

April 20, 2020

7:00 PM Board of Selectmen - Electronic Meeting by teleconference

As Chairman of the Hampton Board of Selectmen, I have determined that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of several of the Board members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governors Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming we are:

We are utilizing a teleconference service for this electronic Meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public may join this electronic meeting by calling toll free **1-857-444-0744** and use the code **156034**.

If anybody has a problem, please call **603-929-5805**

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Sel. Rage, present, no one in room with me

Sel. Bridle, present, no one in the room

Sel. Barnes, present, no one in the room

Sel. Woolsey, present, me, and three cats

Chairman Waddell, present, nobody with me:

Chairman Jim Waddell, called for pledge of allegiance:

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Public Comment

John Nyhan, Hampton Area Chamber of Commerce President, offered to the Board the latest news of the Chamber of Commerce. He discussed opening their doors to more than just members, including all businesses and residents who might need assistance. He noted

communicating all notices they receive on the state and federal level. He also discussed the advocating they are doing, noting working with state and federal delegations. He noted the extension of the business tax to June, and discussed the insurance issue of small business claims being denied due to the pandemic. He mentioned the positive community signs, and working on a project involving employees at Hampton nursing homes. He discussed the upcoming beach season, working with businesses on how to get open for the summer, with the Governor asking for help with guidelines. He noted his availability to answer questions, his office is closed, but he is there.

Claire Libby, she thanked the Board and all employees, and everyone, for all they are doing. She noted her discussion with the tax department, and then the rec. department. She discussed her concern and fear of reopening the beach and the influx from other states.

Vic DeMarco, he discussed his opposition to reopening the beach, he noted how difficult it would be, the danger to public service employees, the police being understaffed, larger crowds due to unemployment, and police not having backup when needed. He noted his tenure working for the town.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Sel. Bridle, he thanked Channel 22 for all they have done, and thanks to Kristi and Beth for the PSA's.

Sel. Barnes, she seconded what Sel. Bridle stated, and also thanked Police, Fire, and DPW.

Sel. Woolsey, she noted getting calls from people concerned about the virus, and highlighted the NH.gov website for daily information.

Sel. Rage echoed what Sel.'s Bridle and Barnes stated.

Chairman Waddell dittoed what they said as well. He added he wanted to thank all the town employees for doing an exceptional job. He also noted the citizens have done a great job of following the recommendations.

Sel. Bridle offered thanks to all those making masks, Wicked Flannel and others.

III. Approval of Minutes

1. April 6, 2020

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the minutes of April 6, 2020, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

IV. Consent Agenda

1. 2019-RSA 76:21 Proration Abatement Request: 234 Drakeside Road/Map 157-2 Denied
2. Pole Petition: Unitil Energy Systems, Inc., Ocean Blvd at I Street, Unitil Poles 130/3 & 130/3-A

3. Intent to Cut, Tax Map 122-Lot 1-2 on Towle Farm Road.

Sel. Woolsey asked about #2, and do we know what kind of contraption will be there. Town Manager Welch stated he understands it is a standard pole.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to MOVE the Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Appointments

1. Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director

a. Monthly Financials

Ms. Pulliam announced that the meeting, audio only, is being broadcast on Ch. 22.

She noted these financials are on the website. The expenditure target is 25%. The month's total income was \$534,617. Of that total, motor vehicles came in at \$276,873, which is about \$14,000 less than March of last year; Interest on Taxes at \$13,049; Land Use Change Tax at \$58,830; Building Permits at \$46,962; Departmental at \$33,033; Parking Lots at \$41,464; Interest on Deposits at \$9,285; and Real Estate Trust at \$49,953. Expense Summary: On the expense side you will find that we are 23.58% spent or under budget by \$370,466. Warrant Articles can be reviewed on page 18 and the list now includes articles passed at Town Meeting. Fund 24, Recreation has a balance of \$256,339. Fund 25, Cable Committee has a balance of \$321,943. Fund 26, Private Detail has a balance of \$252,432. Fund 27, EMS has a balance of \$319,011. Wastewater System Development Charge, fees collected in 2020 total \$19,010 with a balance in this account of \$216,103. The Board has approved expenditures from this fund of \$143,907, which are not reflected in the balance above.

Sel. Rage asked about the parking leases, and if they will be refunded should the beach season be shortened or not happen. Ms. Pulliam stated only a few have paid for their leases and she discussed year round residents, hotels who may have paid, and how the revenue is booked.

Sel. Bridle thanked Ms. Pulliam for all she is doing with the Covid19 work and she and her department for their good work.

Sel. Woolsey stated thanks for the report and discussed Ch. 22 and the April 6th, meeting.

