a turnaround area.

Maria Moran, 180 Ashworth Ave., commented on the one way traffic creating too many head on situations, nothing being done, and wanting Ocean Blvd. opened again, and discussed social distancing on Ocean Blvd. She discussed crowds, being afraid to go out at night, not enough police presence, and the clusters of people. She discussed there being two issues, Covid19 and traffic.

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John Schertell, 59 Ocean Blvd., noted he owned the Buc's Lagoon miniature golf course, and commented on appreciating everything being done on Ocean Blvd., and discussed the orange zone, with 2 businesses being excluded, his being one, noting people are not going past the barriers to those businesses. He asked if there was anything that could be reconfigured to address that. He discussed people going the wrong way and it being dangerous, and discussed the possibility of someone driving through the barrier.

Audrey Whitman, High Street, she thanked everyone involved for cleaning up the trash that has been a nightmare at the beach, noting general consensus being it is all a nightmare, and hoping there can be solutions to opening Ocean Blvd. She discussed being in traffic over 3 hours and pedestrians not using crosswalks. She asked about possible signs stating crosswalks strictly enforced, and asked about getting the trash under control.

Matthew Silver, 3 Ocean Blvd., discussed the closure of Ocean Blvd. He commented the traffic this past weekend being the worst he has ever seen. He noted this being due to Covid19, and commented he was at the beach Sat. and there was no social distancing. He commented that is the reason for closing the road, and we are protecting those who do not want to be protected, at a risk to others, noting no time for emergency vehicles to get to an incident. He discussed his concern of July 4<sup>th</sup>, noting fireworks. He noted feeling this should be overturned and things back to normal, at least with traffic, to avoid a safety issue.

Louise Campbell, 425 Ocean Blvd., noted being a new owner and had some observations. She discussed sheets and trash being left on the beach, the one way traffic pattern with racing happening, and kids with roman candles being dangerous.

Kirk Camblin, 377 Ocean Blvd., seconded all the previous comments on traffic and Covid19 things, and thanked the BOS and chief for this opportunity, discussed feeling like this is the wild west, finding the state of the beach, with a 100,000 people during a pandemic, highly irresponsible and a risk. He discussed the enforcement of bad behavior, noting parking and agreeing that fines should be increased. He discussed insurmountable trash. He discussed fireworks, noise and safety issues, noted there needs to be solutions. He discussed restrictions on businesses, but there seems to be none at the beach, with no masks or social distancing, and that is irresponsible for the health and safety of the community.

Donna Adams, 377 Ocean Blvd., she discussed people using their private property as a rest room, using water and picnic tables and illegally parking, and not being able to leave from Friday to Sunday. She commented feeling like a second class citizen, noting appreciating all that DPW and state people are doing, but the beach is beyond belief and bordering lawlessness.

Jacqueline McCallum, 24 Tuttle Ave., commented on agreeing with previous caller, fireworks are dangerous, discussing the dryness of the marsh and that danger with the fireworks, and concern about a possible serious fire. She discussed an incident on Monday, trying to social distance, and being made fun of by a group.

Sen. Bob Preston, commented on his history at the beach, a past chamber president, and disagreed with their position that the closing of Ocean Blvd. would have a calming effect. He discussed residents being inconvenienced, and discussed what people are seeing at the beach, it not being the family beach of the past. He noted hearing a comment regarding weed in front of the casino and feels that opening Ocean Blvd. is the proper thing to do. He

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discussed that the people are being denied the opportunity to get to the beach and the sand. He noted appreciating all that has been done, but if present condition goes on, it will be a honkytonk beach.

Denise Witham, 12 Kentville Terrace, she discussed a letter she wrote regarding the beach, and at the beginning liking no music at the beach, noting that changed last weekend. She noted she can't get deliveries at her home, and the traffic pattern not working for residents in that area. She noted fireworks are disturbing, near the older homes there, all week long. She discussed hearing families no longer want to come to Hampton Beach,

Jenny Jones, 359 Ocean Blvd., she commented that everything that has been said is true and disheartening and sad. She noted that she hoped all were listening and will do something about it. She commented on renting her property but feeling guilty that people that are paying top dollar are not getting what she thought they were.

