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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

AWARDING OF THE AMBULANCE SERVICE CONTRACT: 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, receipt of proposals and meeting to review proposals. This meeting was scheduled to finalize the awarding of a contract.

T. C. Tocci stated he had a number of concerns to be addressed by proposals to include response time, back up service, personnel and leadership. He reported that all these concerns have been allayed. He noted that the response time of all groups was found to be acceptable with the Fire Department outstanding. Back up services through mutual aid and the emergency unit from Exeter Hospital addresses the need for back up services to Hampton Falls. Following a great amount of thought, discussion and comments, T. C. Tocci stated he is convinced, both as a Selectmen as well as a resident, that the Hampton Falls Fire Department has the sufficient number of highly trained and dedicated personnel. With regard to leadership, he stated there is no question with regard to leadership of the Department in that J. M. Lord has proven himself to be outstanding, bright, and enthusiastic with good management skills that are highly recognized in the Seacoast area. T. C. Tocci recognized the efforts of J. McEachern with regard to a personal emergency incident.

T. C. Tocci acknowledged receipt of a letter dated December 6, 2008, from Thomas P. Wharton, Jr., of Prescott Lane who writes as both a resident and Chief of Cardiology at Exeter Hospital in support of designating the Hampton Falls Fire Department as full-time ambulance provider for the Town.

T. C. Tocci stated that from a cost point, he feels the Town couldn't do better than the Fire Department and added that the revenue generated would be advantageous to the Town to purchase equipment and invest in the Department. He reviewed statistics with regard to Towns who utilize Fire Departments for emergency responses. He stated the Board is empowered to make decisions and that the best decision is to award to the Hampton Falls Fire Department

MOTION: To accept the proposal for emergency response to the Hampton Falls Fire Department.

MOTION: T. C. TOCCI
Motion Failed, No Second

S. C. Hanson stated he agreed with most of what T. C. Tocci said, however, indicated he prefers to give voters the opportunity to provide direction to the Board with regard to whether voters want the Hampton Falls Fire Department to handle emergency response services. He stated he is in favor of continuing with services in the current manner (AMR 16 hours and HFFD 8 hours) until such time as a warrant article can be presented to the voters in March 2009. He stated he would be willing to make a motion to this effect. T. C. Tocci noted his discontent with the Board wanting to put numerous matters before the voters rather than making a decision. He added that materials have been provided and time has been spent studying the matter. He restated that the Board is empowered to make decisions in the best interest of the Town. M. J. Farinola stated he respects what has been done and what is being done with regard to the Fire Department, however, expressed concern with growth to include full-time employees with retirement benefits. He stated he could not support this motion due to the potential chance of a full-time Department in the future.

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M. J. Farinola requested the Board discuss 24 hour service versus 16 hour service. S. C. Hanson he would prefer to go to the Deliberative Session to allow an opportunity to provide information and obtain input from the voters. He suggested additional informational meetings be considered in advance of the Deliberative Session.

M. J. Farinola spoke in support of Careplus indicating they have offered a great price for part-time coverage and a reasonable price for full-time. He suggested the Board look at the methodology of rates as the proposal indicates the second year costs will reduce. S. C. Hanson stated his concern with Careplus' response time and ability to have an ambulance located in Hampton Falls.

MOTION: To continue with AMR for two shifts, as long as needed, until a warrant can be put before the voters in March 2009.

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

In response to T. C. Tocci, E. N. Small reported that he spoke with counsel who stated the Board is not legally required to put this matter to a warrant article, however, he indicated that it is acceptable for political reasons should the Board feel more comfortable. T. C. Tocci asked who will be doing the work to prepare information before January. E. N. Small stated the warrant article wording has already been drafted and reviewed by counsel and added that public hearings could take place at the budget hearing (1/7/09) and Deliberative Session (1/31/09). Member of the public, R. Rudowsky of Kensington Road stated voters elected this board and indicated he felt this is a waste of time, money and effort for a clear cut decision.

VOTE: 2 IN FAVOR, 1 OPPOSED, PASSES

JORDAN INSTITUTE: Referring to a question regarding an email he sent to Board members, S. C. Hanson reported that the Energy Committee has not heard from the Rockingham Planning Commission with regard to the grant awarded to Hampton Falls. He stated that the Lincoln Akerman School Board approved an audit of the elementary school and that he is looking for approval from the Selectmen with regard to the Public Safety Building and Town Hall. T. C. Tocci stated he is in favor of an audit but nothing further at this time. M. J. Farinola agreed. T. C. Tocci signed authorization to proceed with an audit.

CURTIS ROAD DRIVEWAY: With reference to the drainage problem in the area of the Curtis Road culvert repair, S. C. Hanson provided the Board with a copy of RSA 236:13 Driveways and Other Accesses to the Public Way as well as information from "A Hard Road to Travel" outlining authority to address driveway connections. Referring to paragraph VI, S. C. Hanson reported that the Planning Board has oversight on this matter. It is the homeowner's responsibility, however, the Planning Board is to address.

PURCHASING OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES:

REFINISHING OF THE TOWN HALL WOOD FLOOR – LAST DONE AROUND 2000/2001:
E. N. Small reported that prices were obtained for this work with \$1,650 being the lowest price. He

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requested approval of the Board to proceed. T. C. Tocci and S. C. Hanson indicated approval. M. J. Farinola stated he felt the floor could use waxing and polish but not refinishing. S. C. Hanson added that this work had been planned as part of the budget; however, he is not in favor of spending on additional items not included in the budget.

SAND AND SALT: E. N. Small requested authority to purchase materials to fill the sand/salt shed at the Brush Dump. He noted that there is a lean budget for 2009 and that available funds from 2008 could be used. T. C. Tocci and S. C. Hanson approved. M. J. Farinola questioned whether sand was discussed when addressing dispersal rates for winter road maintenance and whether this expense was included in the total amount spent for last year's winter road maintenance services. E. N. Small reported that there are residents who do not want road salt used in front of their property as wells are close to the road. He requested authority to obtain materials needed for winter road maintenance. The Board requested E. N. Small work with D. P. Melican to determine whether sand is needed, and, if not, not to purchase sand at this time. S. C. Hanson requested that D. P. Melican add a category of materials use to his spreadsheet report.

SET HOURLY RATES WITH DAN MELICAN FOR SERVICES DURING THE TERM OF THE WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – POT HOLES, REMOVAL OF TREES, ETC.: Question was raised as to whether the Board established rates for services other than winter road maintenance with D. P. Melican. M. J. Farinola stated he thought D. P. Melican accepted the same rates as approved for the Road Agent. The Board requested E. N. Small prepare a schedule for review and approval.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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

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