

FINAL

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

Chairman Tocci provided rules for this meeting given the significant attendance. He explained that this meeting is not a public hearing; that it is a regular business meeting of the Selectmen to address old and new business agenda items. He noted that there is an opportunity for public comment at the end of both old business and new business.

OPENINGS OF RFPS FOR TOWN REPORT: E. N. Small reported that two bids have been received. They were opened and read into the record as follows:

Vendor	Option 1	Option 2
Selectprint Solutions, North Brookfield, MA	\$3,152	\$2,223
Wharf Industries Printing, Concord, NH	\$5,476	\$3,870

These bids were taken under advisement.

OPENINGS OF RFPS FOR ROADSIDE BRUSH CUTTING: E. N. Small reported that two bids have been received. It was noted that one bid was received two minutes past the deadline. The Board agreed to accept the bid. The bids were opened and read into the record as follows:

Vendor	Bid Amount
Chris Merrill, Inc., Hampton Falls, NH	\$1,380
D. P. Melican Construction, Seabrook, NH	\$2,800

These bids were taken under advisement.

PRESENTATION OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2009-2014: Capital Improvement Committee Chairman M. Caruso presented the proposed CIP for 2009-2014. He referred the Board to a summary narrative explanation as well as a spreadsheet outlining detailed amounts. He reviewed the proposal line by line noting priorities of High, Medium, Low or Committed and answered questions of the Board. It was noted that the schools did not submit information for this year's CIP. The Board thanked M. Caruso for his presentation.

REVIEW OF AMBULANCE PROPOSALS:

Bidder	Annual Cost/Current Contract 16 hour/7 day	24 hour/7 day Cost	24 hour/7 day Dedicated Vehicle to Hampton Falls
American Medical Response	\$42,224	\$175,900	\$475,000
Care Plus	\$40,000	\$85,000	

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Hampton Falls Fire Department	No Bid	\$50,000	
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T. C. Tocci reviewed the process of obtaining proposals for ambulance service to date to include an initial Request for Proposal, public hearing, re-bidding of the proposal, pre-conference meeting with bidders and receipt of proposals. Tonight's meeting is to review proposals received. It was noted that although four interested parties (AMR, Careplus, Hampton Falls Fire Department, Rockingham Regional) attended the pre-conference session, only three submitted proposals (AMR, Careplus, Hampton Falls Fire Department). A meeting is scheduled for December 8 to formally make a decision.

T. C. Tocci complimented the proposals of those who bid noting that all met the specifications requested. He opened discussion to members of the Board. M. J. Farinola stated concern with a point of procedure, specifically identifying Section 3.1.11 relating to Independent Contractors. He read the wording of this section for the benefit of the public and stated the Board would need to vote to waive the requirement and accept the bid of the Hampton Falls Fire Department.

MOTION: To accept the bid of the Hampton Falls Fire Department excluding the requirement of Section 3.1.11.

MOTION: T. C. TOCCI
SECOND: S. C. HANSON

M. J. Farinola referred to an article in the Hampton Union relating to the NH Retirement System and how it's broken. He reviewed the example outlined in the news article noting it may cost the Town of Hampton \$650,000 and acknowledged that there is no proposal to add full-time employees in Hampton Falls but that the potential risk is there. T. C. Tocci stated that the Town would have to vote on additional personnel to the Department.

VOTE: 2 in Favor, 1 Opposed, Passes

No other comments were heard from the Board. T. C. Tocci explained the proposals for the benefit of those in attendance. Discussion of response times took place; specifications required 12 minutes/90% of the time. S. C. Hanson noted AMR's indication of a seven minute response time with dedicated service in Town with Careplus of 12 minutes and the Hampton Falls Fire Department of 6.8 minutes. S. C. Hanson inquired as to whether a private company's ambulance could be housed at the Public Safety Building. J. M. Lord stated there is no room for another vehicle. T. C. Tocci asked J. M. Lord if mutual aid would be eliminated if full time coverage is provided by a private company. J. M. Lord stated mutual aid contracts are made with fire based groups, not private companies. M. J. Farinola stated it has only been the past year that Hampton Falls has had a part-time fire department with part-time ambulance service; prior to that was AMR with mutual aid. J. M. Lord stated this information was incorrect; the Town had AMR with the Fire Department. He added that other towns have provided mutual aid five or six times per year for multiple accidents/patients situations.

M. J. Farinola stated that the current system is new as people have supported having a professional ambulance company with 24 hour coverage. He stated that if it is decided to do something new that the people be given a chance to vote noting that it is too much for three Board members to do. M. J. Farinola indicated there are two options; continue with current partial system or go back to 24 hour

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coverage. He suggested that by next January, the Fire Department could put together a proposal that would be a presentation to townspeople to let them decide. He expressed concern with adding to the budget that would eventually employ up to six personnel (citing an example of North Hampton where the Department has grown and expanded beyond what's wanted), growing of government and taking more tax money. M. J. Farinola stated he prefers returning to the 24 hour private company ambulance service or continuing the way ambulance service was provided last year with AMR and the Fire Department.

S. C. Hanson agreed that this is a big decision noting that he felt it was a mistake not to bring the matter to the voters last year. He stated that the Fire Department has done a great job but that any change should be up to the voters. He questioned how information and public sessions could be held before March. M. J. Farinola stated doing something this year would be a rush and suggested locking in a company until April 15 and allowing 16 months to put information together.

T. C. Tocci acknowledged the comments of the Board and noted that time is a problem with regard to holding public hearings, etc. He noted that the specifications requested proposals to extend service to April in anticipation of this situation. Thanks were extended to those in attendance and it was reported that a meeting is scheduled for December 8 to make a decision.

• **OLD BUSINESS**

FINANCIAL REPORTS-GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$1,475,000

ACTION ITEMS – NOV 17, 19, 24 MEETING: An updated listing of action items was provided to the Board.

2009 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING – JANUARY 7, 2009, 7:00 PM - PUBLIC NOTICE:
The Board signed the hearing notice for this hearing.

OATH - ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY BE APPRAISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE APPRAISAL STANDARDS. RSA 75:7: M. J. Farinola asked that this matter again be moved to the next agenda as he has not had time to review the RSA.

CASH FLOW REPORT: E. N. Small reported a General Fund balance of \$1,475,000 and that taxes are due December 4, 2008.

INTEREST RATES FOR INVESTMENT OF TAX REVENUE: E. N. Small reported that the Treasurer researched interest rates and found Ocean National Bank to offer the best rate of 3.04% for a five-month Certificate of Deposit. A statement of collateralization will be provided.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation of the Treasurer (Ocean National Bank, 3.04%, five-month CD).

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

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PROPERTY-LIABILITY INSURANCE – PRIMEX, 3 YEAR PROGRAM: Following discussion of insurance with PRIMEX for property-liability, T. C. Tocci signed the resolution to enter Primex's 5% Multi Year Discount Program. It was noted that training is provided and that with this new agreement, the Town cannot return to LGC for two years after separation.

BROWN ROAD RETAINING WALL – OPINION FROM COUNSEL: T. C. Tocci reviewed the opinion of counsel on this matter. It was noted that funds available for this work have been provided by the Federal Government. Counsel has informed that there is no reason the Board cannot seek a new design to more consistently meet the financial abilities of the Town. There is also a need to obtain an easement from the property owner to do the work.

S. C. Hanson apologized to Wayne Barker for the delay in getting this work done. He recommended that W. Barker and the Town Engineer meet to discuss proposed modifications and noted that with the modified plan, the matter will need to be put out to bid. The Board agreed to have Brad Jones of Jones and Beach Engineers contact W. Barker and also to move forward with obtaining an easement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

W. Kenney, Oak Drive, requested a copy of the second Request for Proposal for Ambulance services.

Robert Rudowsky, Kensington Road, spoke to the professionalism and abilities of the Hampton Falls Fire Department and supported the proposal of the Department providing ambulance services. With reference to M. J. Farinola's indication of putting the decision off, he questioned why other issues such as insurance or brush cutting are not put to voters. M. J. Farinola stated that in the past, the Town had a Road Agent that did all the work. In the past year, this has been changed. With regard to insurance policies, it was noted that there are two pooled providers in the State that provide services to towns and school districts; one is LGC and the other PRIMEX.

Gay Brown, Kensington Road, stated that the Town is looking to obtain 24/7 ambulance coverage and of the three bids submitted, the Hampton Falls Fire Department is the lowest price, they've demonstrated the fastest response time and are not looking to add personnel or future retirement. G. Brown indicated that the Board has the opportunity to obtain the best response at the lowest price. She added that experience with the SB2 form of voting would find no more in attendance than are present this meeting. She stated that Selectmen are elected as representatives of the Town to make decisions and there is no point to go to a vote for decision when the Selectmen have been elected to do so.

Sheri Allen, Kensington Road, stated that it appears the re-bidding process has been a waste of time. She added that there are certain factions in Town that are against the Fire Department and that this is a shame when one sees the work done day in and day out by the Department. She inquired as to the number of times AMR has been unable to respond when the Fire Department has responded.

Larry Smith, Old Stage Road, reported that he received an unsolicited call from Dr. Thomas Warton of Prescott Lane who, as Head of Cardiology at Exeter Hospital, indicated he agreed with the content of the letter mailed to residents regarding ambulance services. He indicated that in his experience he felt the Hampton Falls Fire Department is one of the best with regard to transports and interactions. As a doctor, he indicated he favors the Hampton Falls Fire Department. L. Smith stated that although Dr. Warton asked him to speak on his behalf, he also offered a letter if the Board requires.

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L. Smith commented on the Board's effort to reduce the overall town budget by five percent. He questioned whether the Board is cutting benefits the town wants and provided the following: The Town portion of the tax rate represents 21% of the tax bill. If the budget is reduced five percent, this represents 1%. This 1% related to a \$10,000 tax bill is a \$100 savings. L. Smith expressed concern with M. J. Farinola's willingness to spend money to go with any full-time ambulance service other than the Fire Department and concurred with G. Brown's position of the Selectmen being elected to make decisions.

Forrest Brown, Exeter Road, supported L. Smith's comments and questioned why the Board can't make a plausible decision on this matter. He added that time has been wasted and that he supports the Hampton Falls Fire Department's dedicated personnel.

Phil Harvey, Drinkwater Road, concurred with F. Brown's comments and asked the Board to respond to his question. R. McDermott, Coach Lane, reported that he recently had the need for emergency services and experienced a timely response and professional personnel.

Charles Graham, Crank Road, reviewed a number of times where the Hampton Falls Fire Department responded to emergency situations during the 28 years he's resided in town. He reported timely responses and professionalism in the various incidents. He stated that the section of the RFP questioned by M. J. Farinola is in place to protect the town in that by terms of the contract, there is no employer/employee relationship being created. It is not addressing any other relationship the Hampton Falls Fire Department might have with the town. He stated he felt "smoke and mirrors" is being applied when M. J. Farinola stretches the issues to full-time employees and retirement benefits. C. Graham added that when he first moved to Town, most firefighters were residents but now there is less than can be counted on one hand. He added that in his work experience he represented Massachusetts towns with call departments represented by Teamsters. He stated that the Hampton Falls Fire Department is a bargain and recommended continuing to fund a capital reserve fund each year as there will be a savings to the Town as long as the Department can be kept volunteer. He cautioned that if personnel cannot be retained, Hampton Falls will have a paid department and will then be negotiating with a union.

T. C. Tocci stated that this process was started in August and the Board finds itself in December without a decision and that he is ready to make a decision. He agreed the Board is empowered to make decisions and that he would like to see more made.

A two minute recess was taken at this time.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

2009 SCHEDULE FOR SUBMITTING BILLS AND PAYROLL TIME: Board members signed the notice to Department Heads outlining due dates to submit bills and payroll.

ELDERLY EXEMPTION: E. N. Small reported that an elderly exemption for a taxpayer was omitted. An abatement request was signed by the Board.

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VETERAN'S CREDIT: E. N. Small reported that as part of the Department of Revenue Administration's audit of veteran's credits in Hampton Falls, one was identified as dated. Information has been since received and is part of this application. The application was signed by the Board.

OTHER

Curtis Road Culvert: E. N. Small reported a problem with drainage in conjunction with the repairs being made to a culvert on Curtis Road. Suggestion is made to correct a driveway to allow for proper drainage. S. C. Hanson requested time to research this matter. The estimated cost is \$500 with materials available from the Brush Dump.

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

REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – M. FARINOLA reported there was no meeting in November.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION – T. TOCCI reported a brochure is being put together with grant money to explain wetland and shoreland violations and will be distributed to residents. The Commission is reviewing grants from the NH Trails Bureau in conjunction with various proposed projects. Efforts are being made to provide signage at the Marsh Lane Preserve Extension to assist the public.

ENERGY COMMITTEE – S. HANSON reported that the Energy Committee is discussing ways in which to identify areas to conserve energy and stated that the Jordan Institute conducted an audit at Lincoln Akerman School. Arrangements are being planned to audit the Town Hall and Public Safety Building. The Committee is waiting to hear on the awarded grant from the Rockingham Planning Commission.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – M. FARINOLA reported he did not attend the last meeting due to a conflict with a Board of Selectmen meeting.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE - T. TOCCI restated that Jude Augusta has stepped down from this committee. Committee members are interested in touring certain homes with the intention of trying to retain them in proper original state (Tilton Elkins and Merrill). The Committee has also been addressing a tour of homes in Exeter which are examples of remodels to workforce type housing. There is interest in talking with someone from the State with regard to responsibilities and duties of this committee. Discussion has also taken place with regard to a program for historical markers for older properties in town as well as plaques identifying the year built.

PLANNING BOARD – S. HANSON reported the Planning Board reviewed four proposed zoning amendments that will be heard at a public hearing on December 16 (elderly/multi-family, conservation subdivision, small wind energy systems and private road subdivision).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - NOVEMBER 5, 14, 17, 19, 24:

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 5 meeting as written.

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

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 14 meeting as written.

MOTION: T. C. TOCCI
SECOND: M. J. FARINOLA
2 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTENTION, PASSES

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 17 meeting as written.

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

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 19 meeting as written.

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

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 24 meeting as written.

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

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING: WED., DECEMBER 17, 2008, 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

MOTION: To go into nonpublic session at 8:01 p.m. in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 with regard to Section II. (a) Personnel and Section II. (d) Acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property	MOTION: S. C. HANSON SECOND: T. C. TOCCI UNANIMOUS
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L. A. Ruest was excused from the meeting at 8:03 p.m.