Sel. Barnes discussed differences she found between Feb. and Mar. She noted Ms. Pulliam doing an excellent job and how much we are underspent. She asked about the increase in personnel administration, and is it driven by NH Retirement. Ms. Pulliam answered the increase is in line with prior months and it is driven by the retirement. She discussed several increases in Police and Fire and asked if they were in anyway due to Covid19, and if so, would we get any reimbursements from grants. Ms. Pulliam noted we are tracking Covid19 expenses, and the majority of expenses so far are supplies, but noted there are some wages as well, and there may be reimbursements to a degree. Ms. Pulliam also noted contractual expenses that were there as well, career incentives and uniform allowances and the purchase of a cruiser. She asked about solid waste collection and disposal increases and Ms. Pulliam

noted the timing of billing at the first of the year and the lease payment made, and noted the demolition costs.

Chairman Waddell asked if we have seen a decrease in revenue, and the answer was a slight decrease in motor vehicles, possibly due to 20 plates given and extension and this March's revenue was higher than March of 2019. He asked if all were keeping a good watch on any decreases, and the answer was yes, and Ms. Pulliam discussed many spreadsheets and going back to the past to reference. He asked about spending and the answer was the Town Manager Welch had sent out a spending freeze memo, and we are keeping a really good track on it all.

Ms. Pulliam discussed Channel 22 and a conference call she had with all the employees. She asked the Board for direction on other program scheduling rather than just old meetings. Chairman Waddell asked for a consensus.

Sel. Woolsey asked for the next meetings date to be shown when one finishes.

Sel. Barnes said whatever Ms. Pulliam and staff think is best and agree about the meeting date.

Sel. Bridle stated he thought it a great idea to post some things from the vault.

Sel. Rage agreed.

Chairman Waddell agreed and stated she had the go ahead. Ms. Pulliam stated recent meetings will always be there and will make sure the dates of future meetings are shown.

2. Chief Sawyer, Police Department
 - a. Quarterly Report

Chief Sawyer noted all had the report and discussed staffing levels, promotions, (noting social distancing during ceremony), recruits in training, and the change in testing for new officers due to the Governor's orders, probably to October. He discussed continuing to train in anticipation of the beach reopening, and discussed civilian personnel and an open position in communications.

He discussed department operations, and adjusting all to cope with the Covid19 crisis, noting protection equipment, training, protocols, and limitations to access to headquarters. He discussed voluntary compliance of the community. He discussed the beach and parks closures and those measures and noted support from NH State Police and the Sheriff's Department.

He discussed police activity and percentages. He highlighted domestic violence increases, and concern with that.

Sel. Bridle stated excellent job for the Chief and his department.

Sel. Woolsey asked about getting a mask. The Chief mentioned people hand making the regular ones, and looking online to find the N95 ones. She asked about trash at the beach, and the Chief stated he is not aware of that but will inquire.

Sel. Barnes asked if we are low on PPE. The Chief answered that we are adequate at this time, and discussed where we have gotten items from. She asked about the state quantity and if we will see some of that and the Chief answered yes, and discussed the needs assessment

that was done, and the process of receiving items needed. She discussed people at the beach and people's opinions on reopening, and the parking lots remaining closed, as well as traffic patterns and the taxpayers who live along Rt. 1A. She asked if there were anyway for those residents to be able to enjoy their properties, without the threat of out of state people and issues. The Chief cited the Governor's order that he can not close the borders, and discussed the 14 day self-quarantine for people coming across. He also discussed what may happen when we actually start to open the beaches, and mentioned discussions that are happening regarding that, and noted doing that progressively. He discussed all that is working well right now, but noted challenges ahead as warmer weather comes, and noted more time and patience are needed before thinking about reopening. She asked about leased parking in lots that are closed, and the Chief noted that is working for now, but will be reassessed if others start to park where the leased spots are.

Sel. Rage thanked the Chief, and asked about resident stickers. The Chief stated it is really a taxpayer sticker, as you can receive one if you own property in town. He asked about the motor vehicle increases and was the reason the no parking. The Chief stated before the crisis there was a motor vehicle step up challenge and they were doing an excellent job, with now having to only do what is most necessary. The Chief commented on the parking along Ocean Blvd. and noted other towns prohibiting parking on both sides, but he did not want to do that in Hampton as businesses are getting ready for the season, and it is working for now.

Chairman Waddell noted the great visibility of the police force and the state and sheriff's dept.'s. He asked about the increase in domestic violence and wondered if we are doing anything proactive in that area. The Chief discussed that this is a national issue, not just Hampton, and noted the mental health issue of this crisis, noting that will be a consideration in when to reopen. He also noted the unemployment issue adding to it as well.

3. Chief Sawyer, Police and Deputy Town Manager Sullivan
 - a. COVID-19 Update

Deputy Town Manager Sullivan is not present and Chief Sawyer noted there is not much more to report other than what is being publicized. He discussed reimbursement issues and three funding streams we will be looking at, noting Fema and grants, some which may include wages.

- b. Special Events

The Chief discussed permits for events, and as Police Chief he will not be authorizing any, including fireworks until we get to the other side of this crisis, and the state is not as well. Sel. Barnes asked about road races that had been approved by the Board, and the Chief noted they will not be happening. He discussed other cancellations and possible cancellations.

VI. Town Manager's Report

1. Work progresses on the Elaine Street sewer and water line replacements with the first excavation now several hundred feet down Elaine from Winnacunnet Road. Access to the remainder of Elaine should be from Richards Street at this point in the construction.
2. The Cemetery Department is actively performing tree takedowns in the Ring Swamp and High Street Cemeteries. Work progresses well and the cemetery cleanup is well underway.

3. Public Works is awaiting a start date (Monday April 27th) from the paving contractor to begin the work required on Lafayette Road from Park Avenue to High Street. Work includes the raising of manholes and catch basin grates, plaining of the asphalt surface and the repaving.
4. The Recreation Department continues on the projects approved by Town Meeting as does the Public Works Department. Please report shortcomings to the Departments as you see them.
5. Applications for all tax exemptions closed last Wednesday, April 15, 2020.
6. There was a spending order issued on April 14th, restricting spending due to Covid19, noting the only spending is what is contractual.
7. We received a request from the Regional Economic Development Center, asking for a list of shovel ready projects by Dec. 31st of this year and we gave them: WWTF upgrade, Locke Rd improvements, Moulton Rd. improvements, Bi-Centennial Wall, Lafayette Rd. improvements, Paving town roads, Winnacunnet and High Street improvements, a total of over \$32 million.

Town Manger Welch: I have a Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber ****Note, this was added to the consent agenda

Sel. Woolsey commented she appreciates the proactive approach to spending.

Sel. Barnes thanked the town manager for his good job and the shovel ready report and noted receiving the grant for flood mitigation from NH Fish and Wildlife. She discussed the hearing of the NH Legislative Committee in Concord regarding Covid19 regarding funds. She noted her appreciation for Hampton leadership and being on top of things in this crisis. She discussed the downturn in the Trustee of the Trust Funds investments, and other hits to revenue.

Chairman Waddell stated it was a super job getting the shovel ready report ready, as well as the Fish and Wildlife grant. He asked about the letter to the state legislative delegation regarding the paycheck protection program, and the town manager stated it went out on Friday. He asked about notifying the businesses on Lafayette Rd. regarding the paving and the answer was that notices went out to all of them today.

VII. Old Business

1. 2020 JOP DNCR and Hampton

Town Manager Welch addressed this and stated he felt that discussion needed to be postponed for a number of reasons, highlighting not knowing when the pandemic will end, and no visa's being issued, and the trash issue. He noted this should be postponed until the state has a direction on where to go with this.

Sel. Rage stated he agreed with Town Manager Welch, particularly the trash. He commented he felt we should go back to last's year plan regarding trash pick-up.

Sel. Bridle stated he agreed with Town Manager Welch's decision and would make a motion to that.

Sel. Woolsey discussed an opportunity to disengage from the mess of the state park waste situation, stating it is the time to tell the state we will no longer pick up their waste. She

discussed the businesses trash and a memo needing to go to them. Chairman Waddell stated that is not part of this discussion.

Sel. Barnes stated she is not for the JOP and is not for expanding any services in the Town of Hampton right now, including trash pickup, and she is for, hearing from the state regarding how their problems have now fallen into the lap of the town, noting the J1 student issue. She highlighted the town manager's spending freeze and reiterated expanding town services is not an option.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE Town Manager Welch's recommendation of the POSTPONEMENT of the DISCUSSION of the 2020 JOP DNCR and Hampton, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Sel. Woolsey asked for the specific motion. Sel. Bridle restated his motion.

Sel. Woolsey stated she would like discussion. She asked why we would do this, we should simply tell the state we will not handle their waste.

Sel. Bridle stated his reason for making the motion was because it was the recommendation of the town manager and he is on top of this issue.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: no, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 4-1-0(Woolsey)

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE to DISCONTINUE the Dep. Town Manager Position, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

Sel. Woolsey discussed the position and the employment agreement.

Chairman Waddell stated we are discussing the position, not the contract, noting being advised by legal not to discuss the contracts due to potential lawsuits.

Sel. Woolsey discussed at length the position, the creation of the position, and all of the funding and expenses, stating cost figures and comparisons.