Bill Cassen, 12 O Street, he discussed trying to get a crosswalk at the end of O Street, noting speaking with DOT earlier. He noted the danger in the area and asked if something can be done. He discussed the traffic on O Street, and commented that perhaps the Selectmen should meet every week.

Warren Kelly, 377 Ocean Blvd., he seconded previous comments and noted his concerns of a lack of police presence and fireworks out of control, and noted the fireworks being close to them, and dangerous. He discussed the traffic and wondered what will happen if a safety vehicle needed to get to a condo complex. He discussed parking issues, people moving cones, and no enforcement. He thanked the Selectmen for listening.

Marguerite Guilmette, 18 Tuttle Ave., commented being totally disgusted with everything she sees. She walks several times a day and sees everything, reiterating what others have said. She noted being scared to walk and commented the music at the shell brought families and now all there is, are hoodlums. She discussed problems with police having to come. She noted wanting to see police presence and discussed the trash being disgusting.

Linda Lambruno, 7 H Street, and owns other property on H Street. She noted talking with many since May 28<sup>th</sup>, discussing her street has become the worst for her business, noting the state lot not allowing traffic, and it shutting her down. She noted the streets and Ocean Blvd. need to go back to where they were and the situation now is creating anarchy. She commented this may be her last year at the beach and it is heartbreaking. She noted being in the same place as back on May 28<sup>th</sup>; July 4<sup>th</sup> is coming, and family customers are cancelling, not wanting to come here.

John Kane, 115 Ocean Blvd., discussed last weekend, having to call the police three times for brawls in front of his house, stating he never got a response and that more police are needed. He noted police being understaffed and being afraid of possible riots.

### III. Appointments

1. Chief Sawyer, Police Department & Deputy Town Manager Sullivan
  - a. Beach traffic and safety issues

Chief Sawyer addressed staffing, noting 34 full time officers. He noted 36 allowed, but not filling 2, due to budget restraints with all that is going on, and not optimal for training. He discussed part time ranks and the difficulties to fill them, with having 30 for the season, it is

short staffing, with many officers having less than 2 years of experience. He discussed many people commenting on staffing issues, with wanting something done. He commented he understands, and he has been asking for six years for more staff. He discussed default budgets and his frustration, noting if you want police presence you need to support a budget that contains it. He discussed a great relationship with the state police, they have been here all along, and noted the misinformation that the National Guard was here. He noted that untruth went out to people in emails and it was totally false, and noted fighting misinformation was a battle. He discussed budgets not going anywhere, a possible citizen's warrant article, but another of those failing, and a grant for officers not being invoked, commenting he can only spend what is allotted, and he is doing the best he can.

He addressed the comments of no police presence and noted that it did not reflect the activity, summons, and arrests they have made. He noted having to deal with the numbers they have now, communicating with the state police, and the safety commissioner, both assuring him they will provide the assistance that will be needed. He discussed the workforce issue and overtime not being wanted, which is also a national issue, and noted recruitment and retention being worse. He discussed the difficulties of being a police officer today, noting the "defund police" sentiment in the country. He discussed citizens needing to be a part of the solution, getting involved and helping. He reiterated that people passionate about police presence, need to support funding it at town meeting.

He discussed comparable statistics regarding the traffic on Ashworth Ave., noting 5 reportable accidents, 3 nonreportable, since May 28<sup>th</sup>, and last year, 10 reportable and 7 nonreportable, noting facts state fewer accidents. He noted because of the traffic change, people are more attentive. He noted the traffic plan was designed by DOT engineers and people not following the rules. He discussed the volume of traffic and agreed it is more than usual and if we had opened to the normal pattern, there would still be more traffic. He noted more people coming here being the perfect storm, the pandemic, social justice issues, unemployment, and the warmest June in eight years. He noted the challenges, and not having a surplus of officers to address them all, and noted other communities having the same, so they are not a resource as in the past.

