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PRESENT: T. C. Tocci, Chairman; S. C. Hanson, M. J. Farinola, Selectmen; E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant

ABATEMENT – MAP 4, LOTS 25 AND 25-3 – ASSESSING AGENT: Referring to her recommendation for abatement, D. Calder explained the results of her evaluation of the property. This property has had significant structural, wiring and plumbing repairs which affected quality. She became aware of specifics after a conversation with the contractor. Most renovations were done as of April 2008. D. Calder has reviewed the property and recommended a reduction in assessment. The abatement relates to April 2007 only. D. Calder reported on the excellent condition of the barn and that it is planned to be used as a rec building. The abatement was signed by the Board.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation of the Assessing Agent for Map 4, Lots 25 & 25-3.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

ROAD AGENT - MONTHLY REPORT: R. B. Merrill, Jr. informed the Selectmen that his review of the culvert on Curtis Road found that additional materials of rip rap will be needed and that the work needed is more than a quick fix. He asked whether the Board wanted him to do the work or whether the work will be bid out with another project. T. C. Tocci asked that he prepare cost figures for consideration of the Board in order to get this culvert repaired as soon as possible. R. B. Merrill, Jr. also reported that a driveway on Drinkwater Road has washed away again and needs attention when shoulder work is done.

HIGHWAY DEPT PRIORITY LIST: The listing of priorities, updated from last meeting, was provided to the Board.

PROGRESS REPORT ON RFPS - WINTER SNOW MAINTENANCE/ TREE & LIMB REMOVAL/ DRAINAGE & SHOULDERS/ CRACK SEALING: E. N. Small reported that RFPs for winter snow maintenance have been mailed and some picked up by contractors. Responses are due back August 4 with opening scheduled for August 6. E. N. Small stated he made calls with regard to tree removal. Contractors will need to come to Town to look at what needs to be done. A listing of identified trees has been prepared for contractors to indicate prices. E. N. Small has also prepared RFPs for crack sealing. M. J. Farinola stated he would like to review shoulder and drainage bids with the Town Engineer before finalizing in order to specify the work needed. E. N. Small noted that all roads are different and that this will need to be specified on the RFP. E. N. Small will prepare the RFP for roadside mowing next. M. J. Farinola inquired as to the last time mowing for the Town Common, etc. has been bid. E. N. Small stated that it has not been bid for years and that the current contractor does an excellent job. It was suggested to review this with the upcoming budget.

OLD STAGE ROAD BRIDGE - REPAIR POT HOLE: E. N. Small reported that a pot hole on the Old Stage Road Bridge has been repaired by the Town of Hampton.

BUILDING INSPECTOR / CODE ENFORCEMENT / HEALTH: K. C. Kelley referred the Board to his report for June and reviewed the status of 97 Lafayette Road, Seacoast Academy, emergency lighting at Town buildings, three wetland violations and recent salmonella and mosquito testing issues. He noted that in working with the owners of units at 97 Lafayette Road, a dust

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problem in one of the units has been identified. K. C. Kelley and the Fire Chief are working to get the business cleaned up to allow safe working conditions and egress. M. J. Farinola questioned the problem. K. C. Kelley explained that a light industrial use is taking place in a unit approved for retail, tea leaves are being ground causing a serious dust problem and items are located in such a way on the floor that there is no means of egress. No dust collectors are in place, no respirators and no change of air. J. M. Lord added his Department received no notice of the business moving in. The matter was brought to the attention of the Building Inspector by a contractor. T. C. Tocci asked if there is a deadline for the tenant to respond. K. C. Kelley noted that there is no power to the unit at present and as soon as it is cleaned up, an inspection will take place. It is in the tenant's interest to get power turned on, however, there still remains the issue of no approval for light industrial use. T. C. Tocci asked that K. C. Kelley take action to get this addressed as soon as possible with deadlines. If no response, K. C. Kelley should take the next step. M. J. Farinola also questioned the wetland violations and asked if the Building Inspector contacted DES. K. C. Kelley confirmed that he did.

K. C. Kelley distributed a document dated July 16, 2008, outlining his opinion of the actions of M. J. Farinola that relate to his influence on the performance of the duties of the Building Inspector. Following review of the incident where M. J. Farinola interrupted the Building Inspector, he asked for clarification of the roles of individual Selectmen in order to avoid conflict between elected and appointed officials performing their duties.

