

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

DRAFT

PRESENT: Lou Gargiulo, Chairman (by Zoom); Mark R. Lane, Vice-Chairman;
Ed Beattie, Selectman; Karen Anderson, Town Administrator;
Rachel D. Webb, Assistant Administrator

GUESTS: JP Pontbriand, Moderator; Rayann Dionne, SHEA; Brian Yurastis, Wildlife
Kayak Tours; State Presentative Susan Porcelli.

Before the meeting technically started, **Selectman Beattie** inquired about the Senate hearing on the State grant to fund poll pads and voting machines that was held April 2nd at 9:30 AM. and, and **K. Anderson** responded that it was very well received, and the Secretary of State's Office said that they were going to "*Fast Track*" it, and that there should be money available Summer 2024.

Chairman Gargiulo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INFORMATIONAL SESSION ON POLL PADS: **Chairman Gargiulo** stated that there is scheduled an informational session on the topic of Poll Pads to be presented by the Moderator JP Pontbriand. He continued that the purpose of having this discussion is to give everybody who wants to know, a comfort-level about the Poll Pads, before the Town invests in them. He stated that the Poll Pads will facilitate registration at the polls on election days, and a lot of towns feel that it is the right way to go.

JP Pontbriand thanked the Selectmen for giving him the opportunity to talk about the potential purchase and implementation of Electronic Poll Pads and how it can help in the election process. **JP** stated that the election process is governed by State law. The law, the procedures, the equipment used, and the safeguards that are required to be maintained are all determined by State law. The local control over the election process is the adherence to the State laws, and even the things like the Poll Pads before Hampton Falls considered them, they are reviewed and approved by the State. **JP** stated that similar to the Ballot Counting Device, and like the handicapped privacy tent equipment that is set-up with electronic supports at elections, those pieces of equipment are reviewed and tested by the State before they are approved for use by local towns. When the town uses that equipment the Town tests all the equipment prior to each election to make sure the equipment is working accurately.

In order to vote, the citizen has to be on the List of Registered Voters, or, a citizen may register to vote at the polling location with the Supervisor of the Checklist, on the day of the election. Citizens may not receive a ballot nor enter the area to vote unless they are on the List of Registered Voters. To get on the List of Registered Voters, citizens need to show up with proof of: identity, residence, age, and citizenship. The Poll Pads do not presently interact with that voter registration process at all.

Once a registered voter shows up to vote (at LAS), they need to Check-In by last name alphabetically, either A through K, or L through Z, and one line is always longer than the other. The citizen shows their Identification to a Ballot Clerk who confirms their ID and their address

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

and finds their name on the List of Registered Voters and checks off their name. Attention to detail needs to be addressed to check off the correct name.

What will change with using a Poll Pad is that there will be a screen in front of the citizen at Check-In, and the citizen either scans their ID or the Ballot Clerk can type in the name, and the citizen confirms their correct name and residence. The result of the confirmation is that the Poll Pad prints a little ticket that the citizen then brings to another Ballot Clerk to obtain a ballot. The ticket is the paper record of Check-In, that will be used to update the paper Checklist. The paper ticket maintains the integrity of the paper trail all the way through the process. The Poll Pad helps to facilitate the Check-In process at any station (not alphabet dependent) and gets citizens correctly identified and checked off in a much quicker process. **JP** stated that he has reports from other towns already using the Poll Pads that Check-In is much faster. Using the paper print-out will enable the maintenance of the paper Check List currently used. **JP** stated that the Poll Pads will provide a second record of who has checked in, and they could always go back to those two records to make sure that they agree. He stated that there are two people checking the identification of the citizen, both the citizen who confirms the information on the Poll Pad screen, and the Ballot Clerk who confirms reading the citizen's identification. Everything after that point is the same. The Poll Pads will use technology to facilitate the Check-In process, and to increase the accuracy of the Check-In process. The Poll Pads will also help immeasurably at the end of the night with reconciliation, tallying the number of voters who checked in, to compare with the number of receipts/small tickets.

Additional materials were provided that list the 27 towns that are now using them, comments from selected towns that the Town Clerk reached out to as well as copies of 2 reports that are required after a town implements the Poll Pads.

