

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
OCTOBER 2, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman  
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman  
James Workman  
Rick Griffin  
Bill Lally  
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager  
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

**REGRETS:**

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

§ To accept grant funding for Mosquito Control Activities for the Town of Hampton

**Public Comment:**

The Chairman of the Mosquito Control Commission, Anne Kaiser came before the Board to explain the funding process. Funding is available through the State to the municipalities with mosquito control programs to combat EEE and the West Nile virus. The State will reimburse up to 25% of the costs for larviciding and adulticiding. Health Officer, Kevin Schultz and Mrs. Kaiser have requested \$9,931.82 in funding but this figure is not limited and more money may be available. Funds should be accessible, 30 days after the application is approved.

School personnel have reported their concerns about the number of mosquitoes in and around school yards. They are seeking additional control methods to achieve better results. Unfortunately the Mosquito Committee has no money available for further control. Mrs. Kaiser suggested the school seek money from other resources (i.e. Town) for the time being.

As a member of the Mosquito Control Commission, Richard Reniere requested that the Selectmen accept the funds from the State for extra protection for Hampton residents against EEE and West Nile.

Tom Gillick, State Representative (Rockingham District 22) addressed the Board. He is quite certain that additional funds will be available for towns and that Hampton may receive more than the requested \$9,931.82.

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to accept the mosquito grant funding through the State of New Hampshire. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

**Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and introduced those in attendance.**

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

## **II. APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. TOM GILLICK - FIRE STATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Chairman of the Fire Station Committee, Mr. Gillick came before the Board to present the Committee report. Mr. Gillick noted that the Committee addressed the location and the building requirements of the proposed beach fire station. Two different components were considered by the Committee because it was too difficult of a task without keeping in mind the required size of the structure. Mr. Gillick mentioned that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will be making recommendations toward the funding for fire station.

The Committee recommended that the new station be located at the present site on Ashworth Avenue. They suggested that alternate locations be as close to but not south of the intersection of Ashworth and Brown Avenue. Alternative sites fitting this suggestion would include the former police station with the building facing Brown Avenue, the area south of the new police station and north of the western extension of the current Ashworth Avenue Town parking lot and the Colony Motel property on Ashworth Avenue. The Committee also discussed the Island Path parking lot between Ashworth Avenue and Brown Avenue but recognizes that this location would require major street alterations.

Mr. Gillick explained that the building would be considered a substation and would require a 40 by 60 foot apparatus floor with two bays measuring 20 feet. He noted that there should be an auxiliary ground floor wing, 15 by 60 foot to provide equipment storage, walk in medical facility, and hose tower. The floor space will need to be at least 3,000 square feet of floor space for crew quarter. In addition, there must be at least 12 on-site parking spaces for the crew.

### **BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE HAMPTON FIRE STATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lally questioned if the State Park had been considered as a potential site. Mr. Gillick said that the location is too far south and was not considered.

Mr. Moore inquired about the Island Path parking lot as a potential location. Mr. Gillick noted that it would be very difficult to maneuver through the congested traffic.

Mr. Griffin asked if the group considered a meeting space for the Precinct. Mr. Gillick would rather that he did not get into that debate.

Mr. Gillick said that the Committee members worked well together and positions that were taken were from the heart.

### **Hampton Beach Village Precinct**

John Kane, Gary Kubick and Maureen Buckley represented the Hampton Beach Village Precinct. They came before the Board to present their views on the Fire Station Committee's report.

Mr. Kane noted that five years ago the Precinct voted to get out of the fire service and turned the apparatus over to Town. Last year the Fire Station lease expired. The Precinct and the Town entered into a 38 month lease agreement last April. Precinct voters were in agreement to renew the lease but not give the property away because they are interested in using the land for other ventures.

Mr. Kane provided the Board with pictures of Brown Avenue when it is under water from high tide or heavy rain storms. He noted that any structure built in the area would need to be at least four feet above the flood level. Mr. Kane would like the Board of Selectmen to consider the Precinct voters wishes to keep a short term lease.

Mr. Griffin asked if there has been space considered on the second or third floor of the proposed station. Mr. Kane said that there are no present plans to include room for the Precinct.

Mr. Kane noted that the Precinct will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary this coming year and that the Fire Station is a symbol of what the Precinct is all about.

Mr. Griffin would like to see the station were it is now as it is in a good centralized location to access various areas of the beach.

Mr. Lally is in agreement with Mr. Griffin that the location of the fire station is in the best proximity to reduce response times. He acknowledged that there is a problem with flooding in the area.

Mr. Kane reemphasized the importance of the Beach Fire Station to the essence of the Precinct. There are close to 500 people who belong to the Precinct and many of them do not believe that the station in the current location is in the best interest of the Precinct. Mr. Kane noted that there is over a half a billion dollars in real estate. Mr. Griffin asked how many people in the area are registered voters.

Chairman Bridle-Russell is certain that the Board and the Precinct will continue a lively dialog that will result in a positive outcome.

### **Hampton Beach Fire Station Committee - Minority Report**

William Sullivan and Richard Ballou have had careers as firefighters and have worked out of the beach fire station. They do not share the recommendation of the main Committee. They are in agreement that the geographic location of the proposed station is correct from a response time standpoint, however, the size of the building they do not agree with. Their concern is that the proposed dimensions are too small. If a larger station was built with the foresight that would accommodate the likelihood of larger equipment in the future there would be a need to build on a large location such as the Ashworth Avenue parking lot. The minority committee believes that the most logical solution would be to construct a new facility behind the existing station and once it is complete remove the existing building.

Mr. Lally asked if the minority group considered Island Path or the Church Street parking lots. Mr. Sullivan explained that it would be near impossible to get to an emergency with the congested traffic in those areas. Mr. Lally said that as policy makers they are enslaved to that central area.

Mr. Gearreald stated that the CIP Committee will be meeting next week to discuss sequencing the development of the station.

Mr. Moore is not in favor of purchasing additional land to offset lost parking or for an alternative location. He suggested that perhaps the area immediately south of the police station could be used and that the share the investment of the grading that has already been done.

### **III. MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2006**

Page 2 – third paragraph under the #2 appointment - should read \$62,000 instead of \$6,200 and \$32,000 rather than \$3,200

Page 5 – Second Motion – delete “with the caveat that negotiations be complete by March 2007”

The minutes of September 25, 2006 stand as corrected.

### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Legal Assistant Wanda Robertson and Mr. Gearreald inspected Ashworth Avenue on Thursday to document the utility pole situation. So far, Verizon appears to have made no progress in moving its lines from the old poles to the new. FST Engineer Dave McNamara has sent an e-mail to his contact at Verizon to ask when Verizon will be mobilizing to do that work.

In a related subject, all of the old fire alarm lines at Hampton Beach were taken down by our Fire Department on September 11. In response to Selectman Workman’s question, fire alarm boxes in other parts of Town that have not been covered will remain active, but only until October 1, 2006, when they will no longer be functional.

Mr. Gearreald has signed the substantial completion form signed by FST and Zoppo Corporation, indicating that substantial completion of the Beach Infrastructure project occurred on July 28, 2006. This means that Zoppo has 60 days from July 28 to achieve final completion.

With the able assistance of Finance Director Michael Schwotzer, the CIP Committee is making progress toward concluding its work for this year.

Mr. Gearreald is pleased to report that our new Welfare Officer, Michelle Kingsley has had a good first week.

Repairs will be commencing shortly to our skate board park facility. Dyana Martin has contracted with a company that has experience in pouring the specialized form needed to make the park work safely and correctly.

The Local Government Center has proceeded to place ads in major regional newspapers seeking additional applicants for our Town Manager position. The application period will remain open until October 13, 2006.

Mr. Gearreald is pleased to report that Cable Committee Chairman John Nickerson is recovering well in Portsmouth Hospital from an operation early this week. Mr. Gearreald went to visit John last Wednesday morning. We all wish him well.

Representative Nancy Stiles would like to address the Board of Selectmen to discuss her involvement in the bill she is putting forward to the legislature for the 1A Bridge. It was suggested the Representative Stiles be invited to a Selectmen's meeting in November after the budget process is complete. Mr. Gearreald has also sent a letter to David Scott with the Department of Transportation requesting clarification of the specific input they are seeking from the Board for the 1A Bridge.

### **BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Moore asked if Zoppo has completed the items on the punch list. Mr. Gearreald stated he is not certain of the status of the work but he is aware that there are sewer inverts that are still being worked on. Mr. Moore would like to see the financial status of the infrastructure project by next week. A contract has been signed with Fay, Spofford and Thorndike (FST) on the west side streets to get the design and bidding process done.

Mr. Moore and Mr. Griffin inquired about the status of Kings Highway. There is still no activity.

Mr. Griffin said that he has received complaints about dogs on the soccer field. He said that the residents are concerned about children playing in an area that has been soiled by dogs and questioned if signs could be put up requesting no dogs allowed. Mr. Gearreald noted that Portsmouth has a dog park and perhaps one could be considered in Hampton.

Mr. Griffin asked who is in charge of policing dogs on the beach. Mr. Gearreald will consult with the Animal Control Officer. He will also report back to the Board regarding the number of unlicensed dogs.

It was reported that the light is still flashing continuously at the spur road near the High School.

### ***OTHER OLD BUSINESS***

Mr. Griffin mentioned that the University of New Hampshire is interested in becoming involved in the proposed planning for the Hampton Beach State Park improvements. Items that University personnel and students may be able to help with, is a cost analysis for the additional use of police and garbage disposal with the proposed Earth, Sea and Science Center as well as the increase in tourists to the area.

Trick-or-treating will be on Halloween, October 31 from 5:30pm to 8pm.

Mr. Griffin reported that planning for Candidates Night has started.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. 2007 Budget Review – Fire Department

Fire Chief Hank Lipe and Deputy Chief of Safety Chris Silver came before the Board to present the Fire Department's 2007 budget.

Chief Lipe reported that the fire alarm boxes have been completely shut down today.

The highlights of the budget include the following: the reinstatement the Deputy Chief of Operations position, the part-time secretary and the four firefighter positions as of June 1, 2007. Other items include a large hose and fiber optic cables installed between the police and fire stations and a new voc alarm (parts are no longer being manufactured).

Chief Lipe noted the budget decisions were based the continuing increasing in the demand for service.

Mr. Moore pointed out that the Board would very much like the proposed budget to be approved by the Budget Committee and the voters. In general there has been a 3% increase for most departments but there has been an increase of 11% in the fire department. Mr. Moore fears that this increase could be a deterrent for many voters. He would like to see the total budget for the Fire Department to be lower than the presented.

Mr. Moore inquired about how the overtime figure was derived. Chief Lipe explained that he assesses storm coverage in past years and the need for additional personnel for special events at the beach (i.e. fireworks and the Seafood Festival). He also accounted for the reinstatement of the four firefighters, as it will impact the cost of overtime.

This year there were more calls for ambulance service than in past years. Hampton provided 22 mutual aid services and received 133 from other communities. Chief Lipe pointed out that the Town is losing approximately \$50,000 in revenue as a result. Mr. Moore also noted that there are costs involved in providing ambulance service.

Mr. Moore encouraged the Fire Department to consider the functionalities of combining, dispatch with the Police Department.

Mr. Griffin asked if the Precinct or the Chamber of Commerce contributes to the cost of having additional firefighters on duty during the Seafood Festival and the fireworks in the summer. It is a Board policy that the Precinct and the Chamber do not contribute to the additional cost of firefighters, as the events significantly stimulate the local economy.

Mr. Lally asked the Chief if there was grant funding available to cover the costs of the installation of fiber optics. Chief Lipe said that there is Homeland Security grant money available and the deadline for the grant is at the end of November.

Deputy Chief Silver discussed the ambulance billing system with Comstar. In 2000 the Board of Selectmen authorized the Finance Director to write a letter to Comstar to annually adjust a certain percentage above the set rate. Approximately four years ago, Medicare changed the billing structure and established a regional rate which was approximately 30% above the national. This current billing structure will be phased out in 2007 so for that reason Chief Silver recommends the Board maintain the rate at the national rate plus 30%.

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to adjust the ambulance rate to 30% above the new national rate. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Chief Lipe noted that the Fire Department's budget would have a 4.3% increase if the four firefighter positions are removed from the budget. These positions could be put on the ballot as a warrant article to allow the voters to decide.

## **2. SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF KATIE LANE**

The Woodland Estates development requires a new subdivision road. Mr. Gearreald has reviewed the deed and it appears to be in acceptable form. Through past Town votes the Board has the authority, after holding a public hearing may vote to accept any dedicated street. The deed proposed does correspond with the plan and it is in acceptable form for acceptance.

**Mr. Workman MOTIONED** to schedule a public hearing on proposed acceptance of Katie Lane at the October 9, 2006 meeting. **Mr. Lally SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

## **3. INITIATE RSA 41:14 – A PROCEDURE REGARDING PUMP STATION OFF KATIE LANE**

A bond was put in place by the Planning Board until the pump station was properly installed. There is a need for two public hearings to be held. RSA 41:14-A has very explicit specifications regarding public hearings and the vote. Two public hearings must be held at least 10 but not more than 14 days apart and the Board of Selectmen's vote shall take place no sooner than 7 days nor later than 14 days after the second public hearing.

Input from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission has been requested and once the reports are received the public hearings will be scheduled.

## **4. BARON ESTATES ROAD NAMING**

The Planning Board received a request to name the road in the Baron Estates Subdivision (now called White House Farms). The developer prefers the name White House Farm Lane because of the white farm house located on the property which has historic significance and will be the centerpiece of the subdivision. On January 18, 2006 the Planning Board conditionally approved the subdivision based on the compliance of the street name approved by the Board of Selectmen. A list was sent along with a letter from Mr. Barrington suggesting the developer consider names on the list or reply to the Board with the significance of the names they have selected for consideration. The Board would like the developer to keep with the historical importance of the Baron family who first established the property. A letter will be sent to Easterly Surveying to ask the developer to consider "Baron" be included in the street name.

