

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
April 26, 2004 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** William Sullivan, Chairman, Virginia Bridle, James Workman  
Cliff Pratt, Rick Griffin  
James Barrington, Town Manager  
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

**I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Selectman Cliff Pratt led the audience in the flag salute.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Hampton Beach Commission is Thursday, April 29 at 6PM at the Beach Fire Station.

Mr. Workman passed along the appreciation of the teachers at the Hampton Academy Junior High to the town officials that hosted students last week on "Take your son/daughter to Work Day". Mr. Barrington noted that he hosted Phillip Munson and enjoyed sharing his workday with him.

The next meeting of the Future Land Use Committee is Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. The committee is working on the land use chapter of the Town's Master Plan. The meeting is open to the public.

There will be a reception honoring Charlotte Preston's many years as a Supervisor of the Checklist and Colonel Paul Lessard's years as Town Moderator at the Galley Hatch Conference Center on May 6<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 PM. Tickets are available through the Town Clerk's Office.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

Town Manager's Report

Unitil

Mr. Barrington thanked Unitil for removing the sneakers hanging over the power line at the transfer station. Also, the majority of the street lights in Town Center have previously been changed to the High Pressure Sodium. Mr. Scott Wade is checking on the status of the remaining Mercury lights.

Police Facility

The Police Station construction continues to make progress. Mr. Barrington noted that the communications tower is going up and the interior walls are making rapid progress. Most of the masonry has been completed and the concrete flooring has all been poured.

Town Clock

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he met with representatives of the Historical Society on Friday morning to show them the Town Clock. They expressed interest in working along with the Heritage Commission to seek ways to preserve and restore the clock as a part of the Town's history. The Historical Society indicated that they would make the clock a topic of conversation at their May meeting.

Legislative Office Hours

U. S. Representative Jeb Bradley will have a representative present at the Town Office on Tuesday, May 4, between the hours of 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Any citizens with questions, suggestions, or concerns may come by to visit.

Comcast Concern

Mr. Sullivan noted that he was just informed by a local motel owner that he was facing an 80% rate increase from Comcast, with a 30-day period to sign. He noted that someone like Representative Bradley would be the one to discuss that with since legislation has removed much of the rate control from the local level.

Seabrook Beach Restoration

Mr. Barrington reported that he has received an e-mail from the Town of Seabrook regarding an upcoming public hearing on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the Seabrook Town Hall to discuss the beach restoration and maintenance plan for the Seabrook Beach area.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Barrington reported that Mr. Hangen has informed him that there was a catastrophic structural failure to the central driving mechanism of one of the two primary clarifier tanks. He is also investigating whether some insurable loss may have occurred to assist in the financial burden of the necessary repairs.

The tank has been pumped and it does not appear to be as serious as originally feared. The primary clarifier is a circular structure with an arm that rotates within the center structure that skims the scum from the top to separate the liquids and solids. The arm got stuck while the gears continued to grind and bend the arm. It tore the catwalk loose on one side and at the outer rim where the catwalk was connected to a concrete slab, the concrete was damaged. The steel structure in the center has some severe twisting of the metal. A crane is scheduled to come Tuesday to remove the part and determine what will be needed to repair it.

Mr. Barrington said that they believe that the process controls will allow the treatment plant to operate within permit parameters for the short term. A number of variable circumstances may change that opinion. The EPA and DES have been notified of the structural failure so they will be aware of the new circumstances at our plant. Mr. Barrington said that the concern is with the upcoming tourist season and they will be moving very quickly to get the clarifier up and running.

Mr. Sullivan asked if it is safe to say that the treatment plant is at 50%. Mr. Barrington said that this clarifier provides just one step in the overall process, but he would not want to operate in the peak summer season with just one clarifier. Mr. Griffin asked what the policy is on deferred maintenance for the clarifiers. Mr. Barrington said that work is always ongoing on parts of the wastewater plant, with the attention lately focused on the secondary treatment process. He did not know when the last maintenance was on the clarifiers.

Drakeside Road

Mr. Barrington said that he was not able to provide a follow up report for Drakeside Road. Mr. Pratt asked if the Town Manager knew when Drakeside Road will be paved. Mr. Barrington said that the weather is a factor but he is not sure what the status of the drainage problem is at this time.

2. Use of Town Buildings Policy

The Board reviewed the policy for the use of town buildings as prepared by Attorney Gearreald. Mr. Workman said that he thinks the policy is good. Mr. Pratt agreed and recommended that the Board adopt the policy.