S. C. Hanson stated he was not sure what should be done; M. J. Farinola is a Selectman and the property owner needs to do what's required. K. C. Kelley noted that M. J. Farinola was being paid to do an appraisal job and that he shouldn't be interfering with the duties of the Building Inspector, acting alone and not within the Board. M. J. Farinola stated he was talking with D. Benoit and questions arose about site plan. K. C. Kelley restated it is his responsibility to provide documentation to support a position on a property and asked the Board to address the duties of Selectmen, roles and interference. T. C. Tocci stated he felt no one on the Board should be involved with any discussions with property owners where the Building Inspector is taking direct action; doing so is not appropriate and a conflict.

M. J. Farinola stated he is not employed by D. Benoit and doesn't feel he influenced situations in any way. He added that people are being sent to do site plans; one where it delayed the condo project for an amended site plan and questioned why it was needed. He stated that he feels if a constituent comes up and asks any Selectman a question that they should be able to ask for an answer. He added that he will continue to talk with constituents, that some are looking for change and that he will not be put off by the Chairman or anyone else to stop him from talking. T. C. Tocci stated it is important to understand that Selectmen should not get involved with a public official conducting his/her duty. S. C. Hanson suggested that restraint be used in how conversations are approached in order to understand a position.

MONTHLY REPORT - FIRE CHIEF / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: J. M. Lord reviewed his report for June noting incidents and statistics.

PERMITS FOR HORSE SHOWS: Two Selectmen's Permits have been requested for property located at 340 and 356 Exeter Road. One is for a benefit dinner/auction and the other is for a horse show with an anticipated attendance of 10,000 over a week's time. Question was raised as to why the Selectmen get such a short notice leaving no opportunity to address safety issues, etc. E. N. Small

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suggested that permits be requested 30 days in advance. It was noted that there are conditions of approval that relate to these properties. J. M. Lord reviewed his meetings with the coordinators of these events. J. M. Lord is to meet once more before the horse show of September 3. T. C. Tocci requested to be informed of the meeting. With regard to the request for liquor approval, it was explained that liquor will be provided to members of the VIP tent only, not the general public. Selectmen's permit and letter of approval is needed for the Liquor Commission. Police details and EMTs have been lined up. Chairman Tocci signed the two permits and the full Board signed the letter to the Liquor Commission.

EMERGENCY SHELTER- AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD AND AMERICAN RED CROSS: J. M. Lord referred the Board to a Statement of Agreement for the use of facilities as Mass Care shelters. This agreement was signed by the School Board in the past to allow a call to be made for a shelter if needed. The Red Cross coordinates the set up. S. C. Hanson noted that there has been discussion regarding obtaining a generator for the school in conjunction with the use as a shelter. J. M. Lord indicated that he has obtained information on a grant to assist with money to install a generator but there is no money to purchase a generator. He also questioned whether the plan is to renovate the school with an addition or remove a section. S. C. Hanson added that the Town of Epping installed a co-generation engine that provides heat as well as electricity.

TWO TYPES OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS FOR THE TOWN HALL – ONE FOR COMPUTERS: Inspection of extinguishers at the Town Hall found that additional ones are needed. Fire personnel have been able to locate extinguishers at \$26 each. The type of extinguisher needed for computers costs approximately \$400. He suggested that purchase of this type of extinguisher not be made as data is stored off site and computers cost about the same amount.

FIRE WORKS ORDINANCE: J. M. Lord reported that he has a model ordinance but that past Boards were not interested. He reported that he has concern with persons using fire works in an unsafe manner. S. C. Hanson and T. C. Tocci stated they are willing to consider and M. J. Farinola had no interest. J. M. Lord will refine the ordinance wording for consideration.

AMERICAN RED CROSS (PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM) PERMANENT SIGN - ONE TOWN ENTRANCE: A request has been received from the American Red Cross to put up a sign in Town. A copy of the proposed sign was reviewed and it was noted that sponsors would be funding the sign. Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to decline the request.

POLICE CHIEF - MONTHLY REPORT: R. Dirsa reviewed his report for June noting incidents and statistics. R. Dirsa reported the Department received a proclamation from the South Hampton Board of Selectmen and Fire Chief thanking officers for assistance at the C. P. Lumber fire scene. A letter has also been received from Citizen's Bank (Corporate Security) acknowledging the diligence and security support provided to the branch in Hampton Falls.

T. C. Tocci inquired as to the number of alarms and the action taken to prevent them. R. Dirsa noted that some are repeat alarms and that the ordinance allows for five false alarms during the year, then a fine is assessed. He added that when the number gets close to five, he sends a letter suggesting the issue be addressed with the alarm company and reminds offenders of the ordinance. A number of alarms come from the Town Hall where people come and go.

