

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

PRESENT: S. C. Volpone, Jr., T. C. Tocci, Selectmen;
E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant

GOV. WEARE PARK: Peter Robart, Larry Smith, Mark Lane and Matt Shaw (HYA President) were present. Following a brief history of the development of Governor Weare Park, a copy of a letter addressed to Peter outlining proposed commitments and responsibilities for the baseball field was reviewed by the Board. Approval is being sought to allow the Hampton Youth Association's baseball program to have dedicated use of the baseball field at Governor Weare Park. HYA is willing to make certain improvements and is asking the Town to make certain improvements as well. Discussion of the need for exclusive use, long term commitment, repair to the drainage along the first base line and mowing took place. M. Shaw stated HYA would be willing to maintain the infield, provide a temporary fence, construct dugouts, add a shed for storage of equipment, and provide a portable toilet during the baseball season. Additional items for consideration included the installation of lights for night games and temporary signage. M. Shaw added that the HYA baseball program has been moved to a Cal Ripken league which will include children from Hampton, Hampton Falls and North Hampton.

Following an exchange of ideas and information, the Board requested that this request and plan be put in writing for the full Board's consideration in conjunction with the Recreation Commission. M. Shaw noted that the season begins mid-April and that time is of the essence. Suggestion was made to be more diligent with the scheduling of the fields. It was noted that HYA does not use the fields at present for soccer and that no concessions are planned at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING – RESCIND SB-2: S. C. Volpone, Jr. opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. regarding Article 6/2007 to rescind the provisions of RSA 40:13 known as SB2. Discussion was opened to those in favor of the warrant article. Paul Montrone of Kensington Road noted that he supported SB2 in the past and added his concern with the lack of attendance at Town Meeting. He stated, however, that he has found that the SB2 form of voting isn't working in that it doesn't allow for an opportunity to hold a meeting, make inquiries with the Selectmen and vote line by line. He added that he doesn't feel SB2 is what was expected. Larry Smith of Old Stage Road provided statistics as to the difference in the increase in budgets from Town Meeting to SB2. He added that voters have lost the ability to vote on each line item and have lost control of the budget. Although this meeting can be inconvenient, voters should cherish the ability to come to debate. Tracy Beattie stated she agreed with comments made and noted that Town Meeting allowed for an exchange of information and ideas and allowed for a rethinking of an issue. Peter Robart of Curtis Road stated he felt Hampton Falls is a town small enough to exercise this form of democracy and allow voices to be heard. Town Meeting allows for an opportunity to other opinions and visions. There is a value to listening to neighbors and expressing opinions. William Kenney of Oak Drive stated he is opposed to changing back to Town meeting given the low turnout. He stated that issues in the past have failed by two votes. Had the issue been presented to all voters (SB2) the outcome might have been different. He stated that more voters have a chance to vote on an issue with SB2 because not all can attend a lengthy town meeting.

T. Tocci noted that he supported SB2 in the past and has identified that both systems have flaws as well as good things about them. He stated concern with voters not taking the time to look into issues before voting in the ballot booth.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:39 p.m.

TOWN REPORT: E. N. Small reported that the theme of this year's Town Report is "how the Town responds to disasters and emergencies."

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The balance of the General Fund was reported as \$776,000.

BRIMMER LANE WELL FIELD: The annual report of this well was provided to the Board.

BROWN ROAD CULVERT: E. N. Small reported that a design has been prepared by Jones and Beach Engineers to correct the erosion of the banking at the Quaker Meeting House culvert location. This matter will be sent to bid. A FEMA grant has been received to help fund this project.

BLAISDELL – WETLAND RESTORATION PLAN – NH DES: A copy of the Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau Compliance (File #2006-03048) letter was provided to the Board. It outlines the steps needed to restore the property on Brown Road in accordance with a restoration plan prepared by the Wetlands Bureau.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL REFUSE DISPOSAL DISTRICT (53B): E. N. Small reported that he attended a meeting of the District. Research will need to be done to verify an amount due claimed by the District is accurate. E. N. Small informed the Board that a former staff member of the District has been convicted of embezzling funds. Another result of this finding is that towns were not billed accurately.

AUDIT - MS5: E. N. Small presented copies of the MS5 form prepared by the auditors. The Board signed three copies. Copies of the completed audit report were provided to the Board members.

CASH FLOW: E. N. Small provided the Board with an updated cash flow spreadsheet.

MOTION TO GO INTO NONPUBLIC SESSION AT 7:51 PM TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL & WELFARE	MOTION:	S. C. VOLPONE, JR.
	SECOND:	T. C. TOCCI

MOTION TO GO OUT OF NONPUBLIC SESSION AND RESUME AT 7:58 AM	MOTION:	S. C. VOLPONE, JR.
	SECOND:	T. C. TOCCI

20 YEARS RECOGNITION: E. N. Small thanked the Board for the recognition of his service at the Deliberative Session.

TOWN REPORT: E. N. Small reported that the draft town report was sent to the printer today. The timing of this brings the final report close to the deadline – projected delivery date is March 9.

OTHER:

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

T. C. Tocci inquired as to the status of the site plan for Seacoast Academy. There have been numerous news articles indicating the school is to open in September, however, no plans have been presented to the Planning Board. E. N. Small will follow-up with C. Graham.

T. C. Tocci also inquired as to the status of Faro Gardens on Route 1.

**MOTION TO GO INTO NONPUBLIC SESSION
TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATION AT 8:13 PM**

**MOTION: T. C. TOCCI
SECOND: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.**

**MOTION TO GO OUT OF NONPUBLIC SESSION
AND ADJOURN AT 8:24 PM**

**MOTION: T. C. TOCCI
SECOND: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.**

022107.DOC