He discussed what can we do now, noting parking lots and the beach. He noted a conference call with state officials looking for solutions, one being closing parking lots at a certain hour, as well as the beach (sand). He noted the governor has authorized the south parking lot to close at 8pm, with ticketing at 9pm and possible towing, and the beach closing at 9pm. He discussed fireworks, noting, not knowing of a structure fire due to them, and noting you can't purchase them in Hampton, possess, or display, noting purchases in Seabrook. He discussed more manpower to address that and other hoodlum behavior.

He discussed masks are not required, federal or state. He discussed social distancing, seeing it at the beach, and families being together not having to social distance, and restaurants allowing six people to a table, and allowing for common sense. He noted feeling that opening up the traffic would not help the situation, noting in his experience traffic adds frustration and possible violence and would be the worse thing we could do, and reiterated the situation from Saturday night, and a past issue. He reiterated issues that are dealt with every June. He noted this weekend will be hot and he is hoping to address some parking issues, with a plan to change the Church St. lot and make it residents only, with employee permit parking, and using Island Path and Ashworth for others. He reminded the public that

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selling spaces on their private property is a violation of town ordinance and asked for help with compliance. He noted the alcohol issue seems to be better this year, with establishments being more cautious, and the issues that are happening are coming from the beach. His recommendation to the board is to leave Ocean Blvd. as it is currently. He noted he will speak to District 6 regarding the crosswalk at O Street.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE Chief Sawyer Authority to Obtain a Crosswalk at O Street, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

Chief Sawyer noted a prior suggestion of two way traffic on Ashworth Ave. He commented on looking at that, and it being a safe, good idea, but would take a month to implement and would not be practical, but could look at it for the future. He discussed the suggestion of signs for full lots, and DOT does have some message boards that does this, and he will use our boards as well and reiterated the traffic gridlocks.

Dep. Town Manager Sullivan discussed that on Monday morning, after the weekend issues, town and state officials were on the phone looking at solutions, and much of what the chief has suggested has come from that. He discussed the trash issue and the state being overwhelmed, asking for help. He reiterated immediately looking for solutions and the governor being involved. He discussed the beach, state park, and traffic, and solutions due to the governor's orders. He talked about conversations with the state regarding trash, and with DPW staff. He discussed the trash trucks driving to the transfer station, and that time constraint with traffic, and a solution being a trash truck. He discussed DPW augmenting the trash pick up with reimbursement from the state, as they continue to look for further solutions. He reiterated the chief's discussion on the O street issue, and the possible two way traffic on Ashworth, and the practicality of such.

Sel. Woolsey discussed the volume of calls and emails she has received. She discussed the state park trash, being fed up with dealing with state waste, noting if they are open for business, they need to get rid of their own waste, and she does not want town employees picking up state waste. Dep. Sullivan clarified she wants us to not assist the state with trash, and she said yes and reiterated she wants the town to not do anything on state owned property. She asked if there is a consideration to shut down the whole park, and can we stop people coming in when it is full. The chief answered that if there is an uptick of Covid19 cases, the potential for shutting down is possible, it would be the governor's consideration. She commented she meant if the state is short staffed, they should close the state park, and he noted she should direct that to the governor. She discussed special part time officers and staffing for police and fire and dedication problems. She reiterated her emails from the upset public, and not wanting DPW to pick up state waste.