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Marilyn Wallingford sent a letter to the Board requesting that they accept her resignation from the Shade Tree Commission.

**Mr. Griffin MOTIONED** to regretfully accept Marilyn Wallingford's resignation from the Shade Tree Commission. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

Mr. Lally commented on the letter received today by the Hampton Beach Beautification Committee (HBBC). The Committee requested authorization from the Board to receive assistance from the Public Works Department and the Recreation & Parks Department. As mentioned in the letter from the HBBC, "it has been stated previously that the money that was originally to be allocated within the infrastructure project for landscaping is no longer available;...", the Town Manager will seek an answer from the Finance Department to whether or not this money was allocated.

Mr. Griffin stated that many local businesses may be interested in donating a tree in effort to beautify the beach area. He also volunteered to take charge of seeking and collecting the names of businesses who would like to donate a tree.

## **VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

No items

## **VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Brian Warburton**, works for the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), and he came before the Board to clarify some comments that were made earlier in the meeting. He said that often people do not understand what DRED does or what property is owned by the Town or the State. Mr. Warburton assured the Board that the State would not consider building a fire station at Hampton Beach State Park. There are many federal and state requirements to protect habitat in the area. Disrupting wildlife habitat by building a structure would be prohibited.

Mr. Warburton also discussed the huge problem of dogs on the beach. This year he has posted over \$3,000 worth of signage stating the laws regarding dogs. He said that people do not uphold the law and it cannot be controlled.

He thanked Mr. Griffin for acknowledging the University of New Hampshire's interest in the Hampton Beach improvements. Mr. Warburton stated that the HBBC has done a fabulous job by adding flowers along the Boulevard. He was very encouraging and supportive of the Committee members' in their efforts to create additional vibrancy to the beach area.

Mr. Warburton discussed the rescue training workshops provided by the State that the Fire, Police and Recreation Departments partake in. He also noted that the State provided additional trash pickup every night to

ensure a tidy environment. Mr. Warburton is willing to keep the Board of Selectmen updated on events happening at DRED via email.

**Fred Rice** commented on the naming of the roadway to the Baron Estates Subdivision (now called White House Farms). He stated that the original owner of the property was a Baron from Germany and that "Baron" should be considered for the street name.

Mr. Rice also discussed the interest that UNH has in the Earth, Sea and Space Center as indicated in an article printed in the August by the Portsmouth Herald.

Mr. Rice talked about the origin and purpose of the Hampton Beach Area Commission to bring all stakeholders together. He believes that the only input that the NH DOT is seeking regarding the 1A Bridge from the Board of Selectmen and other affected parties is what they are in support of; a minimum repair, (that would last about eight years) or a substantial repair which would last approximately 20 years.

Mr. Rice was quite surprised that the Hampton Beach Area Commission's letters were not mentioned during the fire station discussion. The Beach Master Plan needs to be considered during fire station discussions and questioned why the Board would consider giving up parking spaces and revenue.

Mr. Rice then referred to the Beach Beautification Committee and stated that the group is not part of the Hampton Beach Area Commission and questioned why they were requesting assistance directly to the Board of Selectmen and was doubtful that the Beach Precinct representative was aware of the letter. He requested that the Commission be involved in issues related to the beach.

Chairman Bridle-Russell requested that letters to the Board need to be into the Town Manager's office prior to Thursday so that the Board has time to consider the subject matter.

**John Christenson** is a Precinct member and does not want the fire station taken away from them. He emphasized the importance of fire protection in the beach area. Mr. Christenson also noted that all property owners should have the right to vote even if they are registered in another town or state.

**Geannina Guzman-Scanlon** brought to the attention of the Board that the Beautification Committee is a subcommittee of the Precinct. John Kane is the representative from the Precinct on the Hampton Beach Area Commission and he is aware of the letter that she submitted to the Selectmen. It was recommended by the Town Manager's officer that a letter requesting assistance to plant trees be put in writing. The Committee needs help with unbolting, opening and moving the metal tree grates. There are three trees that have been purchased and need to be planted as soon as possible. Geannina Guzman-Scanlon would like an explanation of the funds that she believes were once made available for trees as part of the infrastructure project. It was stated that the Town Manager will seek an answer from the Finance Department to whether or not this money was allocated. Geannina Guzman-Scanlon mentioned that the letter was intended to be a peaceful sharing of information and a request for help.

Michael Scanlon came before the Board to discuss the mandate of the Hampton Beach Area Commission. He believes that the Commission annual report contains errors. He also questioned where the money went that he believes was allocated towards funding tree planting.

**VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:**

None

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Moore MOTIONED** to adjourn the meeting at 10:07PM. **Mr. Workman SECONDED.**

**VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR**

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Chairman