JP commented on people's concerns regarding the potential for malicious activity that could corrupt an electronic process. The NH Statutes keep a lot of manual components in the process, so that citizens do not appear on the Poll Pad unless they are on the Voter Checklist. **JP** stated that the Poll Pads can be connected to one another via Bluetooth, and that is important to facilitate multiple check-in stations, but the Poll Pads are not network connected. He stated that the security procedures in the Poll Pads are described in a hand-out material available on the table. **JP** said that the systems are very well tested, one by Apple as the hardware, and Microsoft as the software, and tested by third parties. He said that it seemed that the testing procedures they follow, and the requirements to pass the State process to be approved for use are quite robust.

1) Carol Schutte, Exeter Road. **C. Schutte** thanked **JP** for a very clear explanation of what to expect at Check-In at an upcoming election using the Poll Pads. She asked which side of the Driver's license would be scanned, and whether it would be the front of the card or the back, because she has a PO Box address on the front, and her street address on the back of her Driver's License. **JP** responded that the State barcode on the back is scanned.

Chairman Gargiulo asked if someone did not want their Driver's License scanned, what is the procedure? **JP** responded that scanning the Driver's License is optional. He explained that if there are any discrepancies between the checklist and the citizen's identification that those would

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

need to be reconciled because if the name on the Driver's License does not match the name on the checklist, then the name is not going to show up on the Poll Pad, such as use of middle initial, or initials for first names, etc.

2) Eileen Baker, Frying Pan Lane. E. Baker stated that she is a Supervisor of the Checklist, and shared that the new voter registration process will change. The citizen's information could be entered onto the Poll Pads which produces a receipt that gets delivered to the Ballot Clerks. E. Baker explained the benefits of using the Poll Pads during an election where there could be several dozen new voters, as the new voter information can be loaded directly into the Poll Pads, and becomes live data for the Ballot Clerks to reference. She also explained another instance where Poll Pads will be much more efficient in Primary elections when voters want to return to Undeclared following an election. She said that it would potentially save many hours of behind-the-scenes paperwork. Additionally, she stated that the Poll Pads would reduce potential errors, for example reading someone's bad handwriting. In summary, E. Baker said that there are several ways that Poll Pads would help to streamline the process.

3) Liz Blankenship, Governor Powell Drive. E. Blankenship stated that this is the fifth (5th) year that she has been involved with the elections, and she acknowledged many of the Ballot Clerks present in the audience. She said that at the end of the night their eyes are crossed and many nights did not leave the building until 11:00pm. She further elaborated that some of the Clerks, afterwards, have to deliver the results to Hampton, so that some of the workers are not getting home until after 12 or 1am. She said that the Poll Pads will help with the end of the night process. **L. Blankenship** stated that it is so important that the numbers match at the end of the night and with all workers exhausted after a long day, the Poll Pads would help provide another gauge to help to get the numbers to match.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Reports: General Fund Balance: \$ 1,528,454.28 **K. Anderson** reported the General Fund Balance as stated at: **\$ 1,528,454.28.**

Executive: Payroll Warrant, Accounts Payable, and Escrow Warrant: K. Anderson presented the Warrants detailed below, for consideration by the Selectmen.

MOTION: To approve Payroll Warrant 032924 dated March 29, 2024 in the amount of \$41,663.43; Accounts Payable Warrant #54 dated March 29, 2024, in the amount of \$61,547.73; Escrow Warrant #49 Conservation Fund dated March 29, 2024 in the amount of \$460.00; Escrow Warrant #48 Ambulance Fund dated March 29, 2024 in the amount of \$254.77.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

APPOINTMENT: JP Pontbriand, Moderator Re: Poll Pads: **JP Pontbriand** reported updated cost numbers to include: the purchase of four (4) Poll Pads with related equipment, to include annual licensing fees, and programming for three elections (the State Primary, the General Election, and the March 2025 Town election), with the costs coming from the Town

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

Communication Fund, not to exceed \$10,225. **K. Anderson** inquired if those costs needed to spent in 2024, for the March 2025 town election, and **JP** responded no. **JP** amended the cost for 2024 to \$9,925.

MOTION: To authorize the purchase of four (4) Poll Pads with related equipment, as soon as possible, to include annual licensing fees, and programing for two elections (the State Primary, and the General Election), with the costs coming from the Town Communication Fund, not to exceed \$10,000.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Update of 70 Drinkwater Road FEMA Grant: **K. Anderson** described that this was a grant that was applied for in 2022, and then got put on hold at FEMA because they had so many other emergency projects that they were not funding any non-emergency things. Last Tuesday there was a meeting with NH Emergency Management, FEMA Representatives along with the Town's engineer, Brad Jones to discuss the pending grant application. Without historic data /pictures and invoices of damages it is unlikely that the grant would be approved as the cost-benefit ratio is just over 1 at 1.18. The hydrology study that was done indicates that the culvert can handle 500-year storms at its current size. The Town's intent was to install the same size, although different style box culvert that would repair and improve the system at Grapevine Run. After FEMA left the meeting, there was discussion about the initial plan that had been a grant through DES for culvert replacements and the FEMA option was suggested due to the higher grant percentage. In retrospect, the Town should have applied through the State program. The Emergency Management representative agreed and his team is going to reach out to DES on behalf of the Town to determine what program would be best suited for Hampton Falls' project. The cost estimates will have to be increased based on an approximate 20% increase in materials and will move forward to continue to try and get this project grant funded.

K. Anderson described a repeat grant opportunity that came out yesterday: **K. Anderson** stated that in 2023 the Town had a Warrant article for \$100,000 for a Sewer Study at 100% loan forgiveness, and the Article passed, but the Town was not given the grant. She stated that the grant is now open again, and the Town's Warrant article was non-lapsing until June 2025, so the Town is able to reapply now, with a deadline to get it in by the end of May, and the Town does not need to do another Warrant article, so it is worth the try to apply again.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointments: **Rayann Dionne**, of SHEA, and Brian Yurastis, of the Seacoast Science Center (SSC) and Wildlife Kayak Tours, requested permission to launch three (3) kayak tours (approximately 15 people, that is 12 participants and 3 staff)) from Depot Road on Thursday June 13th (5-7:30pm), Friday July 12th (4-6:30pm), and Monday September 23rd (5-7:30pm), (with a rain date of August 26th), which are all High Tide dates and times. **R. Dionne** reported that SHEA has received some funding for this event from the Kennebunk Savings Bank to help reduce costs and to make it a more affordable experience. This had been approved for one (1) tour last year and, due to weather issues, the tour was cancelled. **B. Yurastis** said that the Seacoast Science Center has been running Wildlife Kayak Tours from Odiorne State Park for the

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

past four (4) years. He stated that experiencing the coastline from the view of a kayak is one of the best ways to create lifelong advocates for conservation in local estuaries. He reported that they see abundant wildlife, such as Ospreys, and they are very lucky to be able to see the Estuary from a perspective that many people do not get the chance to experience. He said that the SSC provides the boats and all safety equipment necessary, and they maintain a ratio of 1 staff to 5 participants. **B. Yurastis** stated that any funds raised from the tours go to benefit the SSC's marine mammal rescue program (seals, whales, dolphins, porpoises that strand) that operates from the SSC south to Essex, MA. He stated that the SSC prints identification tags for participants to hang on their rearview mirrors so that their cars will be identified as being part of the Kayak Tour group for parking purposes.

M. Lane asked if they were marketing this specifically to Hampton Falls residents? **B. Yurastis** responded that they will be marketing the event through SHEA and for Hampton Falls residents first for a couple of weeks, before opening it up to the greater seacoast community for registration, so the goal is to keep it local first.

E. Beattie asked how many participants on each date, and **R. Dionne** responded 12. She said that SHEA's listserv covers the three communities of Seabrook, Hampton Falls, and Hampton plus local newsletters if available. **E. Beattie** stated that the Police should be made aware of these dates, if approved.

K. Anderson stated that there is limited non-resident parking at The Depot Landing, so they would need to work out some sort of waiver for those days. **B. Yurastis** said that the SSC does notify the local Police Dept for safety purposes, as part of their routine.

MOTION: To approve the three dates, plus the rain date for the Seacoast Science Center's proposed Wildlife Kayak Tours on Thursday June 13th (5-7:30pm), Friday July 12th (4-6:30pm), and Monday September 23rd (5-7:30pm), (with a rain date of August 26th).

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. KANE

UNANIMOUS

Recruitment Update for Land Use Coordinator: **K. Anderson** reported that an interview was held on Saturday morning with one (1) candidate for Land Use Coordinator. Resumes have been received from 4 additional applicants and an additional interview has been set up with a second candidate on Friday. **K. Anderson** said that the interview that was held on Saturday could be discussed in a Non-Public Session at the end of this meeting.

Appointment of TAC Representative: The Planning Board is requesting that the Board of Selectmen vote to re-appoint Richard McDermott as the town's representative to the Transportation Advisory Committee through Rockingham Planning Commission.

MOTION: To nominate Richard McDermott as TAC representative of the Rockingham MPO Transportation Advisory Committee for the two-year period of January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2025.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

UNANIMOUS

Additional Concert Date: K. Anderson stated that the Selectmen had previously approved the concert dates for the Summer 2024 and the Friends of Hampton Falls Bandstand has requested to add one (1) additional concert at the Bandstand on Monday, July 15th from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

MOTION: To approve the proposed Friends of Hampton Falls Bandstand request for an additional concert on July 15th at the Bandstand from 5:30pm-8pm.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

UNANIMOUS

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT

State Presentative Susan Porcelli, representing District 19 Hampton Falls and Kensington.

S. Porcelli stated that she wanted to alert the Selectmen and the public attending this meeting of some very significant Local Control issues regarding zoning regulations and the impact of recent legislation. The following outline presents Rep. Porcelli's prepared comments:

Background Information: *New Hampshire operates under a system where cities and towns are "permissible". This means that local municipalities cannot enact measures that the state does not explicitly allow. Historically, cities and towns have enjoyed relative autonomy in areas like zoning and land use planning. However, in recent years, the state has increasingly intervened in local zoning and land use regulations. Here are a few recent examples:*

1. **Special Committee on Housing Bills:** *all passed with bi-partisan support, but also bi-partisan dissent.*
 - a. **HB 1361** – *This bill requires municipalities that adopt land use control measures to provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for the siting of manufactured housing on individual lots and in manufactured housing parks and subdivisions within residential districts. The bill also directs municipalities to provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for expansion of existing manufactured housing parks. Senate Hearing on 4/9, Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee.*
 - b. **HB 1291** – *This bill increases the number of accessory dwelling units allowed by right from one to 2, adds definitions, and increases the maximum square footage. It also gives municipalities the right to require the ADUs to meet the definition for workforce housing. The bill also requires only 1 additional parking space for each unit. Currently, single family homes are allowed by right to one attached ADU no less than 750 sq ft. and this bill changes that to two ADUs, one attached and one detached with a size no less than 1000 sq ft for one and no less than 850 sq ft for the second. This applies to any lot 1/2 acre or larger. This could potentially turn any single-family home into a 3-unit rental property. House vote: OTPA 220 – 143. Referred to Senate Commerce Committee.*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

c. **HB 1399** - This bill allows the expansion of a single-family residence within a residential zone to no more than 2 residential units without discretionary review or a hearing if the proposed development meets certain requirements. This bill prevents local planning boards from imposing any objective zoning standards. As amended, it sets an arbitrary number of 50% of all lots in a municipality zoned single family shall now allow two residential units. Also the amendment states that if a municipality denies the two unit application where the lot is subject to water and sewer restrictions, after 10 years the project will be allowed by right. This could force municipalities into major capital improvement projects where a cost/benefit analysis would not support it. House Vote: OTPA 220 – 140. Senate Hearing on 4/9, Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee.

2. *Senate Bill of interest: **SB 538** An Act Relative to Zoning Procedures Concerning Residential Housing also known as “The HOMEnibus”. Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommended OTPA. No date yet for full Senate vote.*

While solutions to increase housing is an ongoing issue along with maintaining individual property rights, top-down mandates from the State or Federal Government are not the best approach to manage growth and development while maintaining the community vision and goals as outlined in our Master Plan in small towns like Hampton Falls.

HB 1400: K. Anderson provided a brief update of proposed HB 1400 (that has not gone to the Senate yet) that Planning Boards will not be able to require more than one (1) parking space per housing unit. **E. Beattie** said that Hampton Falls’s parking requirement is 2.5 parking spaces per housing unit.

S. Porcelli continued her legislative update and stated that there is an additional bill, **HB1223** regarding Creating Local Options for Games of Chance, that will give towns the ability to vote to allow a charitable gaming facility, much like how Keno is run by the Lottery Commission.

K. Anderson reported another update on a recently passed HB that is going to the Senate on the subject of NH Retirement System: **K. Anderson** reported that there is a proposal for a 7.5% reduction on the Town’s contribution for Police, Fire, and Teachers. She stated that she calculated the savings for Hampton Falls to be approximately \$13,000 on the Town side, and will be significantly more on the School side. **M. Lane** requested some context for this proposal. **K. Anderson** explained that the State used to pay 67% of the NH Retirement costs, and that changed in 2013 to try to get their unfunded liability down, so the state contribution went away. Two years ago, the State approved through the budget that Towns received a small amount back to cut the retirement cost. And now this is a bill for 7.5%, instead of the State going back to 64%, it is taking 7.5% off of the Town’s cost.

