

## **Minutes of February 3, 2016 Emergency Public Session**

### **Present**

Rick Griffin, Chairman  
Rusty Bridle, Vice Chairman  
Philip Bean, Selectman  
James Waddell, Selectman  
Town Manager Fred Welch  
Assistant Town Manager Jamie Sullivan  
Town Attorney Mark Gearreald  
Public Works Director Chris Jacobs  
Deputy Public Works Director Jennifer Hale  
Police Chief Richard Sawyer

The meeting convened on an emergency basis at 3:45 p.m. in the Selectmen's meeting room to discuss the force main failure identified yesterday between the Church Street Pump Station and the Hampton Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Town Manager Welch described the series of events leading up to the discovery as set forth in an e-mail from Mike Carle to DES from earlier today.

Jennifer Hale relayed the test results found from DES and DPW fecal coliform testing at various Taylor River, Tide Mill Creek, and Hampton River locations. She indicated that water sampling from State and Town beaches has been performed and will be available by 9:00 AM tomorrow. Additional sampling is planned tomorrow for the Plaice Cove area.

Jennifer provided the Board with details on who had been contacted regarding the events from federal to State to Penguin Plunge officials. Fred noted that the Town has no authority to make the call regarding the Penguin Plunge going forward as that is an event on the State beach. She noted that waste is now being pumped to the Wastewater Treatment Plant though an alternate force main line that is parallel to the failed line.

Fred indicated that a press release is in the works to be issued shortly.

All the members of the Board of Selectmen gave their perspectives on the situation. Selectman Bridle indicated that we should not act precipitously without data from the pending sampling. Chairman Griffin felt that care should be taken not to damage the summer beach season without cause. Selectman Bean wondered if the Town Beaches should be closed pending receipt of water quality samples. Chief Sawyer indicated that the one individual who swims daily on the Town Beach at Sun Valley would be contacted as to the situation.

Selectman Bean moved, seconded by Selectman Woolsey, to disclose to the public the specific readings encountered in sampling already completed. The motion carried unanimously.

Depending on the results of the water sampling that are to be received tomorrow morning, the Board may meet once more on an emergency basis to address any action that need to be taken with respect to Town beaches.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rick Griffin, Chairman, for the Board