

TOWN NEWS – JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

HAMPTON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN

E. B. Beattie, Chairman, L. Gargiulo, Vice Chairman, M. R. Lane, Selectman

2021 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING

EVENT	DATES
Town Municipal Budget Hearing	January 13, 2021, 7 pm
Filing for Office	January 20 – January 29
1 st Session Town Meeting (Deliberative Session)	January 30 (Snow Date February 1) 9 am
2 nd Session – Town Meeting (Town Election)	March 9, 8 am – 8 pm

TOWN BRUSH DUMP / CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Dump stickers are only required for disposal of brush/ grass on Saturdays when the Brush Attendant is present. Self-cling, three-year dump stickers are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each. However, for the convenience of those in need of disposing Christmas trees, the Brush Dump will be open on Saturday, January 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, 2020, no overnight parking (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) is allowed on any town roadway. This ban will be in effect until April 1.

A Selectmen's ordinance prohibits the plowing of snow onto public roads. It includes a fine for any person causing snow or ice to be placed upon the surface of the traveled portion of the road.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – Stephanie Grant

townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org 603-926-4618 ext. 101

VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We have now implemented a new process to help residents who have bought a new vehicle/ trailer/ motorcycle. Please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk copy at the bottom)
- Contact information (name, phone number and email)
- Payment (check made out to Town of Hampton Falls and we will fill in amount or credit card over the phone once processed)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside to the left of the Town Hall doors. We will process and call you to arrange a time to pick up the plates outside at our window.

Any residents who wish to transfer their old plates to a new vehicle please provide the following:

- Copy of your driver's license
- Old registration (the plates you wish to transfer must be original not a copy)
- Title or Title Application (Town Clerk Copy)
- Blank check (once filled in we will copy and send back to you)
- Contact information (email, phone # and address)

Please put this information in an envelope and utilize our drop box outside of the Town Hall door. We will process and mail back to you.

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We ask you that you continue to renew your registrations as well as license dogs online. Please visit the Town Clerk's page on www.hamptonfalls.org to renew online. You may also renew your vehicle by dropping off a copy of your previous registration, copy of your license and a payment (please see above) and drop into the outside drop box. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone. While our doors are closed to the public, we are still working in the office to process transactions to the best of our abilities at this time. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented and challenging time.

If you are a new resident or have a unique registration, please contact the office and we will be able to assist you.

Please call our office at 926-4618, ext. 101 (we are returning voicemails as soon as possible) or email townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org (email is being monitored all week) with any questions or concerns.

INTERNET VEHICLE RENEWALS

We recommend completing your vehicle renewal(s) over the internet. Click on the Town Clerk's web page (www.hamptonfalls.org), motor vehicles, then click on motor vehicles renew online and enter your information from your registration, and you will receive your registration(s) and decal(s) through the mail. Renewals over 3 months late and residents wanting to make changes will need to call into the office for instructions.

VITAL RECORDS AND THREE-YEAR DUMP STICKERS ON-LINE

You can request "certified" copies of NH Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce certificates on-line by choosing Vital Records on the town web page, please also email a picture of your driver's license when requesting any certified copy to townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org. Limited staff prevents us from being able to produce certified copies "on the spot." Requests for self-cling, 3-year brush dump stickers (required for brush disposal only; no longer required for household waste collection days) are available on-line or from the Town Clerk's office at a cost of \$30 each.

FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE

DUE TO TOWN HALL BEING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, WE ARE CURRENTLY NOT OFFERING FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE.

Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. The cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.Ds and final divorce or death certificates if filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first.

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

A reminder that the Town Clerk's office is closed to the public on Fridays.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE MARCH 9 TOWN & SCHOOL ELECTIONS

Registered voters who qualify to vote absentee may submit the signed application form(s) (available on-line) to the Town Clerk any time prior to the upcoming election. The ballots will be

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available approximately two to three weeks prior to each election. Absentee ballots are subject to restrictions as to their proper distribution and return.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Residents who would like to register to vote in town may do so with the Town Clerk or the Supervisors of the Checklist up until a week before each election or on an election Day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

I.D. IS NOW REQUESTED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION

(or fill out a challenged voter affidavit)

CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Citizen's petitions for the 2021 Town Warrant must be submitted to the Selectmen no later than January 12. Petitions must have twenty-five (25) legal voters' legible signatures on each petition (RSA 39:3) to be valid.

ELECTION FILING FOR OFFICE

The Town Deliberative Session will be held on January 30 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Winnacunnet High School Auditorium, Alumni Drive, Hampton, NH (snow date is February 1 beginning at 9 a.m. at Town Hall). The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Town Hall. Hampton Falls voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. Town residents who are registered voters may file for any of the following offices with Town Clerk, Stephanie Grant (or school positions only with School Clerk) between January 20 and January 29, 2021. The Town Clerk is open Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. and Friday, February 5 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for filing.

<u>Officials</u>	<u># Positions</u>	<u>Term</u>
Cemetery Trustee	1	3 years
Library Trustee	1	3 years
Planning Board	2	3 years
Board of Selectman	1	3 years
Supervisor of Checklist	1	1 year
Trustee of Trust Funds	1	1 year

TAX COLLECTION

The tax rate for 2020 was \$21.35 and as of December 15, all unpaid property taxes are now delinquent and are accruing interest. Please call or check the website for the correct amount due before sending your payment. You can also pay your taxes online at www.hamptonfalls.org and by clicking on the useful links tab and then review/pay taxes. Please be aware there is a 2.95% charge to use your debit/credit card and a \$0.95 charge to use an online check. This fee is charged by the credit card company and bank, not by the Town of Hampton Falls.

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Abatement applications for 2020 taxes are due before March 1. Anyone who qualifies for the veteran's tax credit or one of the exemption categories should submit their application no later than April 15. Please let us know if you have moved, changed your name, or are now using a PO Box so that we can get your tax bill to you in a timely fashion.

BUILDING INSPECTOR / CODE COMPLIANCE / HEALTH OFFICER - Mark Sikorski

A Number Can Save A Life: Is your house number visible from the street? Is there a number on your mailbox? It could be as simple as the FEDEX driver being able to find your house yet if a threatening situation occurred it could mean the difference between life and death. Next time you are approaching your home look at it through the eyes of a first responder. Can you clearly see your address from the street? Precious seconds save precious lives.

We are deep into winter. The weather is cold. The windows are shut. Take a walk around the homestead. What conditions are my smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in? Is the power on to the units? Are the batteries in good shape? These units can save a life.

Today more homes than ever are connecting backup generator units to survive the more frequent power outages. These units create dangerous carbon monoxide fumes which left unchecked can be deadly. Take a moment and take a walk around. It could save a life. While you're at it take a moment to look over your generator connection for safe installation. If you are unsure contact my office. I can give you a quick review to ensure a safe and comfortable evening when the lights go out.

Planning to remodel or add on? Visit the town web site for links to frequently used permit applications. Applications can take time to approve if certain conditions exist. Please remember that smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are required to be brought up to current standards as part of any remodeling. Plan ahead and make the job easier for everyone involved. If you have questions or need help contact my office at 926-4618 ext. 105 or by e-mail at buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - Lyn Stan, Chair

Parks and Recreation invites everyone to enjoy the ice skating rink at Governor Weare Park, Exeter Road.

FIRE DEPARTMENT / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS - Jay M. Lord, Fire Chief

Non-Emergency Telephone Contact - 926-5752 or email chief@hffd.org

- With deep snow, remember to clear all vents (dryer, water heaters, pellet stoves, etc.) around your house to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your house; also, remember if you don't have a CO detector, go get one, they are inexpensive and worth the investment.
- If you have an LP tank also clear snow from the regulator where it enters the house.
- Prior to the power going out, see the Town website/Fire Department page for generator safety tips.
- Space heaters need a three foot clearance to all combustibles.
- If pipes freeze, use a hair dryer or hot water to thaw them out. don't use a flame torch.
- Check your emergency kit supplies (for both your home and cars) – more information is available at Ready.gov or NHReady.gov.
- You can also sign up for NH Alerts at the NHReady.gov page. NH Alerts will notify you (text and/or call) if there is an emergency in your area (includes storm warnings, road closures, police action, and others.)
- Develop a fire escape plan and practice family fire drills. (Practice both in the daylight and dark.)