

Note: Draft minutes are subject to corrections, additions and deletions.

May 24, 2021

7:00 p.m. Board of Selectmen's Room

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PRESENT: Sel. Bridle, Chairman
Sel. Rage, Vice-chairman
Sel. Barnes
Sel. Jim Waddell
Sel. Rich Sawyer
Town Manager Jamie Sullivan

I. Public Comment [Time limitation of three (3) minutes]

Phil Bean, taxpayer, thanked the Board and Town Manager for leadership, discussing Hampton always serving in extraordinary times. He read a 2014 document from the Board of selectmen, regarding Mr. Welch's distinguished career of municipal service, and his role in leading the Town of Hampton. He thanked and recognized Mr. Sullivan in his leadership role.

Cy Bode, 8 L Street, discussed motorcycles going by L Street at high speed. He noted he would like to see enforcement and discussed the crowd break up the police did a couple of weeks ago, noting an excellent job. He noted crowds coming out of establishments at 1am, and suggesting squad cars there at that time. He discussed risks to the town.

Jeannine St. Germain, 60 Mill Road, discussed supporting Bonnie, and asking for support in a place for seniors to meet. She discussed the senior group and support past and present. She noted the older seniors need to get out and socialize and reiterated needing a place for them.

Regina Barnes, 95 Presidential Circle, asked the Board to address that so many of the department heads have left the town. She noted the public is noticing and wondering why. She discussed the budget committee's questions of the 2020 budget amounts spent. She gave reasonings as to why the questions may be asked, discussing the budget percent underspent. She noted the budget committee's excellent job for the 2020 budget.

II. Announcements and Community Calendar

Sel. Waddell noted going to a lot of different towns for sports and that Winnacunnet is the only school playing the National Anthem before games, noting it being respectful. He

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discussed the public needs to take responsibility, noting the high speed of motorcycles and cars, they need to act responsibly.

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Sel. Rage announced the Hampton Beach Sand Sculpture Competition is looking for volunteers and to go to hamptonbeach.org for information.

Sel. Barnes announced the Conservation Commission town forest clean up day is Sat. June 5th, from 9am to 12pm, for information and to rsvp, kcampbell@hamptonnh.gov.

Chairman Bridle announced this weekend is Memorial Day with remembrances on Monday, and reminded all that the beach is opening up and asked for patience.

III. Approval of Minutes

1. May 10, 2021 and Non-public

Sel. Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE the Minutes of May 10, 2021 and NP, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes. VOTE: 5-0-0

IV. Consent Agenda

1. 2021-01 "First Half" 2021 Property Tax Warrant
2. Cemetery Deed: Benjamin Krieger 29/I-2/4/1-4/RD12, Robert & Janis Krieger 28/I-2/4/1-4/RD12, The KD Trust, Richard & Angelia Drake Trustees 324A/G/8/18; Bonnie L. Serowik Revocable Trust 23/I-1/1/1/RD12
3. Coin Operated Amusement Devices: Hampton Beach Amusement Corp
4. Conservation Commission Alternate Appointment: Rayann Dionne
5. Entertainment Licenses: Bogie's at Depot Square, CR'S Restaurant
6. Lane Library Trustees Appointments: Member Shelia Ewell, Alternate Lynn Cutting
7. Letter of no objection for Tobacco license: Lodyland Enterprises D/B/A Rock Palace/Peter Lodi
8. One-Day Entertainment License: Lane House Arts Center 06/26/21, Chris Avery 07/04/21

Sel. Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the Consent Agenda, SECONDED by Sel. Rage. VOTE: 5-0-0

V. Appointments

1. Chief Marinucci (by phone)
 - a Fire Department Study update

Chief Marinucci noted continued progress and success with questioning. He noted a first draft should be ready in two weeks, with a 30-day review, and then a return on July 12th for an in person report.

TM Sullivan recommended a contract extension to incorporate their schedule, travel, and the report date.

Sel. Sawyer MOTIONED to APPROVE the Contract Extension with Chief Marinucci from July 1, to July 12th, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes. VOTE: 5-0-0

Sel. Barnes asked when the Board would get the report. TM Sullivan noted they will see the draft when available and the final report will be a public document and will be presented July 12th.

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2. Katherine Miller, Esq.
 - a Comcast Contract renewal

Atty. Miller discussed the franchise contract with Comcast and noted that cable law restricts what the town can negotiate. She discussed most common customer complaints are not in jurisdiction for negotiation. She noted discussions on length of contract, franchise fees, and the local channel. She noted trying to get the local channel in high definition. She discussed competition, a topic of conversation with many. She discussed Atlantic Broadband, their interest, and a parallel negotiation, with contracts also being parallel. She discussed the hope for pricing competition with having both companies in town. She noted Atlantic has internet and phone as well, and she recommends a franchise with them to offer customers another option for cable and internet and phone. She noted wanting to negotiate contracts with both companies, discussing a few amendments for Comcast after reviewing and a new contract for Atlantic.

Sel. Waddell asked if Atlantic comes in, how do Channel 13 and 22 work. Atty. Miller noted each company will have different subscribers and both should offer public access, noting there will be technical discussions to get the channel's feeds to Atlantic. He asked about the high definition and Comcast charging for the equipment, and if we can negotiate that. Atty. Miller discussed and noted possible options. He noted customer complaints about service and that should be negotiated, and asked if we can work on a senior discount. Atty. Miller noted we have a very modest discount, \$2 off the basic tier, and they have tried to leverage for more and discussed that.

Sel. Barnes commented on Atlantic and the parallel negotiation. Atty. Miller noted a cost savings doing both together and both companies knowing they are both involved. Sel. Barnes noted the \$2 discount is not very much. She discussed the current contract and the stipulation of an annual meeting, and making sure we have that with both companies to address issues and she and Atty. Miller discussed.

Atty. Gearreald noted Atty. Miller was looking for direction from the Board, specifically length of contract, noting a longer term may be advantageous. Atty. Miller explained, and discussed cord-cutting and the changes with cable in the future. She noted many like cable as it is and a longer contract would ensure that stays around, and she noted both companies looking for ten years and that is what she recommends.

Sel. Waddell noted he agreed and discussed access to Channels 13 & 22. He noted it doesn't affect rates and Atty. Miller agreed.

Sel. Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE Atty. Miller to Negotiate longer term Cable Contracts up to 10 years, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes.

Sel. Barnes noted the contracts expiring the same time and the current Comcast expires in August. Atty. Miller discussed getting both companies to sign the franchise contracts at the same time, noting Atlantic will need time to start up.

VOTE: 5-0-0

3. Bonnie Serowik, Seniors of Hampton
 - a \$10,000 donation for senior activities

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Ms. Serowik noted she wanted to address issues with older seniors. She discussed the demographics of the town. She discussed the donation that was given to Recreation for senior activities and asked if \$5000.00 could be donated to St. Vincent DePaul, who have donated space to the seniors.

b Community room for seniors

Ms. Serowik discussed the community room at Hampton Academy and noted meeting with the Superintendent to see if the seniors could use the room. She noted that presently the room is not being used and has not been used. She asked if it would be a possibility for the seniors to use. She noted they want an insurance policy and asked for town assistance to help in them being able to use the room. She discussed the Parks and Recreation UNH survey that was done, noting it stated facilities were inadequate or nonexistent.

TM Sullivan discussed the donation was from a citizen with restrictions and he would have to look closer at it, regarding donating to another organization. He noted the community room at the Academy is an SAU issue with us having no authority. He discussed the presentation that UNH made regarding their report, and that it is public and available. He acknowledged the inadequacies mentioned and noted it is now for the town to decide what goes into the CIPs. He noted he has a meeting tomorrow with the library and recreation to discuss those needs.

Sel. Waddell asked if the report was on the website and TM Sullivan noted he will check.

Chairman Bridle noted they have asked department heads to come up with some strategic planning for needs. TM Sullivan discussed the issue of space.

Sel. Waddell noted the report is on the website. Ms. Serowik noted she was looking to see what was being done with the report recommendations. She reiterated the donation of space from St. Vincent and her thinking the town should donate to them.

Sel. Barnes noted Ms. Serowik is looking for what was being done with the study and noted we do not have a community center and well over a third of taxpayers are seniors. She noted a building on the ballot would not go far. She discussed the vote for the school and the impact the community room being available to seniors had on the vote. She noted hoping we can come up with something cost effective. She discussed attending a senior event with Dep. Reno and Lt. Tony in attendance discussing fraud on the internet.

4. Donna Bennett, Tax Collector

a 2017, 2018 Tax Deeding

Ms. Bennett discussed the annual deeding process and noted the pandemic and that properties had been waived. She noted speaking to everyone on the list, which is 7, and she listed each one with its circumstance.

Sel. Barnes noted it was excellent considering the amount of money worked with. She noted the first half tax warrant and discussed gross taxes well over \$61 million for Hampton. She noted the tax office staff, with salaries under \$100 thousand is responsible that tax amount.

Sel. Rage noted they are still paying interest and Ms. Bennett stated correct. He noted the 90 days reasonable. He noted the number of properties and stated great job.

Sel. Waddell noted great job and we should go with Ms. Bennett's recommendations.

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Sel. Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE the 2017, 2018 Tax Deeding per recommendation of the Tax Collector, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes. VOTE: 5-0-0

5. Acting Chief McMahon, Fire Department
a Departmental Update

TM Sullivan noted that he has named Mr. McMahon the acting Chief of the Fire Department, and thanked him. The Chief thanked the Town Manager and Board for their confidence in him. He discussed the transitions in the department, noting Chief Ayotte's departure and best wishes to him. He discussed vacancies in the department. He discussed the numbers for calls for service.

He discussed several noteworthy fires, describing them, and thanking mutual aid, and all those who helped. He discussed a closed door helping in one fire and encourage all to do so. He discussed life saving actions by crews at one of the fires and noted all who received EMS citations for their actions, as well as a neighbor who put himself in harms way. He discussed another neighbor rescue and a fire contained by a sprinkler head and how much sprinklers matter.

He noted EMT calls and transports. He discussed 32 overdose calls, with 18 of them being alcohol, noting how dangerous it is and how much it is abused.

He discussed recertifications and relicensing, noting plans to resume CPR classes, and Hampton lifeguard training. He noted this is EMS week and thanked all our officers.

He discussed mutual aid, with us providing and receiving. He discussed fire prevention and inspections, and noted monitoring large building projects. He noted fire alarm calls and radio traffic, and discussed the Mutual Link platform and its uses. He discussed the FY19 radio grant being finished up.

He discussed the motor vehicle accident with Engine 2 blocking and the driver starting to get out, and noted there could have been dire circumstances. He discussed Engine 2 out of commission and working with insurance, and noted it was a close call and being reviewed.

He discussed folks going to the Fire Academy, noting a great opportunity. He discussed the department receiving the two donations from the estate and the purchase of new hose and nozzles and a training manikin.

TM Sullivan noted that with the damage to Engine 2 there was community help. The chief noted the accident coincided with the annual pump testing cycle, and noted that Exeter lent us an engine for about two weeks and we thank them.

Sel. Sawyer noted excellent report and thanked Chief McMahon for stepping up in challenging times.

Sel. Barnes noted enjoying the report, and asked about Engine 2. The chief reiterated we are down an engine, noting normally 4, but at 3 with the engine in the shop awaiting insurance information.

Sel. Waddell noted excellent report and it's a shame on the highway with people not pulling over and the speed.

Sel. Rage noted excellent report and thanks for stepping up.

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Chairman Bridle noted he has come into a trying time and busy season, and we appreciate you taking on the role and responsibility. He noted being encouraged and moving forward.

Atty. Gearreald thanked the chief, and all involved in the vaccination centers. The chief noted there are many working at the centers.

6. Kristi Pulliam, Finance Director
a Monthly Financials

This is the fourth report of 2021, and for April, and the expenditure target is 33.34%. When you review the attached Revenue report you can see the differences in revenue from 2020 to 2021. The 2021 revenue is higher than 2020 revenue by \$311,086. You will notice that I have adjusted the budget revenue column. I do this on a quarterly basis. That end result being an increase in projected revenues. The month's total income was \$717,122. of that total, motor vehicles came in at \$402,083; Interest on Taxes at \$37,107; Building Permits at \$24,865; State Aid Water Pollution Control at \$61,595; Highway Subsidy at \$61,046; Departmental at \$41,904; Rye Sewer Agreement at \$21,660; Parking Lots at \$7,120; and Real Estate Trust at \$70,310.

On the expense side you will find that we are 30.76% spent or under budget by \$699,635. In April of 2020 we were underspent by \$791,371. Under Financial Administration - Audit Services you will see is at 59.31 % spent. The audit is under way and we have paid our first bill for this service.

Under Personnel Administration: Employee Separation is at 83.21 %, related to retirement payouts. Bank Buy-Back Program is at 109.73%, this is a payroll item that is processed in January. I did report on this last month, but thought it important to point it out again this month, as this section is still over the target of 33.34%.

Planning and Zoning are both over target. In Planning this is driven by the Contracted Services line item. Zoning is a small budget so any amount can easily push this over budget. The driving factor here is Supplies & Expenses. Emergency Management is over target at 55.36%. This is related to expenditures covered under a purchase order brought forward from 2020 for Auburn Ave extension. Hydrants is at 49.53%, this is a semi-annual payment made in January.

Under DPW - Solid Waste Collection is over target at 40.09%. The driver here is the lease payment for the two trash trucks passed in March of 2018 warrant article # 13. Under Welfare we continue to see rising cost in assistance as we have discussed previously. When we prepare the budget for 2022 there may need to be some adjustments to this budget.

Recreation has a balance of \$214,348. Fund 25, Cable Committee has a balance of \$492,972. Fund 26, Private Detail has a balance of \$173,349. Fund 27, EMS has a balance of \$392,215. Fund 41, Recycling has a balance of \$129,179. Wastewater System Development Charge has a balance of \$180,055. There are approved expenditures by the Board of \$142,869. Tape at 1:14

Sel. Waddell noted the under budget amount, noting someone might say that is a lot and what would Ms. Pulliam say to that. Ms. Pulliam noted it is in line with where we have been for past years. She noted summer expenses and we are right where we should be. They discussed and he noted great job.

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Sel. Barnes commented thanks for the report, excellent as always. She asked about street lighting. Ms. Pulliam describe the electric billing and timing issues. Sel. Barnes noted the fire department buildings being at 84%. TM Sullivan noted some equipment replacement and Ms. Pulliam noted the fire study is in that line.

Ms. Pulliam's parents were in the audience and got a shout out, and she congratulated her daughter Morgan on her high school graduation as co-valedictorian, and that she is on her way to Notre Dame.

VI. Town Manager's Report

1. TM Sullivan announced the latest Covid numbers for the state and Town of Hampton.
2. TM Sullivan announced the latest numbers for vaccinations.
3. The Hampton Memorial Day remembrance will be Monday, at 11:00pm at the High Street Cemetery, there will be no parade and communities near by are also holding remembrances.
4. Regarding the American Rescue Plan funding, there have been webinars, there has been more information and changes and it is ongoing. We will put recommendations to come back to the Board with and discussed the formulas and process.
5. The second floor of the Town Office is open, with social distancing, and the blinds on the first floor have been installed.
6. Aquarion is continuing its work on High Street and its ongoing.
7. Aquarion has asked us to announce that NHDES has notified us we are facing impending drought, and practicing efficient outside water use now, will help avoid mandatory restrictions later.
8. In town, paving is mostly completed, line painting and edge work continues.
9. Memorial Day will be a normal trash day.
10. Fred Welch's last day is at the end of this week. We thank him for his service, guidance, and leadership. We will be presenting him with a framed and signed photograph of the staff on Weds.
11. Chief Hobbs and police department did an educational traffic stop with State Police with regard to motorcycles and learned a lot.
12. Chief Hobbs sent an update on Flowbird, the pay meter parking company and there is a slight delay for installation.

Sel. Barnes asked about the American Rescue Plan. TM Sullivan discussed the four buckets, Park Ave., and ideas on how to proceed. She discussed the speeding in residential roads, and not enough police for enforcement. TM Sullivan advised that when there is a speeding issue, to call the police. She asked about flashing lights for the crosswalks on L Street. TM Sullivan noted there is nothing in the budget to do those, but we can look at. He discussed the lighting issue there. Sel. Barnes discussed 20 Kings Highway receiving a letter from DES regarding a retaining wall, and she discussed the circumstance. TM Sullivan noted he was not aware, and he will look into, and they discussed.

Sel. Waddell noted Aquarion doing a good job keeping the traffic going. He noted the motorcycle education is a great idea.

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Sel. Rage asked where we were with the open building inspector position. TM Sullivan discussed interviews for that position, as well as other openings.

Chairman Bridle mentioned the HR position and TM Sullivan reiterated interviews are scheduled. He discussed the personnel issue we have had all along, highlighting DPW, and that there is a challenge for manpower in all departments.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

1. Park Avenue and Winnacunnet Road Emergency Culvert Repair Update

TM Sullivan discussed and noted the information in their packets. He highlighted pictures that show the replacement necessary. He discussed road and traffic impacts. He noted funding using the American Rescue Plan.

Sel. Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE the Park Avenue and Winnacunnet Road Emergency Culvert Repairs, SECONDED by Sel. Barnes.

Sel. Barnes asked about an estimated cost. TM Sullivan noted he thought about \$40,000. They discussed that Winnacunnet will have to be closed during the process and the waiting was due to other traffic issues.

Sel. Waddell discussed infrastructure issues and people need to pay attention to these potential failures. There was general discussion on road closures. Sel. Barnes highlighted that DPW can handle everything that is going on, even with all their responsibilities and staffing issues.

VOTE: 5-0-0

2. Additional Spring Paving

TM Sullivan discussed the need for the additional spring paving and noted money in the budget, and highlighted Little River Road and a section of Kings Highway.

Sel. Rage MOTIONED to APPROVE to authorize the Town Manager to increase the total spending that was previously approved, to include the 2021 additional paving work, the new amount not to exceed \$850,000,00, SECONDED by Sel. Waddell. VOTE: 5-0-0

3. Amended Agreement Easement Deed and Agreement Loy Drive

Atty. Gearreald discussed new subdivision roads and utilities, noting a master agreement, and this being a supplement to what is already in place with Unitil, noting it addresses all issues.

Sel. Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE to sign the Amended Agreement Easement Deed and Agreement with Hereford Investments LLC and Unitil regarding the presence of Unitil's line in the Loy Drive right of way and serving the development lots abutting it, SECONDED by Sel. Waddell. VOTE: 5-0-0

IX. Closing Comments

Sel. Barnes thanked Mr. Welch for his service to the Town and his mentorship and he will be missed.

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At 20:35 PM, Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II, (e) [litigation], SECONDED by Selectman Waddell.

Roll call vote: Vice-chairman Rage: yes, Sel. Waddell: yes, Sel. Sawyer: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Bridle: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

PRESENT: Rusty Bridle, Chairman
Chuck Rage, Vice-chairman
Regina Barnes, Selectman
Jim Waddell, Selectman
Richard Sawyer, Selectman
Jamie Sullivan, Town Manager
Mark Gearreald, Town Attorney

Sealed Minutes.

The Minutes were sealed by roll call vote once the Board returned to its public session.

At 20:41 PM, a MOTION was made by Selectman Waddell, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes, to leave the non-public session.

Roll call vote: Vice-chairman Rage: yes, Sel. Waddell: yes, Sel. Sawyer: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Bridle: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

At approximately 20:42 PM, back in public session, Selectman Waddell MOTIONED, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes, to seal the minutes of the non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, III on the basis that disclosure of the minutes could adversely affect the reputation of any person, other than a member of the Board, or jeopardize the actions to be taken or render the proposed action ineffective.

Roll call vote: Vice-chairman Rage: yes, Sel. Waddell: yes, Sel. Sawyer: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Bridle: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

X. Adjournment

At 20:42 PM, Selectman Waddell MOTIONED to adjourn, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes,

Roll call vote: Vice-chairman Rage: yes, Sel. Waddell: yes, Sel. Sawyer: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Bridle: yes. VOTE: 5-0-0

Russell Bridle, Chairman