

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
MINUTES
October 11, 2004 7:00 PM**

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

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Deputy Chief Steve Benotti led the audience in the flag salute.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Barrington told the Board that during a visit to the wastewater treatment plant last week to review the justification for the head works overhaul that is included in the 2005 budget proposal, he asked about the second primary clarifier. Mr. Aslin reported that they have begun the plans to replace the central shaft in that chamber due to similar deteriorating conditions that caused the other unit to fail back in the spring. We will be replacing the second unit this fall during the off season.

Bond Sale

Finance Director Dawna Duhamel reported to the Town Manager that she has put out the RFQ for Bond Counsel services, it was advertised in the Union Leader and direct mailed to several firms. It is due back October 20. Citizens Bank, the town's Financial Advisor established the schedule to work toward the sale of bonds for the Infrastructure and the Hurd Farm Conservation Easement. The bond sale is being planned for the first or second Thursday in December. This will be for the non-SRF eligible portion of the infrastructure project. Mr. Barrington said that he expects to then issue Bond Anticipation Notes (BAN) for the Hurd Farm Conservation Easement with permanent financing being finalized in early 2005.

Beach Management Plan

Mr. Barrington told the Board that he has been approached by Ms. Sue Manzi from Seabrook regarding a proposed joint wetlands permit application for a "Seabrook/Sun Valley Beach Long-Term Management Plan". She is seeking Hampton's participation as a co-applicant in the permit. The document is rather lengthy, but having reviewed it, the bulk of it relates to Seabrook. Mr. Barrington told the Board that he is cautious because of the experience we had with Seabrook this past spring when they failed to clean up the horrible materials that were dumped on our Sun Valley Beach as part of their beach restoration project. However, having said that, he told the Board that he agrees with the philosophy of having a long-term management plan. It seems clear from reading their document that Seabrook has made assumptions for Hampton without our input, and the design and intent is clearly aimed at protecting Seabrook's shoreline. Hampton has been included because they want the town to invest in their plan to prevent erosion in Sun Valley from extending into Seabrook beaches that are subject to restoration. Mr. Barrington requested some policy guidance from the Board on the direction he should take in dealing with this plan. The full document is available in the Selectmen's mail room.

Beach Infrastructure

Mr. Barrington reported that the town has received word that the approval letter at DES has been signed. In the meantime, Mr. David Zoppo has delivered the physical copies of the contract with his signature already affixed, so that we can execute and deliver them as soon as the DES approval arrives.

Drakeside Road

Mr. Barrington told the Board that Mr. Doug Mellin reported that Pike Industries began putting down asphalt on Drakeside Road Friday.

Cable TV Policy

Mr. Barrington reported that Dover's cable television policy is being reviewed by Hampton's Cable Committee and a copy has been given to the Board of Selectmen for review.

Hurd Farm

The main thing that is being watched on the status of the Hurd Farm transfer at this time is the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes for the temporary financing with permanent financing being done in 2005. This will result in lower interest rates as well as the potential to bundle the sale with a potential fire station bond

District Court

Mr. Barrington will be meeting with representatives of the State on October 18th to tour four potential sites for a temporary District Court.

Authorization to purchase McRae Property

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen, having completed the RSA 41:14-a process, authorize the purchase of the McRae property off Barbour Road at the amount agreed upon by the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Halloween

As is the tradition, Trick or Treat will take place on October 31st from 5:30-8:00 PM. There will be a costume parade through the Town Office on October 29th.

Planner

Mr. Workman asked if the Planner position has been advertised. Mr. Barrington said that it has been advertised in the Union Leader and the Fosters.

Community Center Survey

Mr. Workman asked if the results of the community center survey have been received. Mr. Pratt said that the committee has a draft of the results, but not the final results. There will be a public meeting in the near future to review the results.

Beach Management Plan

Mr. Workman stated that he would be opposed to the joint project with Seabrook for a beach management plan. He said that Hampton should have been involved with the initial planning. The Board members agreed that Hampton should not participate.

Constitutional Amendment Question

Mr. Pratt told the Board that he has received calls from residents asking about the question on the absentee ballot regarding a constitutional amendment. Mr. Barrington said that he has not seen the questions and will look into it for the Board's next meeting.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Election Warrant
2. New lease, termination and assignment of lease – 5 J Street

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen approve the consent agenda.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Budget Review

Revenues

Mr. Barrington said that the revenues shown are estimates and the Board of Selectmen finalize estimated revenues prior to setting the annual tax rate. Parking lot revenues are down this year because of the need to use the parking lot area for the staging for the new police station construction, but that revenue should increase in 2005.

Mr. Barrington reported that the tax rate setting will be delayed because a form that the school is required to submit by September 1st still has not been received by DRA. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if Mr. Engelbach has been called about this. Mr. Barrington said that several calls have been made and as of this date, the form has been faxed to DRA but a tax rate setting date will not be set until the original of the form arrives and has been reviewed. Mr. Barrington said that the Town will have to borrow funds in anticipation of the taxes in order to pay the school.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen approve the revenues in the amount of \$7,155,107.00 as presented in the budget.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked about the \$2.8 million that is shown as anticipated before the end of this year. Mr. Barrington said that some of that is the income from the Trust Funds and anticipated State and Federal funds that will be received.

Fire Department

Chief Lipe introduced Deputy Benotti and Deputy Silver and Department Secretary Jane Cypher. Chief Lipe said that there are no significant changes in the budget he is presenting. Mr. Sullivan noted that the budget that was presented to the Board of Selectmen has a large overall increase for several reasons and the Board is working hard to present a reasonable budget to the voters.

Administration

Mr. Sullivan asked why Deputy Silver's salary had been transferred back into the budget from the special revenue fund. Chief Lipe said that was his plan although the Town Manager removed it during his review. Mr. Barrington explained that the salary was properly charged to the SRF and he returned it to that fund, he added that there was also a new secretarial position proposed in this section that he removed.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that Fire-Administration be approved at \$166,710.00.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Fire Suppression

Chief Lipe said that the wages have been adjusted 3% for the contractual increase.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen reduce line 140 by \$22,500 to \$202,502.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that line 146 be reduced by \$9,058 to \$81,525.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED (Pratt)**

Mr. Workman noted that both of those motions reflect 10% decreases to overtime accounts.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that Fire Suppression be approved at the amended amount of \$2,812,661.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Fire Prevention

Deputy Chief Silver noted line 740 contained a new piece of equipment, an all hazard safety trailer. He explained that he has written a grant application for this purchase. Mr. Workman asked if the \$30,000 shown is the towns percentage or the total cost. Deputy Silver said that he has applied for \$49,000 and if the grant is awarded the town will be responsible for about \$4,900. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the town does not get the grant then they will not get the trailer. Chief Silver said that was correct. Chief Lipe added that the town should know prior to the public hearing process if the grant has been awarded.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to reduce line 140 by \$1,397 to \$12,574.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Training

Chief Lipe noted that in the training section there are funds that will be offset by a grant that has been approved for a wellness-fitness program.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the Board approve \$13,223.00. for training.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Communications

Mr. Barrington told the Board that the overtime account in the communications section is different than the overtime in other sections. He explained that the fire alarm operators work the same hours as the firefighter's shift that they are assigned to, but due to the Fair Labor Standards Act they must be paid on an overtime basis for the hours worked over 40. The overtime is actually part of their base wage. The fire fighter's work 42 hours a week, over an eight week period.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that the communications section be approved in the amount of \$205,629.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Repair Services

Mr. Workman asked what repairs were planned for Engine 4. Chief Benotti said that the plan is to repair the body in order to prolong its life. Mr. Workman asked if the town was going to maintain two boats. Deputy Benotti said that they were. He added that the small boat does not get used much, but there are applications for it. Mr. Sullivan asked if the ladder is going to pass inspection this year. Deputy Benotti said that they hoped so, but they know that they need to plan to replace the ladder in the near future, it is 25 years old and requiring a lot of repairs. Mr. Sullivan said that from his experience and knowledge, he would like to commend the Public Works mechanics, Kenny and Dennis, for the great job they do on the town vehicles.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the repair services section be approved in the amount of \$101,539.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Fire Stations and Buildings

Mr. Workman asked if the Chief will be bringing forward a warrant article for a new fire station. Mr. Barrington said that he will be bringing one to the Board for consideration.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked what the percentage of the increase was in the Fire Department budget, without considering the impact from the benefits. Mrs. Duhamel said it was an 11% increase. Deputy Benotti noted that fuel costs have increased and have impacted the budget.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the fire station and buildings section be approved in the amount of \$77,924.00.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to reduce line 140 by \$26,082 to \$234,736.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Sullivan asked what the impact of this reduction would be to the department. Chief Lipe said that this account pays for overtime coverage when a firefighter is out sick or on vacation. This account insures staffing levels stay the same every day. Deputy Benotti explained that the department fills positions “one for one”. Chief Lipe said that he has managed to trim this account back over the years. At this time the vacation overtime account is 79% spent and the sick leave overtime account is 97% spent at this time. Chief Lipe said that the account was increased for 2005 because there are people that will be earning more vacation.

**VOTE: 3 FOR
2 OPP (Pratt, Sullivan)**

Total Fire Department

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the fire department amended total be approved at \$5,168,632.00.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Emergency Management

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that Emergency Management be approved in the amount of \$3,000.00.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the SRF article for the ambulance does not pass for some reason, where would Deputy Silver’s wage come from. Mr. Barrington said that he plans to propose that along with the SRF account articles, that the Board insert a contingent article to raise and the appropriate the required amount, noting that if either of the articles does not pass, the service will not be provided. Mr. Workman said that the contingent article should say that the service “may” not be provided. He said that the funds would have to be found within the budget for ambulance services. Mr. Sullivan said that the SRF accounts work and that is the message that needs to be made to the voters.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (8:00 PM)

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman