

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

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

POLICE CHIEF –

PERSONNEL – NON-PUBLIC SESSION

**MOTION TO GO INTO NONPUBLIC SESSION
AT 6:30 PM TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL**

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

**MOTION TO SEAL THE MINUTES OF THE
NONPUBLIC SESSION AND ADJOURN AT 6:40 PM**

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

PART TIME POLICE OFFICER: R. Dirsa informed the Board that he has the opportunity to hire a full-time certified police officer who is willing to work part-time for Hampton Falls. R. Dirsa provided this candidate's background information and requested the Board's approval to consider hiring on the condition of a background check.

MOTION: To authorize the Police Chief to proceed.

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: T. Beattie, K. Ayers, G. Smart, R. Wiener, D. Gandt, L. Smith E. Volpone and T. Degnan/RCCD

PURCHASE OF THE KOPKA LAND – END OF MARSH LANE: This meeting was scheduled to continue discussion of acquiring Map 9, Lot 9 for conservation purposes. T. Beattie distributed packets to the Selectmen to include supporting documentation and a letter of response from Peter Dow on behalf of owners Kopka, reducing the price to \$220,000.

T. Beattie provided some history to this acquisition to include past discussions with the Board as well as the application process for coastal grant money prepared by T. Degnan of the RCCD. T. Degnan reported that a grant of \$45,000 was awarded to Hampton Falls for this project and outlined the steps taken to obtain the grant. She noted that there is a watershed assistance grant available to alleviate costs for attorney fees, title insurance, etc.

Given that the full amount of the anticipated grant was not received, the owner was approached to see if the price could be lowered. The owners indicated they felt a good faith effort was made and did agree to lower the price by the difference.

Each Conservation Commission member provided input for this acquisition to include:

- There is a 1995 conservation easement on a parcel contiguous with this parcel that is bisected by marsh.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

- The parcel provides an opportunity for recreational land accessible to the public.
- There is a limited resource of passive recreation areas in the town and state.
- An option would be to sell the lot and acquire a conservation easement from the new owner on the back acreage. This would not allow for public access, however.
- There might be future potential of acquiring the Batchelder lot for conservation as well; having three contiguous parcels in conservation.
- Price is of concern and there is still an opportunity to negotiate.
- The grant is site specific.
- It is not felt that a new homeowner would grant public access to the rear of the property.
- Concern was raised with respect to the price. The majority of the acreage cannot be built on. Other recreational areas in town are not utilized now. There is a feeling of paying a premium price based on the buildability of the lot for a single home.
- Support of the time and effort of the Commission was expressed.
- The location and potential for other projects in the area makes this parcel worthwhile, especially with the access.

T. C. Tocci noted that he was not a member of the Board when this matter came about but that he has read and inquired as to the actions of the Selectmen and Conservation Commission. In reading the coastal grant criteria, he realized there is a question as to who will be responsible for maintenance and cost of maintenance. Discussion took place with respect to launching of boats and that the area would not allow for anything larger than a kayak. Further discussion also took place with respect to the trails on Map 9, Lot 11. It was noted that there appears to be a disconnect between the Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission with respect to recreational use of conservation lands.

The Conservation Commission requested the Board's vote in favor of acquiring Map 9, Lot 9 for conservation purposes.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of Map 9, Lot 9 based on the presentation of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: T. C. TOCCI

No "Second" was heard. The Board agreed to think on this matter and meet again on Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, for further action. Concern was expressed with the fact that Dave Murphy of the Coastal Grant is waiting for action by the Selectmen.

SECRETARY FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: L. Smith of the Conservation Commission explained that there is a need for clerical help. E. N. Small prepared a job opening notice for consideration of the Board. The Conservation Commission and Board approved posting for this position.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUNDS: E. N. Small prepared a summary of funds available, information on interest rates with various banks and a cash flow. He explained information he obtained with respect to investing these funds as well as his recommendation. The Board and Commission approved. E. N. Small will inform the Treasurer.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

• **OLD BUSINESS**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – MARCH 22, 28, 29, APRIL 3, 12:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 22 meeting as written.

MOTION: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.
SECOND: F. J. FERREIRA, JR.
1 ABSTENTION, PASSES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 28, March 29 minutes as written and April 3 minutes as amended.

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

The minutes of the April 12 meeting will be reviewed next meeting.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS-GENERAL FUND BALANCE - \$57,942
MARCH REVENUES \$103,400**

INSPECTION OF WHITTIER (BIG DODGE) POND DAM: E. N. Small referred the Board to a site inspection report received from the Department of Environmental Services. Four findings are listed to include lowering the water level, monitoring the concrete deterioration, making plans to repair the concrete wall and preparing an operation and maintenance plan. Following discussion of these items, F. J. Ferreira stated that the water level cannot be lowered now because the wood plank is swollen in place. He requested that a gate be constructed, with state permission, for control of the water level of the pond. He noted that this is part of the evacuation route and that the state should be working with the town to correct this problem.

ANTIOCH NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE – T. TOCCI. TO ATTEND – FOUR SESSIONS

TOTAL EMPLOYEES ON TOWN PAYROLL?: E. N. Small reported there are 69 employees currently on the payroll; nine full-time and 60 part-time.

APPOINTMENTS SPREADSHEET 2007-2009: A revised spreadsheet of appointees and expiration of terms prepared by the Town Clerk was provided to the Board.

BASSETT/APPLECREST LAND, ROUTE 88, CURRENT USE ABATEMENT APPLICATION – RESPONSE BY TOWN’S ASSESSING AGENT: E. N. Small will be reviewing this matter with the Assessor on Friday, April 21.

