

# Town News

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Michael J. Farinola, Chairman,  
Richard P. McDermott, Maryann Kasprzak



### 2011 TOWN BUDGET & TOWN

**REPORT:** On January 19, a public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen to review the proposed 2011 budget and to allow the public to voice their opinions and ask questions. The 2011 operating budget of \$2,320,300 represents a decrease of \$51,800 over last year's budget. The 2011 default budget totals \$2,363,635.

The 2010 Town and School Report has been forwarded to the printer. Watch for delivery of your copy, with sample ballots, around the first week of March. This report provides information from Departments to include statistical and financial reports. It also has handy reference information such as contact numbers and hours for Town departments and officials, schedules of fees, board and committee activity and includes similar information pertaining to schools as well. If you do not receive a copy of the Town Report, you may pick up one at the Town Clerk's office.



### BRUSH DUMP

**REOPENS SOON:** The brush dump, located at the corner of Drinkwater and Parsonage Roads, will reopen April 1 on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**GOVERNOR WEARE PARK:** Governor Weare Park is closed for the winter months. No snowmobiles are allowed or playing on wet fields.

## NEWSLETTERS

*Did you know...* that this issue, as well as past issues of the newsletter, can be found on the Town's website at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)? The link can be found in the bottom section of the home page just above the drop down menus for committees, departments, regulations and application forms.



**TOWN CLERK, Holly E. Knowles**

### VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

-We will make arrangements for you to register your vehicle(s) if you can't get in during our office hours (call 926-4618, Extension 1 or e-mail us ([townclerk@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerk@hamptonfalls.org)))

-Renewals and transfers require the original, current registration(s) RSA 261:168 (copies are to be kept in your vehicle(s)).

-A notarized Power of Attorney is required when signing a title application for another person (even your spouse).

### NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Only ONE check required payable to "Town of Hampton Falls" which now includes town and state fees.

NEW! NOW ACCEPTING MAJOR CREDIT CARDS (not debit cards) with the exception of VISA which may be used for on-line renewals through E-reg but NOT for registrations at the

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window (a 2.75% credit card fee applies to cc transactions).

Cash payments should be as close to the amount due as possible -- no large bills please (we keep limited cash).

## INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet (E-Reg). Click on the plate link on the Town Clerk's web page ([www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)) for instructions, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals over 3 months late and residents wanting to complete transfers or obtain new plates will still need to come in to the office.

## ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICERS

Town and School elections will take place on Tuesday, March 8, at the Town Hall with the polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The following registered voters have filed for the Town election:

<u>Town Official</u>	<u>Name Filed</u>	<u>Term</u>
Selectman	Michael Farinola	1 for
	Charles P. Graham	3 yrs
Town Clerk	Holly E. Knowles	1 for
	Lori Ward	3 yrs
Cemetery Trustee	Edwina Elaine Ahearn	1 for
	Eugene M. Hardee, Jr.	3 yrs
Planning Board	Beverly P. Mutrie	2 for
	Gregory Parish	3 yrs
	Steve Volpone	
Trustee of Trust Funds	(no one filed)	1 for 3 yrs
Library Trustee	Edwina Elaine Ahearn	2 for
	Beth Forgione	3 yrs
	Eugene M. Hardee, Jr.	



## VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who wish to register to vote for the March 8<sup>th</sup> town election may do with the Town Clerk through February 26<sup>th</sup>. After that date, residents will need to wait to register to vote with the Supervisors of the Checklist on Election Day prior to voting. Proof of identity, age and domicile are required.



## ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTION

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may apply in writing or in person to the Town Clerk any time prior to the March 8th Town Election. The ballots will be available approximately two to three weeks prior to the election. Distribution and return of absentee ballots must be done in person by the voter or sent through the mail.

## 2011 DOG LICENSES

The 2011 dog tags are now available at the Town Clerk's office. All dogs in town should be licensed by April 30 each year as required by state RSA 466:1. If we have a current rabies certificate on file, you may renew dog licenses on-line. **NEW THIS YEAR:** rabies vaccination certificate(s) are only required if rabies expiration date has expired. Each dog not licensed by May 31 will automatically receive an additional \$25.00 civil forfeiture (RSA 466:13). If you no longer own a dog(s), call 926-4618; Extension 1, or e-mail us at [townclerk@hamptonfalls.org](mailto:townclerk@hamptonfalls.org); and we will remove your name from the list.

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## RECYCLING / RUBBISH:

*Please check the Calendar of Events and Activities on the town website for recycling collection dates.*

Hampton Falls has a mandatory recycling program. Residents are encouraged to continue the every other week, single stream recycling effort; the less trash sent to the landfill, the lesser fees charged for disposal. *Residents using the cardboard recycling container located at the Brush Dump are requested to flatten the cardboard before disposing into containers and to not leave cardboard, boxes, etc. outside the containers.* Another option to recycling cardboard is to bundle flattened cardboard, tied with string, in a size no greater than manageable 2' x 2' bundles, for weekly pickup at the curb with other recyclables. Handouts outlining what is allowed to be disposed of at the curb as well as permitted recyclable items are available from the Town Clerk or can be viewed on line at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org) (Solid Waste link). Solid waste collection and recycling information is also provided in newsletters mailed to residents (and posted to the web site) six times per year.

The solid waste pick-up day remains Friday (with the exception of weeks where a major holiday falls on a weekday). *Please place your rubbish at the curb on Thursday evening or before 6:00 a.m. Friday for collection...recyclables being picked up every other Friday.* Whenever a major holiday falls on a weekday, the scheduled pick-up will change to Saturday as follows:

Holiday (2011)	Collection Date (2011)
Memorial Day	Saturday, June 4
4 <sup>th</sup> of July	Saturday, July 9
Labor Day	Saturday, September 10
Thanksgiving Day	Saturday, November 26

*Clip and save...*

## ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Energy Committee has been working to bring energy efficiency savings to our town and school buildings and to encourage the growth of renewable energy systems. Here are a few highlights of what we've been up to:

**Public Safety Building Cogeneration System.** In 2010, the Hampton Falls Energy Committee (HFEC) worked to complete a significant energy efficiency and alternative/renewable energy project at the Public Safety Building (PSB) that *will save the Town thousands of dollars annually* on our electricity, propane, and fuel oil bills.

The cogeneration, or combined heat and power (CHP) project, was funded through a grant obtained from the U.S. Department of Energy and is a wonderful example of how *volunteers, residents, Town employees and officials, and other local stakeholders can work together to accomplish amazing things.* The Energy Committee will be looking for ways to put in place a mechanism to "re-pay" ourselves by investing the savings from the CHP project on additional energy improvements in town.

The CHP project includes installation of a new propane-fired cogeneration boiler that provides hot water for building heat along with the generation of electricity to cover a portion of the building's electrical demand during the heating months. In addition, solar thermal hot water heating provides for hot water demand. This component of the system will allow the cogeneration boiler to shut down during the summer months, improving efficiency and reducing unnecessary wear and tear.

**Renewable Energy Property Tax Exemptions.** This year's ballot will have 3 warrant articles pertaining to renewable energy property tax exemptions. The intent of these articles was to remove disincentives for residents considering installation of these systems. Currently, homeowners can be assessed additional property taxes above and beyond their normal property taxes based on the additional assessed value of a renewable energy system. The articles, as originally written and if passed, would have removed these penalties. These warrant articles were modified at the Town Deliberative Session by reducing the exemption from 100% of the assessed value to 0% of the assessed

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value of the renewable energy system. In effect, regardless of how the vote comes out, there will be no change to the current policy on taxing renewable energy systems.

**Prioritization of Energy Efficiency Projects.** In addition to completion of the CHP project, the town is currently benefiting from a program called ETAP, Energy Technical Assistance and Planning, which is administered by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. The HFEC is in the process of working with Julie LaBranche of the RPC and energy consultants who support ETAP to prioritize potential energy efficiency improvement projects for the school and Town Hall. We expect this document will help decision makers in town (LAS Principal, School Board, Selectmen, and residents) to better incorporate planning for energy efficiency improvements along with other maintenance and repairs that may be planned for these buildings.

If you have questions about renewable energy systems, energy efficiency, tax exemptions or incentives, or would like to offer suggestions to the Energy Committee, please contact Tony Delano via email [delanot1@gmail.com](mailto:delanot1@gmail.com).

## TAX COLLECTOR, Mary Ann Hill

**Form PA-28, the Inventory of Taxable Property** questionnaire was mailed to all property owners the first week of February. It is important that you fill in this questionnaire completely and return it to us by April 15<sup>th</sup> in order to retain your rights. If you file for an abatement or an exemption and it is denied, we must have a current completed and **signed** form on file for you to be able to appeal the decision. RSA 74:7-a. A few of the questions on the **PA-28** consistently give property owners some difficulty:

**Step 1.** The **map and lot number** for your property is printed with your address on this form and has the format 00 000 00.

**Step 3. "Is any portion of the parcel assessed under Current Use?"** You are not being asked if you live there! Land in Current Use is unimproved land over 10 acres in size.

**Step 5. Census Requirements.** This is asking how many people **actually reside** on the property. Please complete this part. This part is not a continuation of Step 4.

**Step 7. Signatures: Sign the form** or it will not be valid for any appeal process.

And if all else fails, the directions are on the back of the form.

**Notices of tax delinquency will be** mailed February 11<sup>th</sup> to all those with a balance remaining on their tax bill. We gladly accept partial payments for anyone who finds it difficult to pay their entire bill at one time.

**Notices of Impending Lien and Notices to Mortgagees of Impending Deed** will be mailed by March 11<sup>th</sup> per RSA 80:60 and RSA 80:77 respectively.

If you have any questions regarding the inventory form, your taxes, **interest**, or need copies of your paid receipts for the IRS, please call Mary Ann Hill at 926-4618 Ext. 4.

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## BUILDING INSP/CODE ENF/HEALTH

Kevin C. Kelley



### PLACEMENT OF ELECTION

**SIGNS:** The Hampton Falls sign ordinance provides regulations for placement of election signs as follows:

- They are not erected more than thirty (30) days before Election Day and are *removed within seven (7) days after the election*;
- They are at least ten (10) feet back from any street or right-of-way;
- They are no larger than four (4) square feet in total area;
- They are not placed on trees, rocks or other natural features along the roads;
- For signs meeting the above requirements, no building permit is required;
- For state elections, see RSA 664.17 as may be amended.