

## Town News

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Stephen C. Volpone, Jr., Chairman  
Theodore C. Tocci, Shawn C. Hanson

### 2008 TOWN BUDGET & TOWN REPORT:

On January 10, a public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen to review the proposed 2008 budget and to allow the public to voice their opinions and ask questions. The 2008 operating budget of \$2,507,200 represents a decrease of \$23,100 over last year's budget. The 2008 default budget totals \$2,557,591.

The 2007 Town and School Report has been forwarded to the printer. Watch for delivery of your copy, with sample ballots, around the first week of March. If you do not receive a copy, you may pick up one at the Town Clerk's office.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Please join the Selectmen in congratulating Kevin C. Kelley on his achievement as certified Residential Building Inspector.

Also, congratulations are extended to the voters of Hampton Falls for the outstanding turn out (71%) for the NH Presidential Primary. This was the highest turn out of all the Seacoast towns and one of the highest State wide.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED:** The Board of Selectman has adopted resolution 2007-1 creating an advisory **Energy Committee** comprised of four Hampton Falls' residents and one member of the Board of Selectman that will meet monthly. The committee will recommend steps to save energy, discover alternative ways to generate and fund energy (non tax dollars) and reduce green house gas emissions. If you are interested in being part of this committee or would like additional information please contact Shawn Hanson at 929-4886 or shawn.hanson@comcast.net or contact Lori Ruest, Administrative Assistant, at the Town Hall at 926-4618 ext. 2.

### HELP WANTED:

#### DEPUTY TAX COLLECTOR

Qualified applicants are being sought for the part time position of Deputy Tax Collector. A qualified applicant will have demonstrable skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and accounting software. Experience in bookkeeping or accounting is preferred. Applicant must be a resident of Hampton Falls. Applications can be obtained at Town Hall from the Town Administrator.

**RUBBISH/RECYCLING:** The Board of Selectmen has received notice from Cape Disposal Company, the rubbish and recycling collector for Hampton Falls, that the company will be ceasing business. Residents may notice a change in service as Cape Disposal phases out its business and the Board seeks proposals.

Hampton Falls has a mandatory recycling program. Residents are requested to continue the recycling effort; the less trash sent to the landfill, the lesser fees charged for disposal. *Residents using the cardboard recycling container located at the Brush Dump are requested to **flatten the cardboard before disposing into containers and to not leave cardboard, boxes, etc. outside the containers.*** Another option to recycling cardboard is to bundle flattened cardboard, tied with string, in a size no greater than manageable 2' x 2' bundles, for weekly pickup at the curb with other recyclables. Handouts outlining what is allowed to be disposed of at the curb as well as permitted recyclable items are available from the Town Clerk or can be viewed on line at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) (Solid Waste link). Solid waste collection and recycling information is also provided in newsletters mailed to residents six times per year.

The rubbish/recycling pick-up day remains Friday (with the exception of weeks where a major holiday falls on a weekday). ***Please place your rubbish and recyclables at the curb on Thursday evening or before 6:00 a.m. Friday***

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*for collection.* Whenever a major holiday falls on a weekday, the scheduled pick-up will change to Saturday as follows:

Holiday (2008)	Collection Date (2008)
Memorial Day	Saturday, May 31
Independence Day	Saturday, July 5
Labor Day	Saturday, September 6
Thanksgiving Day	Saturday, November 29
Christmas Day	Saturday, December 27

*Clip and save...*

**BRUSH DUMP:** The brush dump, located at the corner of Drinkwater and Parsonage Roads, will reopen April 1 on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**GOVERNOR WEARE PARK:** Governor Weare Park is closed for the winter months. No snowmobiles are allowed nor playing on wet fields.

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**TOWN CLERK**  
**Holly E. Knowles**

## VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- Please bring 2 checks if you want to obtain state plates and/or stickers at our office
- An extra \$2.50 per registration for state stickers will be added to the town amount due
- State fees require exact cash or check (the state doesn't provide change)
- Town fees paid by cash should be as close to the amount due as possible – No large bills please (we keep limited cash).
- Renewals and transfers require the original, current registration(s) (RSA 261:168) (copies should be kept in your vehicle(s))
- A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse)

-Please allow time for processing your transactions by arriving earlier than our closing times of noon and 4 p.m.

**INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS:** To save time in line, and for a small added fee, we recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet (E-Reg). In addition to completing the town portion of your registration(s), you will also receive your state stickers through the mail. Click on the plate link on the town clerk's web page ([www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)) for instructions. Late renewals and residents wanting to complete transfers or obtain new plates will still need to come in to the office.

**2008 DOG TAGS:** The 2008 dog tags are now available at the Town Clerk's office. All dogs in town must be licensed by April 30 each year as required by the state law. Please remember to bring the **NECESSARY** rabies vaccination certificate(s) (required **EVERY** year) when you come in to license your dog(s). If you no longer own a dog(s), call 926-4618; Ext. 1, and we will remove your name from the list.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:** Residents who wish to register to vote for the March 11<sup>th</sup> town election may do so with the Town Clerk through February 29<sup>th</sup>. After that date, residents will need to wait to register to vote with the Supervisors of the Checklist on Election Day. Proof of identity, age and domicile are required.

**ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** Absentee ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the March 11<sup>th</sup> town election from the Town Clerk for voters who qualify (absent from town or physically unable to come to the Town Hall to vote). A signed, written request is required; and distribution and return of absentee ballots must be done in person by the voter or sent through the mail prior to the election. The Town Clerk's office hours are Monday, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 8:30 to noon and 1

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p.m.-4 p.m. and Fridays (September through May) 9 a.m.-noon.

**ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS:** Town and School elections will take place on Tuesday, March 11, at the Town Hall with the polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The following registered voters have filed for the Town election:

<u>Town Official</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
Selectman	Stephen Volpone, Jr.	1 for
	Michael Farinola	3 yrs
Town Clerk	Holly Knowles	1 for 3 yrs
Library Trustee	Beth Forgione (Vacant)	2 for 3 yrs
Cemetery Trustee	(Vacant)	1 for 3 yrs
Planning Board	Beverly Mutrie	2 for
	Larry Smith	3 yrs
	Roger Spoerry	
Moderator	Alexander Dittami	1 for 2 yrs
Trustee of Trust Funds	Roger Spoerry	1 for
	Maura Wisner	3 yrs
Supervisor of Checklist	Andrew Christie	1 for 6 yrs

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### PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board Ordinance and Regulations Review Committee studies zoning matters on behalf of the Planning Board throughout the year and makes recommendation(s). This year, the Planning Board held public hearings on the matters of amending Building Code Section 7.13, dealing with the septic reserve area, which was amended last year but contained an omission which needs to be corrected, and amending Article III, Section 3.1.13, Accessory Housing

Units to include a definition and clarify the intent of the accessory dwelling unit ordinance. Both of these amendments (upon vote of the Board) were forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for the 2008 Town Meeting Warrant. The full text of the wording of the proposed warrant articles is part of the sample ballot delivered to Hampton Falls' residences with the Annual Town Report. If you do not receive a Town Report, one can be obtained from the Town Hall.

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### CONSERVATION COMMISSION Prime Wetlands Warrant Article

Throughout the year the Conservation Commission has written several articles concerning our initiative to protect prime wetlands. Prime wetlands are those with the most significant values and functions based on a comparative evaluation. They provide flood storage, recharge aquifers, clean storm water runoff and afford wildlife habitat and aesthetic beauty. Based on a scientific comparative analysis published by Gove Environmental Services in 2006, ten prime wetlands candidates were identified in Hampton Falls.

The Prime Wetlands warrant article, which will appear on the March ballot, asks Town residents whether or not they support State assistance in protecting these wetlands. Our current zoning ordinance (Section 8.2, approved by voters in March, 2005) requires a 100 foot setback or buffer from all wetlands. The adoption of the proposed Prime Wetlands warrant article would not change these setback requirements, but would enable the Town to take advantage of NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) resources when evaluating the impact of development on important Town wetlands. For work proposed within 100 feet of a prime wetland, NHDES staff must issue a wetland permit, conduct a field inspection and hold a

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public hearing to address community concerns on a potential development project.

Over 25 New Hampshire towns have approved a Prime Wetlands warrant article and four more in the Seacoast will be considering this in 2008. If you would like more information on the specific wetlands involved, please visit the Conservation Commission's link on the Town's website (<http://www.hamptonfalls.org/>) or view the Prime Wetlands overlay map at the Town Hall and Library; information on the State's review process can be accessed through <http://www.des.state.nh.us/wetlands/>.

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### BUILDING INSP/CODE ENF/HEALTH Kevin C. Kelley

**PLACEMENT OF ELECTION SIGNS:** The Hampton Falls sign ordinance provides regulations for placement of election signs as follows:

- They are not erected more than thirty (30) days before Election Day and are *removed within ten (10) days after the election*;
- They are at least ten (10) feet back from any street or right-of-way;
- They are no larger than four (4) square feet in total area;
- They are not placed in trees, on rocks, or other natural features along the roads;
- For signs meeting the above requirements, no building permit is required;
- For state elections, see RSA 664.17 as may be amended.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Residents who have a water softener system should check to verify it is not discharging to the septic system as this will cause premature failure of the septic system.

### TAX COLLECTOR

### Mary Ann Hill

**Form PA-28, Inventory of Taxable Property** questionnaire will be mailed to all property owners the last week of February. It is important that you fill in this questionnaire completely and return it to us by April 15<sup>th</sup> in order to retain your rights in the abatement process, such as appeal rights on property tax or other exemptions and considerations to which you may legally be entitled. RSA 74:7-a. A few of the questions on the **PA-28** consistently give property owners some difficulty:

**Step 1.** The **map and lot number** for your property is printed with your address on this form and has the format 00 000 00.

**Step 3. "Is any portion of the parcel assessed under Current Use?"** You are not being asked if you live there. Land in Current Use is unimproved land over 10 acres in size.

**Step 5. Census Requirements.** This is asking how many people **actually reside** on the parcel. Please complete this part.

**Step 7. Signatures: Sign the form** or it will not be valid for the appeal process.

**Notices of tax delinquencies** were mailed February 7<sup>th</sup> to all those with a balance remaining on their tax bill. Thank you to the property owners who have responded. We are willing to make up a payment schedule for anyone who finds it difficult to pay their entire bill at one time.

For those who still have balances to pay on taxes, we will be sending out the **Notices of Impending Lien** and **Notices of Impending Deed** by March 18<sup>th</sup> per RSA 80:60 and RSA 80:77 respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the inventory form, your taxes, **interest**, or need copies of your paid receipts for the IRS, please call Mary Ann Hill at 926-4618, ext. 4.