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen adopt the policy for the use of Town buildings as presented.

**Mr. Pratt SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

School Resource Officers

Mr. Workman asked if the Winnacunnet School Board has met. Mr. Barrington said that they met last week and Chief Wrenn answered questions the Board has regarding the SRO. Chief Wrenn explained that

the school board had originally agreed to pay for part of the cost of the Winnacunnet School Resource Officer but the Town has not asked for any assistance. Chief Wrenn said that now they need to ask. Chief Wrenn will follow up with them after they have a chance to discuss it at their next meeting. Mr. Pratt said that if the Winnacunnet School Board does not come to a decision regarding the funding of the officer by this summer, than the Board of Selectmen will come to a decision.

#### Transfer Station

Mr. Workman asked what the weekend hours of the Transfer Station were. Mr. Barrington said that the Transfer Station is still on winter hours and they are posted at the Transfer Station, on Channel 22 and in the Town Report. Mr. Barrington said that no changes have been made to the hours.

#### Summer Meeting Schedule

Mr. Sullivan had said that he wanted to talk about the summer schedule of the Board of Selectmen but he would like to wait for Selectman Bridle to be present to determine the schedule. The School Board will meet on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Barrington said with the proposed schedule, the only meeting that is not a scheduled school board night or holiday that the Board would not be meeting is August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

*Mrs. Bridle arrived at this time.*

#### Meeting with Budget Committee

Mr. Pratt said that the Budget Committee meeting was productive in some ways and unproductive in other ways. He understands that the Budget Committee wants to know what is going on in town, but he felt that they need to avoid policy discussions and concentrate on budget matters. Mr. Sullivan said that for the benefit of the town, all of the boards and committees should interact, but their unique purposes should not overlap. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the Budget Committee is not a policy setting board and the Board of Selectmen would be happy to answer questions regarding policies at the Board of Selectmen meetings. Mr. Sullivan agreed that it was a very productive meeting, but their target should remain the budget.

Mr. Pratt said that many voters don't grasp the impact of the articles that they pass each year. He noted that with the tax exemptions and the Hurd Farm easement articles that were passed this year, he expects that the tax rate will increase 9%. Mr. Barrington said that the rate of increase based on those articles has not been calculated yet. Mr. Barrington noted that when analyzing the tax rates over the past several years the town's rate has not been the culprit in the increases; the statewide property tax has had the largest impact. Mr. Barrington told the Board that another key point to realize is that the County tax, although a small part of the budget has been going up at a faster rate than the other rates. While the local government has some protection from unfunded State mandates, the County is not subject to that protection, so costs that can't be shifted to municipalities are being shifted to the County.

Mr. Sullivan noted that when budget cuts are necessary, it is often the routine maintenance that is deferred.

#### 2004 Surplus Property

Mr. Barrington said that the Board needs to declare the materials, as outlined in the lists provided by the departments as surplus material prior to the items being sold.

**Mr. Pratt MOTIONED** that the Board of Selectmen declare the list of materials surplus property.

**Mr. Griffin SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Sullivan said that there are six vehicles, some steel roll offs, a time clock and some recreation equipment. From the police department there are 62 bicycles, 68 cell phones, 12 pagers as well as some furniture items. The auction will held in late Spring and the Town Manager will determine the best method and follow up with the Board.

Summer Camps

Mr. Workman reminded the public that May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the first day of summer camp sign ups for the Recreation Department.

Parking Lot

Mrs. Bridle said that the beach was very busy this past weekend with a concert and she asked why the Ashworth Avenue parking lot was not opened. Mr. Barrington said that with the construction of the police facility, the use of the lot was limited and it was determined not to be economically feasible to open the lot.

**V. MINUTES**

The minutes of April 19, 2004 were accepted as written.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Grace Moynihan, 101 Hampton Meadows said she does not know what is causing the delay in repaving Drakeside Road. Mr. Barrington said that the contractor has installed a solution to divert the spring to the sides of the road and is waiting for engineering certification. Mr. Sullivan said that he believes they are waiting to see if the solution works. Mr. Pratt said that he understood that that they were waiting for a good rain to determine the effectiveness. Mr. Barrington will follow up on this and the Board assured the resident that they are anxious to get the road repaired.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** that the meeting be adjourned. (7:40 PM)

**Mrs. Bridle SECONDED**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman