

November 9, 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 Governor's 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 **1-857-444-0744** and use the code **156034**. If anybody has a problem, please call **603-929-5805**.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

I. Roll Call

Chairman Waddell asked each member state their presence and location.

Sel. Rage, present, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Sel. Bridle, present, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Sel. Woolsey, present, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Sel. Barnes, present, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Chairman Waddell, present, Selectmen's Meeting Room

Town Manager Jamie Sullivan, present Selectmen's Meeting Room

II. Public Comment [Time limitation of three (3) minutes per caller]

None

III. Announcements and Community Calendar

Sel. Barnes announced that the budget committee is meeting twice this week, tomorrow discussing police and fire and Thursday discussing all others except DPW, and Aquarion has seen an increase of pfas levels at the Mill Road well field. and the company is moving forward to upgrade the water treatment plant. She discussed the upgrade and thanked Aquarion.

IV. Approval of Minutes

1. October 26, 2020

Sel. Barnes asked for an amendment to the minutes adding “of trespass” to her public notice comment.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the AMENDMENT to the Minutes of October 26, 2020, 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

Vote on Minutes:

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to APPROVE the Minutes of October 26, 2020, 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. Consent Agenda – None

VI. Town Manager’s Report

1. The work on Mill Road has started and hopes to be completed by the end of next week.
2. Locke Road should be open by the end of this week.
3. There has been good progress on the line striping, with words and arrows to be finished up in the spring.
4. The trench issues on Winnacunnet and High Streets have seen Winnacunnet done, and High Street being done very soon.
5. The Solid Waste Committee is looking to set up a sub-committee to work with DPW and CH22 on educational content.
6. The Attorney General’s office has put out a scam alert for a telephone scam dealing with senior citizen’s called the grandparent’s scam with a change of them coming to your home, should you get this type of call, please hang up and call local police.

TM Sullivan asked the board’s direction on the sub-committee for the Solid Waste Committee. The board all noted their support and the Town Manager would inform the committee.

VII. Appointments

1. Ed Tinker, MRI Contract Assessor
 - a. 2020 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate

Mr. Tinker was on the phone to present to the board. He discussed the sales ratio survey for 2020, with sales being sent to the state to set the equalization ration. He noted it looks like the market is appreciating, with the ratio estimated to be around 89.5%, with last year being 95%.

Sel. Barnes asked Mr. Tinker to explain the valid sales acronyms. Mr. Tinker noted the COD is coefficient dispersion, which means the sales fall into a tight range of the median, and the PRD is a ratio differential, comparing low priced and high priced homes. She noted meeting current assessment review guidelines.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to APPROVE the 2020 Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate, 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

- b. Abatements for 202-1-3, 202-1-95G, 202-1-C, 160-32-1, 91-1-2, 91-1-3, 91-1-5, 91-1-6, 74-3, 60-9, & 60-5

Mr. Tinker discussed abatement recommendations, noting these were assessed for the first tax bill, but may have changed ownership or were incorrectly assessed and need to be corrected. The total abatement amount recommended is just under \$17,000.00, with these being bookkeeping corrections and only one needing a payout.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to APPROVE the Abatements for 202-1-3, 202-1-95G, 202-1-C, 160-32-1, 91-1-2, 91-1-3, 91-1-5, 91-1-6, 74-3, 60-9, & 60-5, 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

VIII. Old Business

1. 2021 Warrant Articles

TM Sullivan went through the warrant articles, noting the ballot positions, zoning articles (possibly up to 6), the budget, the bond article for Winnacunnet and High streets (noting the time requirements and public hearing).

Chairman Waddell opened discussion on the bond article, noting the cost at \$13,300,412.00.

Sel. Bridle noted this is long overdue and thinks this is the correct way, to do it all and do it right. He noted many people discussing the roads are terrible and looks for their support.

Sel. Barnes noted agreeing with Sel. Bridle, and referenced a memo from DPW about reclaiming the roadway with sidewalks and infrastructure. TM Sullivan reiterated that, and then she also noted thinking it a good idea to put to voters, noting good financial shape and borrowing capability, and hopefully can get better bids for a larger project. She also noted the law change on a bond vote from 2/3rds to 3/5ths.

Sel. Woolsey noted not being in favor of doing both roads together, thinking we risk not getting anything by doing that.

Sel. Rage noted we have been fixing and patching too much and we may not get a lower interest rate than now.

Chairman Waddell agreed and noted getting the bond done cheaply, and agreed we need to do it properly.

Selectman Rage MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD the Bond Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: no, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 4-1-0

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, the Bond Warrant Article, SECONDED by Selectman, (did not hear a second)

Sel. Barnes asked if there is any hope of funding to help with the roads and TM Sullivan noted we would pursue any and all sources we can. She commented she will vote to recommend thinking this is the time, the roads are in deplorable condition, and infrastructure is key.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: no, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 4-1-0

TM Sullivan noted the budget has gone to the budget committee, no vote necessary. Sel. Bridle noted they can vote to recommend or not after they get back from the budget committee.

TM Sullivan discussed Article 14, the purchase of two trash trucks with funding to come from the unassigned fund balance. He discussed the good place we are in with the Unassigned Fund Balance (UFB), as well as unanticipated revenue.

Sel. Bridle noted no problem using the UFB and we need these two vehicles.

Sel. Woolsey noted having a problem with trucks for public works, and does not want their trucks picking up trash on 1A and in the state park.

Sel. Rage stated we should move forward.

Sel. Barnes noted being hesitant as we just reestablished the Solid Waste Committee, and not knowing what is going to be done at state parks this summer, noting attending the NHDOT Rt.1A and expecting maintenance to be pawned off on us.

Chairman Waddell commented that the report says that the state park trash is 4%.

TM Sullivan discussed this is regardless of the state park trash, noting they bought their own truck, and DPW has shown us these trucks are needed for town trash pick-up, noting the costs of repairs for the ones we have.

Sel. Rage asked if that is why we leased another vehicle, and TM Sullivan discussed having a truck in reserve and leasing one in the summer, and if one breaks, a route does not get picked up, and reiterated the need for the trucks to pick up trash in town.

Sel. Bridle discussed Rt. 1A and that we have residents that live there and businesses on that road and commented that to say everything on that road is the state is ludicrous.

Chairman Waddell commented we should hold off for more information and noted this is important. Consensus was to do that.

Sel. Barnes asked about just one truck as the voters said no last year. TM Sullivan noted anything is possible, and reiterated his position on using the UFB. She commented on the line at the bottom of the warrant article that says no tax impact, noting that is no current tax implication and won't raise the current tax rate, but it is all taxpayer money.

Sel. Woolsey suggested that we have a sit down joint operations negotiation with the state to determine specifically who will do what. There was general discussion on having the information and this year being unusual. TM Sullivan noted linking the JOP to DPW's need for trash trucks is confusing.

Chairman Waddell read Article 15 regarding paving and road improvements and the state block grant. TM Sullivan noted the block grant number is what we anticipate it to be.

Selectman Barnes MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 15, 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

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 15, 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

Chairman Waddell read Article 16 regarding the Rad Improvement Capital Reserve Account.

Sel. Bridle asked for clarification between Articles 15 and 16. TM Sullivan discussed Article 15 is set sum of money set aside with the highway block grant to do work and Article 16 adds to the fund for doing large projects in the town.

Selectman Rage MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 16, 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

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 16, 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

TM Sullivan read warrant Article 17 regarding health and human services, noting a change in a provider but not the bottom line.

Sel. Bridle explained the process of all the agencies being together.

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 17, SECONDED by Selectman Barnes.

Sel. Barnes reiterated what Sel. Bridle discussed using Step Up Parents as the example. She asked about due diligence on all of them, and the answer was they submit reports and we do follow ups.

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

Selectman Bridle MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 17, 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

TM Sullivan read Article 18 regarding the police forfeiture fund.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 18, 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

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 18, 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

Chairman Waddell read Article 19 regarding parks and recreation.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 19, 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

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 19, 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

TM Sullivan read Article 20 regarding firefighter turnout gear.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 20, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Chairman Waddell asked how much was in the fund and the answer was this is the second year, so what was voted last year, \$75,000.00.

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

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 20, 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

Chairman Waddell read Article 21 regarding conservation funds.

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to MOVE FORWARD Article 21, SECONDED by Selectman Bridle.

Sel. Rage asked how much was in that account, and TM Sullivan noted he will get back to him with that number.

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

Selectman Woolsey MOTIONED to RECOMMEND as BoS, Article 21, 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

TM Sullivan discussed a placeholder for the parade.

TM Sullivan read three articles regarding personnel that he does not recommend at this time, to open for discussion for the board, for DPW, Police, and Fire, noting possible grants for Police and Fire. He discussed possible grants and lesser funding amounts.

Sel. Rage noted he thinks we need to fund some of these positions.

Sel. Woolsey and Sel. Barnes noted still thinking.

Sel. Bridle noted he has no problem recommending and if people want more time to think, and he discussed the departments all stating they are understaffed and their increase in service calls.

Chairman Waddell agreed to taking time to look at it. Consensus was to do that.

2. Public Comment Guidelines

Sel. Rage commented that he feels we should not go back and forth with people, but if someone is accusing a selectman or town employee that it needs to be answered, as without a responding comment, someone may look guilty.

Sel. Bridle noted thinking there should be a time, it should be separate from public comments, so there will not be back and forth, maybe a two-minute response. He noted he thinks selectmen should have a right to have their comments.

Sel. Woolsey stated she agreed.

Sel. Barnes noted she agreed and discussed a note in the Nov. 2nd minutes about breaking the rules and they have not established rules, and responding to Ms. Stiles if there were any questions. She noted agreeing with Sel. Rage and that the code of ethics should be on the agenda for discussion.

Chairman Waddell noted he thinks it is a slippery slope and discussed the difference between an opinion and an accusation. He discussed cases and lawsuits regarding public comments. He noted taking more time with this and having Town Counsel involved.

Sel. Barnes noted people should be able to say what they want, and her responding to a public comment during announcements and the person had asked something and she answered, noting clarifying for the public. She discussed the process they have now works 98% of the time, and she discussed before being a selectmen hearing that public comments should be about the agenda.

Chairman Waddell discussed allowing public comment means not just our rules, but the first amendment.

TM Sullivan discussed that when you set rules, you need to follow rules, like the 3 minutes, and being cautious not to stop someone for their three minutes.

Consensus was to look into further and have Town Counsel advise.

TM Sullivan noted they have heard from FEMA and we have been approved for a portion of funds and the first part of overtime has moved into final approval phase.

Sel. Woolsey discussed noticing a problem with boards not sharing information. She noted having a motion she would like to make and wanted to explain it. She stated she wants to ask to discontinue the deputy Manager position, to discontinue Mr. Sullivan's service as Town Manager, and to reinstate Fred Welch as Town Manager, all to be effective Nov. 30th, 2020. She stated there was a criminal incident in 2013.

Chairman Waddell interjected she has a specific thing she is talking about, that is well known, that has effect on job performance, or, is it a personal thing or a family member, because we are not getting into that.

Sel. Woolsey continued stating there was a criminal, and Chairman Waddell interjected and said no, and ruled her out of order.

Selectmen Bridle MOTIONED to adjourned the meeting, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: (no answer), Sel. Barnes: abstain, Chairman Waddell: yes. VOTE: 3-0-1

Chairman Waddell called the meeting adjourned at 20:01.

James Waddell, Chairman