ASSESSING AGENT UPDATED DATA COLLECTION WILL BE COMPLETED ON APRIL 21

CASH FLOW PROJECTION SPREADSHEET: An updated cash flow spreadsheet was provided to the Board.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF RESIDENCES IN THE COMMERCIAL ZONE- REGISTRY OF DEEDS: The document listing those property owners who receive this special exception was signed by the Board for filing at the Registry.

MASTER PLAN, CHAPTER 12, WATER RESOURCES: T. C. Tocci distributed draft copies of this chapter to Board members requesting they review and return it with comments, if any. The CIP Committee and Glenn Greenwood of the Rockingham Planning Commission worked on this chapter for a lengthy period of time. Once reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, the matter can proceed to public hearing in May. This is the last chapter to be revised.

GRANITE STONE IN FRONT OF TOWN HALL LP GAS TANK: R. B. Merrill will be placing a granite block in front of the propane gas tank at Town Hall to create a barrier from vehicles. Suggestion was made to plant shrubs as a barrier as well and to look at the area around Town Hall to identify other landscaping needs.

AUCTION OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR'S VEHICLE: Suggestion has been made to include the building inspector vehicle at the State auction. The Board approved.

HAZARDOUS MITIGATION PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING IN THE NEAR FUTURE –EMD JAY LORD: E. N. Small reported that J. M. Lord has submitted this plan to the Federal agency. A copy is available for the Board's review.

INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT FOR DRINKWATER RD AT THE WADLEIGH SUBDIVISION ROAD: This agreement has been signed by Christian Smith of Beals Associates on behalf of the developer. F. J. Ferreira, Jr. signed the agreement on behalf of the Board.

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman to sign the indemnification agreement for the Wadleigh Lane subdivision.

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

APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGHWAY AGENT: R. B. Merrill was inadvertently excluded from the listing of appointees. Board members signed the appointment form.

MOTION: To appoint R. B. Merrill as Highway Agent.

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

RELEASE OF FUNDS – LINDEN ROAD – EROSION CONTROL AROUND A UTILITY BOX – RBM: E. N. Small reported one remaining issue of an erosion problem around a utility box. The developer will be informed of the need to correct this then the remaining funds will be released to close the account.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

BRUSH DUMP ATTENDANT: With the passing of long-time dump attendant Peter Lonergan, this position is available. Suzanne Veilleux has indicated she is willing to fill this position. Dan LaMontagne has agreed to fill in as an alternate when needed. E. N. Small recommended appoint of S. Veilleux.

MOTION: To appoint Suzanne Veilleux as Dump Attendant.

MOTION: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.

SECOND: T. C. TOCCI

UNANIMOUS

• **NEW BUSINESS**

SEATING ARRANGEMENT FOR SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS: The seating arrangement at Selectmen's meetings has been changed at the suggestion of T. C. Tocci.

NEW FORMAT FOR THE SELECTMEN'S MINUTES – ADD "ACTION ITEMS": An additional document including the results of action items will be provided to the Board each meeting. A review of completed and outstanding items took place at this time.

MUNICIPAL RESOURCES, INC.: E. N. Small provided the Board with two copies of the contract with MRI. The Board signed each. MRI is to help with the search and interview process for the building inspector position.

INSPECTION OF TOWN FOREST: This inspection is to take place in the summer as the land is too wet now. The Conservation Commission will be informed in order to respond to the inspector.

RECOGNITION TO DAVE & ENOS – IMPROVEMENTS TO STORE FRONT: Board members complimented the efforts of the renovation at this business and requested that a letter of recognition be sent. L. A. Ruest will prepare the letter for signature.

PERSONNEL POLICY: ADOPT A NEW JOB APPLICATION FORM: The Board reviewed and approved a new employment application form.

PERSONNEL POLICY: EMAIL, VOICE MAIL AND INTERNET USAGE POLICY: A copy of this policy, as approved by counsel, will be reviewed at the Board's May 17 meeting for discussion to be made part of the Town personnel policy.

ICMA 4

MEMBERSHIP: E. N. Small received confirmation of his membership as corporate member.

SURVEY OF SB 2 LEGISLATION- RESIDENT OF PITTSFIELD, NH: A letter of request has been made to the Board to complete a survey.

APPLICATION FOR ELDERLY EXEMPTION: The Board signed two applications requesting elderly exemption. Both qualify.

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

VALUE OF EASEMENT – WHITTIER POND: E. N. Small will request the Assessor prepare a value for the proposed easement at Whittier Pond.

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S INSPECTION REPORT FORM & ELECTRICAL/PLUMBING PERMIT FORM: E. N. Small provided copies of new forms for use in the Building Inspection office. These have been recommended for use by the interim building inspector. The Board approved printing in duplicate form.

NAMING OF A PRIVATE SUBDIVISION ROAD OFF BRIMMER LANE, “FALLS RIVER WAY”: A request has been received for a road name for a proposed private road currently before the Planning Board for consideration.

MOTION: To name this private subdivision road “Dewitt Lane.”

MOTION: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.

SECOND: T. C. TOCCI

UNANIMOUS

HYA’S USE OF GOVERNOR WEARE PARK – RECREATION COMMISSION: An email request for information relating to the use of the baseball field was reviewed by the Board. It was suggested that this matter be referred to the Recreation Commission for consideration.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS- 3 DAY WORK PROGRAM: Information has been received that services of this department have become available. Information has been provided to the Cemetery Trustees, Conservation Commission and Library. Suggestions to paint the old library fence and roadside cleanup were made. Further suggestion was made to contact the Department of Transportation to clean up the cut brush along Route 88.

NEXT SELECTMEN’S MEETING – WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2006, 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION: T. C. TOCCI

SECOND: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.

UNANIMOUS