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PRESENT: E. B. Beattie, Chairman; L. Gargiulo, Vice Chairman; M. R. Lane, Selectman; L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator; L. A. Jordan, Town Secretary

ROAD AGENT – CORE SERVICES/INVOICE MONTHLY REPORT

The Board of Selectmen acknowledged the monthly report as outlined in his invoice for services rendered.

MOTION: To approve the core services monthly invoice and July services and approved worksheets.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

PRICING FOR CULVERT AND PAVING WORK 2020

The Road Agent presented worksheets re: pricing information for culvert work to the Board, and an estimate from Rome Construction, Inc. The purchasing policy requires three quotes, but due to COVID-19 the Road Agent has had difficulty satisfying this.

The Board reviewed and discussed the quotes, and directed the Road Agent to continue to seek pricing proposals for the work and present at the August 5th meeting.

The Road Agent then presented pricing information for purchase of two road plates from Berwick Metals and Novel Iron Works. The delivery price for the plates would be an additional \$200.

MOTION: To move forward with purchasing two plates; one 8' x 11' x 1.25" for \$1,100, one 8.5' x 8' x ¾" for \$480, with a delivery fee of \$200, and authorize Road Agent to acquire and install.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

These new plates are to be marked, "Property of Hampton Falls".

Additionally, the Road Agent is waiting for a callback from Jones & Beach Engineering to obtain the status of the culvert at King Street. The Road Agent also asked Jones & Beach for a quote on Curtis Road culvert. The Road Agent also reached out for pricing for a culvert at Grapevine Run at 70 Drinkwater Road.

The Road Agent asked the Board if he could proceed with the Blake culvert cleanup and installing a beaver gate after describing the state of the culvert and the resultant road flooding

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among other issues. The price for the cleanup and install beaver gate would be \$2,200. The Board discussed this and decided to approve the work.

Finally, M. Lane inquired as to the status of crack sealing. The Road Agent talked about low shoulders, cost and scope for various highway sections.

MOTION: To approve the worksheet and move forward the Blake/Curtis street culvert cleanout and installation of related beaver leveler at a cost of \$2,200.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

FIRE CHIEF, AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT– MONTHLY REPORT

The Board of Selectmen acknowledged the monthly report submitted by Fire Chief J. Lord.

J. Lord updated the Board that COVID has new and active cases in Hampton Falls.

The drought is still active in Hampton Falls. J. Lord will send DES information to the Board tomorrow after the new report on drought conditions is released. Fire Engine #9 has arrived, and the Fire Department has been testing it.

POLICE CHIEF, ANIMAL CONTROL – MONTHLY REPORT

The Board of Selectmen acknowledged the monthly report submitted by the Police Chief R. Dirsra.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR, CODE COMPLIANCE, HEALTH OFFICER –
MONTHLY REPORT**

The Board of Selectmen acknowledged the monthly report submitted by the Building Inspector.

CONSENT AGENDA

Monthly Financial Reports of Bookkeeper, Treasurer, Tax Collector

The Board acknowledged the consent agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

General Fund Balance: \$3,893,444.69

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ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/ PAYROLL/ TREASURER/ TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

WARRANT(S):

Bookkeeper	Payroll Warrant #508	\$19,532.02
	Accounts Payable Warrant #720	\$12,370.00
	Accounts Payable Warrant #721	\$8,932.47
	Accounts Payable Warrant #722	\$939,282.56
	Payroll Warrant #509	\$20,152.05
	Accounts Payable Warrant #723	\$290,481.97

MOTION: To approve the warrants as presented above.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

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TREASURER: CHECK WARRANT REPORT #2020-4 FOR CHECKS: 1192-1196

MOTION: To approve check warrant #2020-4 for checks 1192 through 1196 for a total of \$14,562.50 as presented by the Town Treasurer.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

TRUSTEES OF THE TRUST FUNDS

WARRANT(S):

Trustees of the Trust Fund	Warrant #2020-06	\$888.00
	Warrant #2020-07	\$13,474.00
	Warrant #2020-08	\$1,422.00

MOTION: To approve the warrants as presented above for \$15,784.00.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENT ADOPTION

(reference 10/17/2012 Compensation Review Committee minutes)

The Board discussed changing the procedure regarding the employee monthly health insurance buy-out option to a flat rate rather than a percentage calculation. The procedure is eight years old. E. Beattie asked if the rounded flat rate would be nearly equivalent to the calculated 25% of

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the total premium paid by the Town. It was also discussed if this should be officially added to the Town's personnel policy.

Police Chief R. Dirsra contributed his opinions on the matter, as related to his ability to recruit officers from other Towns who have competing benefits and salary packages. The ability to attract new hires is particularly relevant for the Police Department. He provided the following wording as a suggestion to solidify the procedure re: monthly health insurance buy-outs, which the Board agreed with and ask be added to the minutes:

Employees who are eligible to participate in the Town's health insurance program, may choose to opt out of the Town's health insurance program upon being hired or at open enrollment. Employees who chose to opt out must prove they are insured through another health plan by providing the town appropriate plan documentation. Employees who opt out of the Town's health plan are eligible to receive a monthly healthcare stipend. The stipend is equal to 25 % of the total premium of the town health plan that the employee would qualify for should they have enrolled in the Town's health plan. Opting out of the health plan does not disqualify the employee from opting in to other benefits such as the Town's dental plan.

DISABLED EXEMPTION APPLICATION APPROVAL

MOTION: To approve the Permanent Application for Property Tax Credit/Exemptions for Map 6, Lot 60-1.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

OTHER SELECTMEN'S OLD BUSINESS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM (45 EXETER ROAD) ROOF REPAIRS

The Board discussed proposals by two different historic restorers.

The Historical Society chair, T. Beattie, recommended that The Heritage Co. do the work based on their reputation and portfolio.

Mark Sikorski, Building Inspector, mentioned that Olde Mohawk Historic Preservation will include unpredicted work in the price without charge, which is not part of The Heritage Co. proposal.

Beverly Mutrie, Brown Road, asked if the Historical Society Museum has to have a snow guard where it is, and suggested that the Town save money by only putting snow guards over the stairs and the portico area due to the cost of the project.

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E. Beattie commented that The Heritage Co. has been vetted by Newburyport Common House for a project. The Chair asked to continue discussion of this issue to the next meeting.

It was also mentioned there is a round hole woodpecker's nest in one of the front columns that should be repaired after the birds migrate for the fall.

The Board is interested in moving the project forward pending additional information.

OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman allowed public comment at this time.

Alan Ganz, Surrey Lane, commented about E.L.M. He said they did a good job in general, but the big vehicle has some issues with compliance. First, the big vehicle is registered in Florida which may invalidate insurance liability. Additionally, the vehicle does not have any DOT markings, which are easy and inexpensive to install and is a state requirement.

Alan Ganz then asked about how the Town was doing with tax revenue. Alan Ganz also asked about how the Board Meetings operate.

E. Beattie responded that the Town had kept the spending low and is in a good position to weather the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department Heads were tasked with keeping budgets at 70% or less. The percentage of tax collection is in the range of how it should be.

The Chairman closed the public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

SELECTMEN'S PERMIT APPLICATION (HAWKER'S & PEDDLER'S)

The applicant, which sells pest control services has been operating without having a permit in advance. The Town Administrator explained that their State Hawker's and Peddler's license will expire on July 31, 2020, and they are applying for a period until August 5th. The Board found that the vehicles have mostly out of State license plates concerning.

MOTION: To deny the Selectmen's Permit for Hawker's & Peddlers.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

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PROPERTY TAX REFUND #702 (MAP 8, LOT 34-T) and #703 (Map 7, Lot 68-5)

MOTION: To approve Property Tax Refund #702 (Map 8, Lot 34-T) for \$801.61 as presented by Tax Collector.

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**MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. R. LANE
UNANIMOUS**

MOTION: To approve Property Tax Refund #703 (Map 7, Lot 68-5) for \$3,273.00 as presented by Tax Collector.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. R. LANE
UNANIMOUS**

WARRANT FOR UNLICENSED DOGS

The Town Clerk is actively addressing the issue of unlicensed dogs in the Town, leaving about 90 unlicensed dogs.

MOTION: To sign the Warrant to collect fees for unlicensed dogs as presented by the Town Clerk.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. LANE
UNANIMOUS**

TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATION – INTEREST RATES

The Board reviewed interest rate information presented by the Town Treasurer, who recommended staying at Citizen's Bank due to the best interest rate.

MOTION: To accept the recommendation from the Treasurer to maintain banking at Citizen's Bank.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. LANE
UNANIMOUS**

SELECTMEN'S PERMIT FOR USE OF TOWN COMMON & BANDSTAND

MOTION: To approve a Selectmen's Permit Application for a wedding on Saturday, August 29th, 2020 on the Town Common.

**MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. LANE
UNANIMOUS**

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SELECTMEN REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

No reports were heard at this time.

OTHER SELECTMEN'S NEW BUSINESS

L. Gargiulo will be unable to attend the August 5th Board meeting.

E. Beattie commented that the Concerts on the Common are going very well and commended the Parks and Recreation Commission.

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Mutrie asked if use of Common for personal use generates a fee to the Town. The Board answered the Recreation Commission charges a fee.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the previous meeting minutes of July 1, 2020.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. R. LANE

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MOTION: To enter **nonpublic session** made by **L. GARGIULO** seconded by **M. LANE**.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

 X RSA 91-A:3, II (a) *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.*

 X RSA 91-A:3, II(c) *Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, **other than a member of this board**, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.*

 X RSA 91-A:3, II(l) *Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present.*

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session:

Edward B. Beattie, Chairman	Y
Louis Gargiulo, Vice Chairman	Y
Mark R. Lane, Selectman	Y

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Entered nonpublic session at 7:25 p.m.

MOTION: To leave **nonpublic session** and return to **public session** by **L. GARGIULO**,
seconded by **M. LANE**.

MOTION: PASSED

MOTION: To seal the minutes of the nonpublic session of July 22, 2020.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS