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October 3, 2022

Posted: Library, Town Offices, Town website

7:00 p.m. Board of Selectmen's Room

PRESENT: James Waddell, Chairman  
Chuck Rage, Vice-chairman  
Russell Bridle, Selectman  
Richard Sawyer, Selectman  
Amy Hansen, Selectwoman  
Jamie Sullivan, Town Manager

#### SALUTE TO THE FLAG

##### I. Public Comment [Time limitation of three (3) minutes]

Molly McCoy, 10 Katie Lane, representing the Historical Society. She discussed the second annual fall festival and invited all to the event on Sunday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

##### II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Sel. Hansen wished her oldest child Jack a happy 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Sel. Rage announced that at the Historical Society event there will be someone handing out popcorn.

##### III. Approval of Minutes - None

##### IV. Consent Agenda

1. Cemetery Deed: Dana Newcomb 2/I-4/4/1-4
2. Leased Land Commission: Jeannine St. Germain
3. Parks & Recreation Advisory Council: Michele Kulberg, Eric Kulberg

Sel. Sawyer MOTIONED to APPROVE the Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Sel. Rage.  
VOTE: 5-0-0

##### V. Appointments

##### VI. Budget Review

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1. Budget Presentation: Jamie Sullivan, Town Manager & Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director

TM Sullivan noted there will be a slide presentation and he gave an overview of the budget process. He discussed the department process, the Town Manager review, the Board of Selectmen review, the budget committee review, the deliberative session of town meeting, and finally the March town meeting vote. He discussed many challenges for this year and explained the default budget. He noted a significant challenge for the police department. He discussed numbers for electric costs that are not included in this presentation as they are still being assessed.

The budget slide presentation began with a proposed budget of \$34,086,978.00 and the default budget at \$33,006,508.00. TM Sullivan outlined some cost increase challenges that are included.

Dir. Pulliam continued the slide presentation and reiterated the electric costs not included. She noted the presentation will go on the website. She discussed gas and diesel costs and items not categorized. She discussed a comparison of budgets using a graph slide and gave a breakdown of categories. She gave percentage differences between the budget and the default. She discussed revenue and finalizing the revenue budget to get ready for setting the tax rate. She presented a graph of a five-year comparison and explained.

Sel. Bridle reiterated the vote in March.

Sel. Rage discussed utilities and the town manager reiterated increases while keeping services level.

Sel. Hansen asked if there was a baseline in the budget for electrical costs and the answer was yes.

Sel. Sawyer offered the observation of voters approving warrant articles and all of that comes into the budget the following year. He discussed how maintaining just default budgets causes falling behind and having to play catch up. He reminded all that we must maintain what the people voted for.

Chairman Waddell noted it was a nice presentation and how important it is to remain transparent and show people exactly where the money goes. He discussed being sensitive to people on fixed incomes and people having a hard time.

Dir. Pulliam offered slides regarding the DPW budget offering totals, breakdowns, and comparisons.

2. Department of Public Works: Jen Hale, DPW Director & Joe Lynch, Deputy Director

There was discussion to go section by section.

Sel. Hansen asked if contracts meant sub-contractors. Dir. Hale noted it is generally contracts for services.

Dir. Hale noted that there are things that are related to the warrant article votes, but also other things that have come up and explained.

TM Sullivan asked to take the old business item out of order as a member of the audience was present for the item.

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1. Vote: RSA 41:14-a Proceedings 28 Nor'east Lane Map 99 Lot 4 Deed Restrictions #3 & #4 Deletion

TM Sullivan discussed and noted a motion for the Board. He noted two public hearings had already been held.

The purpose of this instrument is to memorialize the above modification going forward, effective from the October 3, 2022, date of the Selectmen's vote.

Sel. Sawyer MOTIONED to APPROVE to authorize and modify deed restrictions as read by TM Sullivan, for the 28 Nor'east Lane Map 99 Lot Deed Restrictions #3 & #4, SECONDED by Sel. Rage. VOTE: 5-0-0

Dir. Hale continued with the DPW highway budget and discussed wages of all lines and noting overtime wages slightly down and explained. She explained reimbursed maintenance and discussed career incentives. She discussed detail wages, and telephone and fiber costs and others as being department wide. She discussed drug and alcohol testing, noting some changes and noted the electric for highway is last years budget, and noted the same for heating fuel. She discussed water, rentals and leases which include truck leases, uniforms, and supplies. She noted building expenses and the gasoline line item, explaining the usage and cost, with diesel being the same formula. She discussed vehicle maintenance, replacement equipment, and federal storm water requirements, explaining the increase. She discussed the engineering services budget lines.

Sel. Bridle asked about vehicle maintenance and noted not going up, is it due to newer vehicles. Dir. Hale noted yes, it is a balance. They discussed.

Sel. Rage asked about telephone and internet, noting competitive again. Dir. Hale noted the cell phone policy change and comcast drops for the new facility.

Sel. Sawyer asked about the OT wages down 19%. Dir. Hale reiterated senior staff moving on and the average cost of OT hours has gone down.

Chairman Waddell pointed out that things they can control have gone down and things they can't control have gone up.

Dir. Hale discussed paving and reconstruction, noting the highway block grant, and all that is involved. She discussed hired equipment which includes Sun Valley beach raking. She discussed lawn care and that it is townwide and noted fuel increases included. She discussed tree care and removal and its costs. She discussed street signs and replacing them. She discussed sewer and drain work, repairs, and maintenance. She discussed sidewalks and curbs noting they are included in projects. She discussed snow and ice removal and noted the increase in salt.

Sel. Sawyer asked about the lawn care and the fuel surcharge. Dir. Hale noted the inflation cost and explained contract fuel surcharges. He noted will that be throughout the budget and the answer was yes.

Sel. Hansen noted budget driven by fuel and utilities.

Sel. Bridle discussed streets signs, noting a good job being done but older signs still out there. There was general discussion on signage. Sel. Bridle asked about drainage construction and the line amount being low. Dir. Hale explained the repairs. He asked about

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hired equipment for the winter and discussed planning for a possible big winter. Dir. Hale noted this was a slow year and we are already at budget, explaining the increase for next year.

Sel. Rage asked where the striping is, and the answer was in repairs and maintenance. He discussed seeing people go the wrong way on Ashworth Avenue. There was general discussion. TM Sullivan and Dir. Hale discussed sign pollution.

Chairman Waddell asked about hired equipment in cleaning and maintenance, noting the 5-year average much higher. Dir. Hale noted the average skewed due to a culvert repair.

Dir. Hale discussed wastewater treatment. She discussed wages, career incentives, engineering, and the vertical asset management maintenance fee. She discussed lab analysis and an anticipated state mandate for testing. She discussed staff development and noted electric and heating fuel are last years numbers pursuant to any change. She noted several accounts that have stayed the same. She discussed sludge tipping fees, noting a contract with Waste Management. She discussed grease disposal, supplies and expenses, and vehicle maintenance, noting that line is down and explained. She discussed chemicals noting a large increase relating to the copper study. She noted new equipment and replacement equipment are the same.

Sel. Bridle asked about the water 5-year expense. Dir. Hale noted a large leak a few years back, and a better tracking system. He asked about where the hired equipment amount for the replacement of truck 85 is located. Dir. Hale discussed the hauling and Waste Management Co.

Chairman Waddell asked about the copper and where is it coming from. Dir. Hale noted from the water that comes into the plant, noting old copper pipes. He asked about the past industrial discharge problem and the answer was that has been resolved.

Dir. Hale discussed solid waste collection, noting wages, career incentives, and the recycling and hauling contract. She discussed staff development, truck leases, uniform rental, and memberships and dues. She discussed household hazardous waste days. She discussed vehicle maintenance and noted budgeting for carts are trash only.

Sel. Sawyer noted costs up and the association with fuel increases. Dir. Hale discussed what may be in any new contracts.

Dir. Hale discussed solid waste disposal. She discussed inspections, gas monitoring and wells pertaining to our permit, and noted landfill maintenance. She discussed waste tipping fees, noted the contract, and explained what it is. She discussed what goes into the recycling fund and discussed waste hauling.

Dir. Hale discussed the transfer station. She discussed wages and noted the warrant article employee and discussed calculating overtime. She discussed the new line item, transfer station yard services and detailed what it is for. She noted compactor services, staff development, and reiterated electric and fuel the same as previously discussed. She discussed maintenance lines staying flat.

Sel. Rage asked why supplies and expenses was so high this year and the answer was a compactor failure.

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Chairman Waddell asked if this is an area where people could help by not having as much trash and waste. Dir. Hale noted that the more we recycle, the less trash and less money we have to pay for. He discussed people's responsibility.

Sel. Bridle asked if there should be a line item for education. Dir. Hale discussed timing regarding education. Dep. Dir. Lynch discussed Dir. Hale's quarterly newsletter and what a great vehicle that is. There was general discussion on recycling.

Dir. Hale discussed sewer collection and disposal. She discussed sewer line maintenance, noting supplies and expenses. She discussed the Exeter sewer agreement and the wastewater maintenance line and what that includes.

Sel. Rage asked if the Exeter sewer agreement was metered. Dir. Hale explained the formula used. There was general discussion on this years amount spent.

The Board congratulated Dir. Hale on her recent award.

Dir. Hale discussed the paving contractors starting on Columbus Day.

Chairman Waddell asked Dir. Pulliam about website posting. TM Sullivan and Dir. Pulliam noted they could put tonight's information on the site tomorrow. There was discussion on when the Board should vote, and the decision was at the end of the process. It was clarified that the entire draft budget document will go on the website tomorrow.

## VII. Town Manager's Report

1. The new recreation building has received its certificate of occupancy.
2. Asking if the Board would like to include our elected tax collector and town clerk in our proposed short- and long-term disability benefit.

Sel. Sawyer asked if we have a number. TM Sullivan noted that the total for all non-union employees would not exceed \$20,000.00 per year.

Sel. Sawyer MOTIONED to APPROVE to included elected officials, town clerk and tax collector, in the proposed short- and long-term disability benefit, SECONDED by Sel. Hansen. VOTE: 5-0-0

Sel. Hansen MOTIONED to APPROVE to authorize the town manager to enter a contract with HealthTrust to provide short-term and long-term disability insurance to the town of Hampton's non-union employees working at least twenty hours per week, and meet the eligibility requirements of the program, and the Board authorizes the inclusion of the elected town clerk and tax collector in the program and said premiums are not to exceed \$20,000.00 for all non-union employees for the year 2023, SECONDED by Sel. Rage. VOTE: 5-0-0

3. Would the Board like to consider that during the budget season we start these meetings to 6pm instead of 7pm.

TM Sullivan explained the process and benefits and that Channel 22 is ok with it. The Board consensus was agreement to change.

Sel. Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE changing the start time of Selectmen's meetings to 6pm from now until February, SECONDED by Sel. Hansen. VOTE: 5-0-0

Sel. Hansen noted she toured the new rec. building with the rec. council, and it looks great, and everyone had a lot of great things to say about it. She discussed an echo issue and a

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possible person to reach out to. TM Sullivan noted they are already working on such. There was general discussion regarding that issue and others with the building.

VIII. Old Business Completed earlier

Vote: RSA 41:14-a Proceedings 28 Nor'east Lane Map 99 Lot 4 Deed Restrictions #3 & #4 Deletion

IX. New Business

Sel. Sawyer discussed there is a Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, and he has a conflict, and noted Sel. Rage as the alternate also has a conflict. Sel. Hansen noted she is free.

Sel. Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE Sel. Hansen to be an alternate for the Planning Board meeting on Wednesday, SECONDED by Sel. Rage. VOTE: 5-0-0

X. Closing Comments

Sel. Sawyer commented on liking the work from the department heads, the finance director, and the town manager regarding the budget. He noted it will be a tough year and hopes everyone understands.

Chairman Waddell noted he agreed and hopes people pay attention to why it is going up.

XI. Adjournment

Sel. Bridle MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting, SECONDED by Sel. Hansen.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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James Waddell, Chairman