Sel. Barnes asked if DPW has more employees. She noted the state being in a predicament, but so is the town. She noted the chief discussing 30 part timers and he commented he is allowed up to 70, but highlighted the last 10 to 15 years of serious decline. She discussed the town picking up the slack, and agreeing with Sen. Preston, and it being a nightmare and not the same. She discussed the governor's orders and the task force that had no resident representation. She discussed roads at Whites Island, noting the taxpayers on Bradford and Boston paying taxes of over \$200,000.00 with no one listening to them. She discussed what

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they are experiencing, noting it is not normal. She discussed having to deal with this all, and still having the same staff, noting that having the state troopers is helpful, but they must be going through the same thing. She noted not agreeing with no police presence as she has seen them when she is there, going there due to her concerns. She discussed representing the taxpayer and noted how busy she is with emails and phone calls. She discussed outdoor seating, not thinking it would be for the whole summer, setups looking permanent. She reiterated no one thinking of the taxpayer, discussing the governor should be talking with everyone and the JOP means two parties, discussing. She noted departments doing a great job with whatever is thrown at them, the state seeing what Hampton has to do. She discussed going to the beach being heartbreaking and the residents want the road open, which should be relayed to the governor. She reiterated the situation on O Street, and the, what if, an emergency vehicle needs to get there. She discussed wanting the road either open or closed, and discussed social distancing and personal choice. She urged the board to reopen 1A, noting it is what the public wants.

Sel. Rage noted he is also getting complaints, but getting positive comments as well. He noted thinking there are solutions and closing the sand area at night will help. He commented on being at the beach a long time and that June is always not good. He noted clientele changing after the fourth of July, hoping that helps. He noted with his hotel, people can't wait to get to Hampton, mentioning families. He noted there are issues and tweaks are being made, noting possible speed bumps on O Street. He discussed certain beach area issues and that some things need to change. He discussed the history of traffic gridlocks, and reiterated the perfect storm situation last weekend, and discussed the staffing problem. He noted doing whatever it takes for the chief to get more staff and Dep. Sullivan noted there is funding, but can he get the people. Sel. Rage noted agreeing with Sen. Preston, but highlighted his confidence in dept. heads and town officials and we are tweaking things and finding solutions. He noted we shouldn't change everything after one weekend and disagreed about the state trash, as he sees them taking ours. He stated the playground is opening on 6/29. He noted music will not be on the shell right away, but they are working on another area where people can listen from the beach and on a smaller scale. He discussed we are all working together, and the parking app that is available.

Sel. Bridle discussed living in town the longest and working at the beach, and noted problems every June, but amplified now due to all that's going on. He discussed being at the beach many times during the day, and all are working for constituents. He discussed the traffic issues and referenced several past issues with traffic and crowds. He discussed trying to get more firefighters and police officers, some with grants. He discussed we need support for that staffing and discussed the misinformation issue. He discussed dept. heads and town officials working on this and used a phone upgrade analogy to explain ongoing changes. He discussed the trash situation and it has to get done, even if we have to do it. He encouraged the bickering to stop, and noted several things in the works for help for the O Street residents. He reiterated it not being a good season, police are understaffed, and the need for help. He noted, let's continue working at this, and highlighted it was done for safety and social distancing.

Chairman Waddell commented the sky is not falling, noting the beach has problems, but is not a total disaster. He discussed staying flexible and finding solutions, and making tweaks. He noted businesses helping, and the state having a problem with their trash vendor, and

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solving that problem, not just leaving it. He discussed situations where he has seen police giving parking tickets. He discussed too many cars, and we don't just close the beach, we find a way to solve the problem. He discussed a family beach and presenting a positive image. He noted public comment times with the governor and the reopening task force. He discussed the fireworks problem, noting it is national as well this year, and reiterated finding solutions to the problems.

Sel. Woolsey commented on an email she received and discussed Concord normally having 30 to 40 part time workers helping, and they have 6 to 8 this year. She reiterated if the state can't staff the state park, they need to close it.

Sel. Barnes asked about turning Winnacunnet and High street to resident only, noting parking apps are rerouting traffic. They discussed if there are more out of state people parking there, and she noted excess partying going on, on several streets. She discussed the 1A closure happening too fast and issues not being just one weekend, but all of June. She reiterated issues the residents are having, and we are dealing with the same problems with less staffing. She reiterated getting more help for the chief but all towns having the same issue. The chief discussed the program with other towns, civil disobedience training, and the possibly of bringing in other agencies from further out, but highlighted the possibility of liability issues. He noted in this extreme time, it might need to be looked at and he will explore. She asked about south of M street, will it be staying that way, noting the speed of people. The chief discussed speeding, even before the pandemic and nationally out of control, and highlighted that with the current challenges, there are less officers to do normal patrolling functions. Sel. Barnes read a comment from a constituent on the island regarding reclaiming their neighborhood. There was general discussion on the comment.

Sel. Bridle agreed that at Winnacunnet and High Street there have been out of state cars, and parking between the two pump stations.

Chairman Waddell asked if anything can be done for the two businesses past the barrier and the chief discussed the process of determining where things are blocked, noting a parking lot on M Street. The chief discussed trying to accommodate as many as possible and those challenges, contradictions from a business owner, and trying to do the best he can. The chief reiterated the perfect storm and suggested we should get through the fourth of July with the way things are now, then reassess, discussing the historical reset of the atmosphere at the beach after the holiday. The chief discussed people are unhappy, but he has heard positives, noting some businesses saying it's the best June, but commented we also have to think of residents. He discussed having to make tough decisions, and sometimes there is no good decision, and he reiterated his suggestion.

Dep. Town Manager Sullivan reiterated these are tough decisions and asked the board for direction on the traffic pattern and if DPW should be helping with trash. He discussed being mindful of impacts.

Sel. Bridle asked about attaching some signage to the barriers for the businesses and the chief said yes, but discussed people stealing signs, and the comments that are made and there was general discussion on what the comment read earlier meant, and general discussion on going through proper channels.

Sel. Rage commented and gave credit to people taking away their own trash and helping out.



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Sel. Woolsey reiterated her position on the state low staffing and seeing the whole thing shut down. The chief commented on his preference of closing the state park, before opening Ocean Blvd.

Chairman Waddell asked about the tweaks for traffic and the chief answered they are working on lighting on O Street, the speed bump, and the crosswalk. He asked about an officer stationed on O Street and the answer was they could try that.

Sel. Bridle commented Friday and Saturday being the worst times. The chief highlighted his plan using extra troopers to try and address the fireworks issue, and he addressed the state will be assigning people to us as needed.

Chairman Waddell asked for suggestions.

Sel. Barnes asked about police cruisers being visible when people come in to enter the beach, and the answer was, that works, but southbound is the bigger problem right now, and discussed a parking lot attendant solution and traffic control posts, noting using summer help and state troopers. She asked about the corner of Island Path and Brown Ave., and the answer was to have traffic control on Brown Ave. and Ashworth, and they will try to have someone there.

Sel. Rage noted he liked the idea of officers, at the places discussed, doing traffic.

Sel. Bridle suggested reaffirming their vote.

Dep. Sullivan asked about message boards. The chief noted the state has boards and he has three boards at this time that can be utilized with handheld. He recommended the purchase of more boards. He discussed getting a quote and the previous ones were paid out of detail fund, which is healthy. He will research for next meeting.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to CONTINUE the Traffic Pattern with Additional Tweaks Discussed and Reassess after the Fourth of July, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to ASSIST with STATE PARK Trash Collection with the understanding we will be FULLY REIMBURSED, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Sel. Barnes commented she will agree, not wanting trash to build up, but wants the public to see the town is the government organization who pulls itself together, while being understaffed.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: no, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 4-1-0

IV. Closing Comments - None

V. Adjournment

At 21:33 p.m. Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to adjourn the Public Session, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

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Chairman Waddell called the meeting adjourned.

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Jim Waddell, Chairman