

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

FIRE CHIEF

MONTHLY REPORT: J. M. Lord referred the Board to the November report noting statistics, incidents and ambulance transports and receipts. He stated that he has been working with insurance companies for the fire event at 97 Lafayette Road and the storm event at Wakeda Campground.

AGREEMENT WITH EXETER HOSPITAL: J. M. Lord referred the Board to an agreement that needs signature. Exeter Hospital is the resource hospital for Hampton Falls. There is no cost to the Town, training is provided and should there be a need to bill for services, the patient is billed. The Board requested that Eric N. Small and J. M. Lord sign on behalf of the Town.

CLASSES FOR THE PUBLIC, EX: CPR: T. C. Tocci reported that he spoke with a person requesting classes be offered by the Fire Department. J. M. Lord reported that classes have been offered, but that there has been little response. The Department is willing to offer classes such as first aid, use of fire extinguishers, and general home safety inspection.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EOP PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED: J. M. Lord reported that the final revised Emergency Operation Plan document has been received and copies provided to the Selectmen. There is a need to hold a public hearing prior to sending the plan to Concord. This public hearing is scheduled for January 2, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF

MONTHLY REPORT: R. Dirsa referred the Board to the November report noting statistics and incidents. He noted an increase of 300-500 calls over 2006.

DAVID HERSEY – PROBATIONARY PART TIME APPOINTMENT: R. Dirsa requested probationary appointment of D. Hersey given the timing of the need to attend part-time school. R. Dirsa explained that background work is just about complete and an appointment is needed in order for D. Hersey to begin the next scheduled session of school.

MOTION: To appoint David Hersey to probationary part-time subject to passing the final portion of the background check.

MOTION: S. C. VOLPONE, JR.
SECOND: S. C. HANSON
UNANIMOUS

The appointment form was signed by the Board.

BRIAN RATHMAN – PROMOTION TO FULL TIME PATROL OFFICER: R. Dirsa introduced B. Rathman to the Board and requested appointment of B. Rathman as full-time patrolman (from part-time patrolman) to fill the position vacated by M. Bennett.

MOTION: To appoint Brian Rathman as full-time Patrolman.

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

The appointment form was signed by the Board.

SPRINT/NEXTEL PHONES: R. Dirsa reported that an analysis has been done and areas have been identified to save money. Initially, money will be saved on the rates charged and additional savings for government agencies might be forthcoming. There is new technology that will benefit the police and fire departments with direct communication. The new phones that support this technology will become available in January. R. Dirsa noted that a new sales representative has been working with them who is specialized in government agencies and is also available to assist with repairs.

CARDBOARD RECYCLING AND CLEANUP AT THE BRUSH DUMP: In response to the Board's inquiry as to what can be done to discourage roadside dumping at the Brush Dump, R. Dirsa stated this is a difficult area. He stated that video surveillance is an expensive option with a risk of vandalism. Following discussion, the Board suggested that an additional sign be posted identifying the violation and the fine in the area where dumping is occurring. T. C. Tocci will work with E. N. Small to explore security possibilities such as surveillance and signage.

CLASSES FOR THE PUBLIC – EX: SELF-DEFENSE: R. Dirsa stated that he is hesitant to take on new projects at this time given limitations with manpower. He noted that he does make time for programs sponsored by and held at the Library. This allows for persons to express concerns.

RE-CARPETING AND RE-PAINTING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICES: R. Dirsa reported that a portion of the cost is available by warrant article and the government buildings budget for this work. He noted that the condition of the carpeting is deplorable and that estimates have been obtained to replace the carpeting and paint while the furniture is moved.

MOTION: To approve \$3,800 for renovation of the Police Department offices carpeting and painting and the funds to be taken from the Government Buildings budget.

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

EXETER/HAMPTON DISTRICT COURT – PROPOSED LOCATION IN HAMPTON: A copy of a letter from Representative Stiles has been received identifying a location in Hampton.