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- **OLD BUSINESS**

FINANCIAL REPORTS - GENERAL FUND BALANCE - \$2,639,300

TOWN CLERK – RECEIPTS \$37,947 TAX COLLECTOR – RECEIPTS \$2,744,670
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS \$8,825 CURRENT USE – 100% - NONE

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PREVIOUS MONTH \$3,643,683.81 was provided to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS FROM 7-2-08: An updated listing of action items was provided to the Board. S. C. Hanson will provide additional items he has in mind to E. N. Small to add to the list.

REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED “CODE OF ETHICS:” T. C. Tocci asked that this matter be tabled until review of laws can be done to ensure the Board is moving in the right direction. M. J. Farinola provided copies of examples from the Town of Sandown and the Town of Brookline to E. N. Small.

M. J. Farinola inquired as to other aspects of the recommendations made by the auditors. The status of each was questioned at this time. E. N. Small stated that a new guideline requires the Town to contract for a second review of the audit as no one on staff is qualified. M. J. Farinola stated he felt these items should be added to the action item listing.

READING MATERIAL FOR THE SELECTMEN: E. N. Small referred the Board to a file folder of reading material.

ELECTION TRAINING: A number of officials have signed up for training.

MODEL “FRAUD POLICY:” In conjunction with the recommendations of the audit, this draft policy was provided to the Board for review and discussion at a future meeting.

IZIP GRANT AWARDED TO HAMPTON FALLS: On behalf of the Board, T. C. Tocci congratulated the Planning Board on its \$7,000 award. This matter is scheduled for public hearing on August 6. The public hearing notice was signed by the Board.

FUEL COSTS 2008-2009: L. A. Ruest obtained prices from a number of vendors for the upcoming winter season. She referred the Board to a spreadsheet outlining each vendor’s price and options for purchase and further noted that some vendors are not offering options this year. L. A. Ruest reviewed the current budget funds available and the total costs needed for the upcoming winter season. She reviewed the costs should the Board take advantage of budget payment plans versus purchase up front as done in the past and noted that the per gallon price, on average, is double last year’s lock in rate. Following discussion, the Board decided to hold off on decision at this time.

LANDSCAPING AT THE HAMPTON FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY: On behalf of the Board, T. C. Tocci thanked the Historical Society for a job well done. Grant funds were obtained from a grant from the Rye Garden Club.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: R. McDermott, Coach Lane, requested the Board include funds for a fifth full-time officer to provide coverage overnight in the budget for the upcoming year. M. J. Farinola suggested that this could be done by citizen's petition for voters to consider by warrant article. R. McDermott restated that he is asking the Selectmen to add to the budget. J. P. Pontbriand asked whether the Town pays the State Police for this coverage. He was told indirectly through County taxes and that there is no offset if this coverage is no longer provided. R. Dirsa provided an explanation of how calls are answered after town coverage. Steve Sabatini, Exeter Road, inquired as to statistics of State Police calls. R. Dirsa stated he would need to tabulate this information but that he estimates a few per week. Rick Bazzuto, Cider Hill Lane, referred to reports in the newspaper indicating outsourcing police services to other towns, and requested an update on the process for deciding. T. C. Tocci stated that the Board met with the Police Chief and that there is no effort being made to outsource for police protection. R. Bazzuto asked what the process would be to do so if the citizenship in Town is willing. M. J. Farinola suggested a citizen's petition as discussed earlier. Bob Ruest, Coach Lane, stated that outsourcing the police will not save money adding that the officers in neighboring towns earn more than Hampton Falls' officers, plus benefits; no one will provide services for free. Tim Samway, Old Stage Road, stated he felt it would be a better approach to have the Selectmen's support for a fifth full-time officer in the budget for increased services and that there doesn't need to be a warrant article to add the position. Jon McInnis, Kensington Road, reviewed an incident where Hampton Falls Police protected him from walking in on a burglary in process in the middle of the day and added the Board shouldn't even be thinking of outsourcing. Referring to police logs, Rachel Syska, Mill Lane, stated her concern with residents calling the Police Department for what she feels are non-police matters.

Larry Smith, Old Stage Road, mentioned that it is good to see the attendance at this meeting (40 +/-), however, that it is difficult to hear and suggested microphones be used in the future. Wendy McDermott, Coach Lane, inquired as to how often the meeting room gets used and whether it could be shut down in the winter to save fuel. She added that the public safety training room allows for ease in hearing.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

APPLICATION FOR CURRENT USE ASSESSMENT- MAP 6, LOT 4 AND APPLICATION FOR AN ELDERLY EXEMPTION: Applications were signed by the Board.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
UNANIMOUS

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was heard at this time.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – WEDNESDAY, _AUGUST 6, 2008, 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL