

TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS

PRESENT: S. C. Volpone, Jr., T. C. Tocci, S. C. Hanson, Selectmen;
E. N. Small, Town Administrator; L. A. Ruest, Administrative Assistant;
Robert Berry, SAU 21; Tom Baker, Lincoln Akerman School Board Member;
C. Brown, Planning Board Chair; R. Dirsra, Police Chief; J. M. Lord, Fire Chief

This meeting was called to order at 7:19 a.m.

1. Impact Fees

T. Baker reported that the Lincoln Akerman School Board is looking for an understanding of the impact fee designated for schools. T. C. Tocci made reference to the ordinance (Article IX – Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 8 – Impact Fee Ordinance) noting that Section 8.4 outlines the restrictions regarding the use of collected impact fee funds.

Assessment Methodology

- The amount of any impact fee shall be a proportional share of municipal capital improvement costs which is reasonable related to the capital needs created by the development, and to the benefits accruing to the developing from the capital improvements financed by the fee.
- Upgrading of existing facilities and infrastructures, the need for which is not created by new development, shall not be paid for by impact fees.

T. C. Tocci provided a summary of the history of the implementation of an impact fee and the justifications made at that time. He added that given the current enrollment he doesn't see an impact on spatial needs by growth and development.

T. Baker noted that consideration is being given to the need for classroom space. C. Brown stated that as a past school board member she understands the school can accommodate 300 students. She added that an efficiency study of the building with regard to usage was suggested by the Capital Improvement Plan Committee in the past; however, there has been no answer to date.

T. Baker questioned whether the impact fees could be used to fund an added school bus run or placement of portable classrooms. Indication was made that requests should relate to needs as a result of growth. E. N. Small suggested the School Board submit requests in writing and he will forward them for review to Town counsel.

At R. Berry's request, E. N. Small provided him with information relating to the amount of impact fees collected to date to include the expiration dates. It was noted that impact fees collected are required to be returned, with interest, if not used within six years. L. A. Ruest noted that copies of information relating to the creation and adoption of the impact fee ordinance, the expert's methodology report and actions of the voters have been compiled should anyone

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wish to review the subject further. R. Berry took this information as well as a Law Lecture Series report on Impact Fees for review.

S. C. Hanson asked whether the Planning Board has considered or discussed dedicating impact fees to another purpose since the implementation of the impact fee for schools. C. Brown stated the Board has not and explained the reason for the dedication of fees to schools was due to the anticipated purchase of land and construction of a new school and that anticipated development would bring in students. These things have not happened. She also noted that it was difficult to justify the impact fee for roads as new roads are built by the developer and remain in maintenance phase for two years. At the time of consideration, the Fire Department was volunteer-staffed only, and the Board was hard-pressed to show an impact in public safety. T. C. Tocci added that another concern at the time was that 75% of property taxes relates to schools as it does today.

Recommendation has been made by the Selectmen to study a possible redistribution of the designation of impact fees. Question was raised as to whether the collected impact fees can be re-designated to another use. S. C. Volpone, Jr. suggested impact fees be shared proportionately to the percentage of the tax rate. C. Brown suggested that consideration be given to placing a warrant article on the ballot for March. Research, review and public hearing would need to take place by December end to do so. Otherwise, another year will pass before a change can be presented to the voters. C. Brown requested the subject of impact fees be added to the Planning Board's September agenda. T. Baker excused himself from the meeting at this time.

2. Capital Improvement Program 2008-2013

E. N. Small reported that request for proposed projects have been mailed to both Lincoln Akerman School and Winnacunnet High School and that worksheets were due August 21. R. Berry stated he would provide this information to the Lincoln Akerman School Board and added that not much is planned for 2008. T. C. Tocci stated that the CIP Committee will begin hearings on September 11 and September 18. R. Berry requested to be placed on the September 18 agenda.

3. Maple Tree along Route 88 on school property

Request was made to R. Berry to remove the safety hazard of the dead/dying tree outside Lincoln Akerman School along Route 88. R. Berry stated he would follow up on this matter with LAS Custodian A. Lajoie.

4. Lincoln Akerman School as an emergency shelter

J. M. Lord stated that over the years there has been consideration given to using Lincoln Akerman School as an emergency shelter. He noted that it has been used as temporary shelter in the past. J. M. Lord reported that the American Red Cross has reviewed the facility and raised a number of points and questions. J. M. Lord requested efforts begin to designate the elementary school as a shelter location, specifically the gym/cafeteria area that includes bathroom facilities

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and a kitchen. One consideration is the need for a generator. J. M. Lord stated he has reviewed the issue of the size of a generator to serve the needs of a shelter with Unital. He noted that there are grant funds to assist with installation but not the purchase of the generator. Concern was raised with regard to the school's intentions with the existing structure and whether the gym/cafeteria falls within proposed plans. R. Berry stated he would bring this matter to the Lincoln Akerman School Board requesting consideration to designate the gym/cafeteria as an emergency shelter. E. N. Small will draft a letter of request on behalf of the Selectmen.

5. Date of the Deliberative Session – first Saturday in February

E. N. Small reported that the Town plans to hold its deliberative session on the first Saturday of February 2008 at the Town Hall. R. Berry stated he would report back with the school's date for its deliberative session and would inform Lincoln Akerman School staff of the potential need for use of the gymnasium as a back-up location. The second Saturday of February 2008 will be the snow date.

6. Other business

No other business was discussed at this time.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:49 a.m.

MOTION: S. C. HANSON

SECOND: T. C. TOCCI

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