GASOLINE FUNDS: R. Dirsa acknowledged the change made by the Selectmen to move the budget funds from the Other Public Safety budget to the Police (and Fire) Department budget.

BUILDING INSPECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT

MONTHLY REPORT: K. C. Kelley referred the Board to the November report noting that there are two new businesses in town and political sign complaints are being received. He reported on the status of his work to obtain prices to insulate the attic space above the Town Hall addition noting that there

will be a cost to move the items stored. He reported that a Certificate of Occupancy will soon be issued for Seacoast Academy and that he continues to work with the Department of Motor Vehicles with regard to 49 Lafayette Road. He reported he just received an estimate to repair the roof of the Town Hall addition in the amount of \$58,000 and the original Town Hall in the amount of \$30,000. More research is to be done and reported at another meeting. B. Mutrie reported that there are shingle problems at the Historical Society building as well.

BUILDING INSPECTION AND HEALTH BUDGETS: A review of the Building Inspection and Health budgets took place. K. C. Kelley stated that it is unfortunate that the voters did not approve the Selectmen's ability to set fees as doing so would assist with the costs of his office. A warrant article will be considered for the 2008 ballot.

HIGHWAY AGENT

MONTHLY REPORT: R. B. Merrill, Jr. stated that there is not much to report other than a tree that was down on Mill Lane and has been moved from the road.

SNOW REMOVAL: R. B. Merrill, Jr. recommended additional trucks and materials be used for snow removal. E. N. Small reported that the contractor has been contacted and plans to add another vehicle. The contract requires adequate equipment per event and there is a need to bring road maintenance service to what the Town had before. The Board acknowledged that the recent storm was a difficult one and approved E. N. Small talking with the contractor regarding snow removal. R. Regan of Crank Road requested that more sand and salt be used on the road for safety purposes. There is also a need to address the amount of time staff members are handling reports of problem roads and complaints.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS: T. C. Tocci requested information on the percentage of tax delinquencies for year end for next meeting.

GENERAL FUND BALANCE - \$2,343,800
TOWN CLERK - RECEIPTS - 39,000

HAMPTON FALLS' WEB SITE HITS: 5,066 - 6-6-06, 4:30 PM

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE DEC 5 MEETING: An updated listing of action items was provided to the Board.

TOWN ENERGY COMMITTEE: E. N. Small referred the Board to a draft Resolution creating an Energy Committee. This is a model used by the Town of Durham. Membership will be five members.

The Board needs to identify interested persons for consideration and appointment. Information is to be announced seeking volunteers.

MOTION: To accept the Resolution with amendments.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR 2008 BUDGET PROPOSAL – SNOW DATE ADDED- JAN 14. – ALREADY SENT TO THE HAMPTON UNION FOR PUBLICATION ON FRIDAY, DEC. 28 DECEMBER 28 – signed by the Board for posting.

PRIMARY ELECTION – JANUARY 8. – SETTING UP OF BOOTHS: R. Ruest and S. Hanson will be setting up the voting booths on Sunday, January 6, 2008, 9 a.m. The Board agreed to include a warrant article on the ballot seeking funds for voting booths given the concern of liability. It was suggested that wooden supports be placed as needed for the Primary.

TAX COLLECTOR – OPEN DURING COLLECTION PERIOD – ABOUT 4 WEEKS A YEAR OR LESS: The Town Administrator will address having the Tax Collection office open additional time during tax collection time with the Tax Collector.

COALITION – STATEWIDE PROPERTY TAX: The Board agreed to send a letter to State Representatives in support of a constitutional amendment on education funding (Statewide Property Tax).

MEETING WITH TOWN EMPLOYEES – COMPENSATION REVIEW COMMITTEE: A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 27, at 4 p.m.

WATER PRESSURE TANK AND FILTER FOR THE TOWN HALL/IRRIGATION SYSTEM: T. C. Tocci provided information from Yankee Pump and Filter Company with regard to improving the quality of water at the Town Hall. Following discussion, the Board decided to try an in-line filter cartridge before considering a filtration system. S. C. Volpone, Jr. stated he would obtain information with regard to an in-line filter for the irrigation system. Suggestion was made to test the water again after an in-line filter is installed. Suggestion was also made to hire someone to help with custodial needs. E. N. Small reported that a request has been placed in the upcoming newsletter.

LETTER TO JUDY WILSON – SUPPORTING GRANT FOR REHABILITATION OF THE OLD STATE BRIDGE: The Board signed a letter confirming that the Town of Hampton Falls endorses the rehabilitation of the historic Old Stage Road Bridge as a pedestrian bridge and supports the grant application to NH Trails Bureau. It was noted that this is a volunteer effort and that matching funds will be raised privately through donations. No town funds are to be used.

SUMMARY REPORT ON FALL WHITE GOODS DAY - NOV 3: T. C. Tocci provided figures relating to the costs of the fall collection. Suggestion was made to hold one collection day per year. Two members of the Board were not in favor of this suggestion.

• **NEW BUSINESS**

VOLUNTEER: The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from a new resident expressing interest in volunteering for the Historical Society, Conservation Commission or Zoning Board.

STATE SENATOR MARTHA FULLER CLARK TO MEET WITH SELECTMEN ON FEB 6, 6:30 PM

REIMBURSEMENT FOR MILEAGE will increase to .505 cents per mile in accordance with Internal Revenue Service in 2008.

DELEGATION OF DEPOSIT AUTHORITY: The Board signed authorization to all the Town Treasurer authority to delegate deposit functions to the Town Clerk and Tax Collector.

VETERAN'S EXEMPTION: The Board signed an application for a property owner who meets qualifications.

NOVEMBER PROPERTY TRANSFERS: An updated listing of transfers was provided to the Board.

FRIDAY NIGHT LINE DANCING: The use of the Town Hall on Friday nights by the line dancers is on hold for a while.

WHITTIER POND: The Board acknowledged a letter from the Recreation Commission requesting the Board take the recreational access area to Whittier Pond by eminent domain. The Board asked the Town administrator to review with counsel the process of taking access by eminent domain. The Board also asked that the Recreation Commission meet with them to discuss the issue further.

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATOR FOR FOREST RESOURCES: The Board acknowledged receipt of information seeking the name of the Town's Tree Warden.

MOTION: To appoint Robert Blackington as Tree Warden.

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

OTHER

OLD STAGE BRIDGE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Board agreed to appoint Wayne Barker and Stephen Bryant as members of the Old Stage Bridge Committee. A drawing of the proposed pedestrian bridge will be displayed in the Town Hall.

NEXT SELECTMEN'S MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JAN 2, 2008, 6:30 P.M., TOWN HALL

**MOTION TO GO INTO NONPUBLIC SESSION
AT 7:38 PM TO DISCUSS WELFARE**

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

MOTION TO GO OUT OF NONPUBLIC SESSION

MOTION: S. C. HANSON

AND RESUME

**SECOND: T. C. TOCCI
UNANIMOUS**

BUDGET WORKSHOP AND WARRANT ARTICLES – BOARD OF SELECTMEN: The Board continued its review of the following budget lines: 4150-Financial Administration, 4155-Employee Benefits (E. N. Small to show health insurance savings of 10% to 12% employee share), 4194-Government Buildings, 4312-Highway (The Board is hold a workshop with the Road Agent following the meeting with employees. E. N. Small noted that funds budgets for 2008 are estimates only.), 4323-Solid Waste Collection, 4324-Solid Waste Disposal, 4550-Library (This budget is not complete; final items need to be reviewed with Library Trustees. A warrant article will be presented to the voters seeking authorization of the Trustees to spend donated funds.)

Board members identified which budget lines each would present at the Budget Hearing. E. N. Small will review the budget as a whole in advance of the budget hearing.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

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

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