Sel. Barnes reiterated her reason for seconding the motion for discussion. She commented on prior Board discussions on this matter and these decisions have been made, noting this is not the time and we need to work together as a Board. She noted being impressed with the Asst. Town Manager and his weekly reports. She noted her concern over Hampton not getting you know what from the state of NH. She discussed a conference call with the chamber, and her question of additional funding of the Payback Protection Program. She commented she asked Congressman Pappas why hasn't it been funded, and his answer on seeing it gets done, and she hasn't seen it done. She noted politics is local, but also noted that what happens in Washington DC is effecting our everyday life. She discussed the 1.2 billion dollars and needing to make sure it goes where we need it to. She encouraged the Board show what their views are on where the money should go. She commented this is what we should be discussing now, not trash, not expanding services. She further discussed the state park's responsibilities. She noted what has to been done about the current situation and how we need to react to daily updates. She discussed some of the money's allocations, noting some will not help the community losses.

Chairman Waddell asked to stay with the position discussion.

Sel. Rage stated at this point, we need all the help we can get, noting the assistant manager does tremendous work, as well as the town manager.

Sel. Bridle dittoed.

Chairman Waddell spoke on the position, noting we are a small town, except in the summer. He commented on the issues the town faces and do we need two administrators and he stated yes, we do. He called for a vote.

Sel. Woolsey stated she had a final comment, asking the Board if they could name her anytime in the town of Hampton, that a position was created for a friend.

Chairman Waddell stated she was out of order. She continued her comment.

Sel. Rage commented this being discussed and voted on before, and he hoped, after this vote it will stop being brought up at every meeting.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: no, Sel. Bridle: no, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: abstain, Chairman Waddell: no.

VOTE: 1-3-1

Sel. Rage commented he feels we should continue trash pick up as before, and motioned.

Selectman Rage MOTIONED to MOVE TRASH PICK UP to where it was LAST YEAR, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Sel. Bridle discussed the trying times and the hit businesses are taking and thinks it makes sense.

Sel. Barnes asked the change between last year and this. Sel. Bridle noted changing the number of barrels to 10. She asked if businesses have more than 10 at this point. Sel. Bridle stated he did not know. She commented being against this right now and would like to hear from DPW.

Sel. Woolsey commented on DPW being destroyed by responsibilities, and this should not be allowed. She reiterated her position on private hauling for businesses and DPW being overworked and noted her opposition to the motion.

Chairman Waddell asked Town Manager Welch his opinion. Town Manager Welch discussed the Board's positions over the years, and the struggle with the 10 barrel limit, and the number of units. He noted the structure of DPW to accommodate that, and the trash vehicles and repairs. He recommended postponing the vote on this and bringing in DPW.

Chairman Waddell asked Sel. Rage about postponement and Sel. Rage agreed to postpone his motion to May 2nd. (determined to be the 4th)

Selectman Rage MOTIONED to POSTPONE VOTE ON motion to (MOVE TRASH PICK UP to where it was LAST YEAR), SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Sel. Barnes discussed the status of the sidewalk work by NHDOT on Rt. 1A, commenting they are not completed yet but will be by April 26th, and asked Town Manager Welch if accurate. He stated yes, subject to weather.

VIII. New Business

Sel. Woolsey asked for clarification on a point with regard to the Dep. Town Manager position. She asked for the opinion of Atty. Clauson. Chairman Waddell noted there was a memo to the entire Board. Town Manager Welch reminded that that was during non-public and can not be discussed. She stated she did not have the memo and Town Manager Welch stated he would get her a copy.

IX. Closing Comments

Sel. Barnes asked about assisted care facilities in Hampton. Town Manager Welch stated there is regular correspondence with them and the Fire Dept. is there constantly because of calls, noting there have been no problems as of yet, no major epidemic.

Atty. Gearreald commented on Sel. Rage's motion to postpone, noted the next meeting is May 4th, not May 2nd. Sel. Rage agreed to change to that.

Sel. Rage thank the Chamber of Commerce for all that they are doing, noting his involvement in some meetings.

Sel. Bridle asked Sel. Woolsey if she needed a mask, stating if she needs one, he will have one dropped off.

Ms. Pulliam noted if people are looking for masks, reach out to Michelle in Welfare, or the Rec. Dept. and also the PSA's have instructions to make them, and we could put some out for people. Town Manager Welch agreed.

Chairman Waddell commented on working as a Board, with everyone having a right to speak, but when someone is out of order, they have to stop, in order to run the meeting efficiently. He discussed challenging the Board, but there cannot be chaos.

X. Adjournment

At 20:48 PM, Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to adjourn the Public Session, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

Jim Waddell, Chairman