M. Lane asked S. Porcelli if all three House Bills passed, and **S. Porcelli** confirmed that they passed the House and are headed to the Senate where she stated that they likely will pass.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

Chairman Gargiulo stated that his opinion is that these bills will change the complexion of NH towns forever. He continued that people have a right to local control. **S. Porcelli** reported that these bills passed with large bi-partisan support, that she was very surprised about. **M. Lane** asked what the Selectmen can do, and **S. Porcelli** said to contact their Senator and to ask for amendments, or carve-outs, and request ways to protect small towns like Hampton Falls. **M. Lane** asked if there was recommended wording available that people could use if they wanted to contact their Senator or the Governor, and she responded that she did not because the bills just recently passed. She stated that she wanted to find out what the next steps should be, and added that she also alerted the Town of Kensington. **K. Anderson** offered to draft a letter from the Selectmen to the Senator. **M. Lane** asked how to approach the fact that the town is in support of affordable housing yet opposed to the proposed bills without being interpreted as being opposed to affordable housing such as “snob-zoning”? **S. Porcelli** offered that she believes the proposals may pass in the Senate, but suggested requests for amendments to protect and to accommodate small towns without infrastructure. She said that there is interest at the State level to get rid of large-lot zoning, so she is asking what to recommend as an amendment in response to these proposed bills? **Chairman Gargiulo** responded that people need to go to Concord and testify against the bills at the Senate hearings. Additionally, he continued, that there needs to be amendments proposed to add the ability of cities and towns to be able to vote on whether to accept this legislation at the local level at Town Meeting. He continued that NH has always been a “local control” state, and he said that these proposed bills are absurd. **K. Anderson** said that an amendment could be that it is enabling legislation that towns could adopt it, and not mandated as “by right” legislation. **E. Beattie** said to change the word “shall” to “may”. He added that there is a good article in the Globe about ADUs and what they are and how they are described as an option for workforce housing. He provided some context around this issue for Hampton Falls that started with a former Town requirement of a 20,000 square-foot septic reserve area that was amended by the State to a 5,000 square-foot septic reserve area, so the Town can not change that requirement back to 20,000 square-feet. There is also the State Housing Review Board that overrules local Planning Board decisions recently established a few years ago, so the state is eroding local control incrementally. **S. Porcelli** stated that it is escalating rapidly and recommends that Hampton Falls contacts their State Senator Altschiller to make sure that Senator Altschiller understands the position of Hampton Falls, and make sure that there is a request for an amendment for Hampton Falls.

M. Lane asked if S. Porcelli knows the Senator’s position on these bills currently, and **S. Porcelli** responded that there is overwhelming bi-partisan support in both the House and in the Senate. **E. Beattie** asked if the dates are known yet for the Senate hearings, and **S. Porcelli** responded that tomorrow (on Thursdays) the new calendar is released for upcoming hearing dates at which committees, so she will know then. **Chairman Gargiulo** asked if “crossover” has happened yet, and **S. Porcelli** responded that it is in process.

Chairman Gargiulo asked if there was any Public Comment.

- 1) **Steve MacLeod, Exeter Road**. S. MacLeod stated that he had read the proposed bills, and noted the effective dated proposed. He said that the bill regarding the proposed one (1) parking space would become effective January 1, 2025. He said that the one regarding the two ADUs would be effective July 01, 2025. He said that the bill regarding ADUs

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

increases the size of the ADUs allowed from 750 to 1000 sqft for one, and from 750 to 850 sqft for the other. He said that the Town has a process for ADUs with the Planning and Zoning boards.

M. Lane asked **S. Porcelli** about the manufactured housing bill proposal because Hampton Falls already allows manufactured housing, even though it may not be financially feasible to locate it given the high price of land. **S. Porcelli** responded that the bill proposes to ease restrictions.

K. Anderson stated that the Senate Bill regarding parking stated that the Planning Board would need to consider “alternative parking proposals”, so that someone could have off-site parking, such as valet parking. She stated that it requires Planning Boards to consider alternative parking proposals whereas currently if an applicant does not meet the parking requirements the applicant must go to ZBA for a variance, and the proposed Senate Bill proposes that Planning Boards could consider alternative solutions off-site to meet parking needs, thereby eliminating the need for a variance with the ZBA.

E. Beattie said that it is the process (the loss of local control) that is aggravating that has been evolving over several years, that is more pro-development. **S. Porcelli** said that the developers’ lobbies are lobbying hard for these bills. **Chairman Gargiulo** stated that it is all about stripping away local control on Planning Boards, on Zoning Boards, and on Town Councils and control is being given to people who have no vested interest in a specific community. He recommended that the Selectmen write a letter to the Senate President Jeff Bradley, and to each of the Senators expressing opposition to these proposed bills, not on the issue of workforce housing, but on the issue of the loss of control.

Monthly Reports: Selectmen’s Representative Reports:

Planning Board: **E. Beattie** reported that Planning Board is waiting for the proposal at 12 Lafayette Rd (former Faro Gardens site) to finish at the ZBA, and to probably return to the Planning Board at some point. The Planning Board reorganized the board with the committees and positions staying the same with Todd Santora as Chairman, and Eric Cimon as Vice-Chairman. He said that the Ordinances and Regulations Committee is starting up again discussing ADUs, among additional topics for the year, to propose as new Warrant Articles for March 2025.

Library Trustees: **E. Beattie** reported that the Library Trustees have a full agenda for the year to get accomplished. He said that they will be returning to the Selectmen to discuss establishment of some outdoor gardens around the campus of the library including some program adjustments. There is a plan that has been outlined that will be used to create some walking areas on Library property (which is Town property outside) to request some sitting areas, and literacy-related gardens that are easy to maintain and will be positive for the environment. The Strategic Plan approved by Warrant with no tax impact is being implemented; there will be surveys done asking people about their experiences with the Library, what has been successful, and what do people want for the future in terms of activities and programs.

Recreation Commission: **M. Lane** said that he had no report regarding the Recreation Commission.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

LAS: **M. Lane** reported that there was a Public Hearing at the last School Board meeting, to take funds from the Building Maintenance Trust fund to accomplish the following four (4) items:

- 1) \$59,000 for asbestos removal on one of the floors
- 2) \$14,000 for replacement of ceiling tiles
- 3) Some money for electric power for their outdoor classroom, and
- 4) \$6,000 for window replacement

M. Lane said that one citizen asked the questions that shouldn't these items have been in the Budget, or as Warrant Articles? He said that it was an interesting dilemma because the School Board faces some significant increases in their budget of costs (as did the Town) in terms of health care costs and special education costs, and they wanted to intentionally keep their budget as tight as possible, so the idea was to not put these items as Warrant Articles and to use the Building Maintenance Trust Fund (BMTF) to accomplish the goal because there were ample funds available. He reported that more than one citizen made the point that the BMTF's purpose was to fund emergencies, so there was some lively debate on the subject. He reported the result was the School Board passed 3 of the 4 items with the electric power to the outdoor classroom being deferred.

M. Lane said that there is a Public Hearing scheduled in May on the topic of withdrawing funds from their Special Education Fund for unanticipated increases in costs in both special education and in health care costs.

Heritage Commission: **L. Gargiulo** reported that the Heritage Commission is moving forward with a Barn Survey.

Conservation Commission: **L. Gargiulo** said that he did not have a report from the Conservation Commission.

Other Selectmen's New Business: There was no Other Selectmen's Business.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: March 20, 2024:

R. Webb said that there is one amendment that needs to be made on page 8 where it is stated the appointment of Karen Ayers to the Highway Safety Committee, please delete that reference.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of March 20, 2024, as amended.

MOTION: **E. BEATTIE**

SECOND: **M. LANE**

UNANIMOUS

Non-Public Session

MOTION: To go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made at 7:35 PM by **M. LANE** and seconded by **E. BEATTIE**

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel: *The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.*

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	APRIL 03, 2024 6:00 P.M.
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS	TOWN HALL

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session: Louis Gargiulo, Chairman Y
Mark R. Lane, Vice Chairman Y
Edward B. Beattie, Selectman Y

Entered nonpublic session at 7:35 pm.

Review of personnel matter.

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session by **M. LANE**, seconded by **E. BEATTIE**.

Motion: PASSED

Public session reconvened at 8:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the Selectmen's meeting at 8:00 PM

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Next Selectmen's Meeting is Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 8:00 AM
These Minutes prepared by Rachel D. Webb, Assistant Administrator