

## **TOWN NEWS – MARCH / APRIL 2021**

### **HAMPTON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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

#### **2021 HAMPTON FALLS TOWN MEETING**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Session (Town Election) March 9<sup>th</sup> 8AM – 8PM**

**Lincoln Akerman School – 8 Exeter Road**

### **2021 TOWN BUDGET & TOWN REPORT**

On January 13, a budget public hearing was held by the Board of Selectmen to review the proposed 2021 budget and to allow the public to voice opinions and ask questions. At the January 30 Town Deliberative Session, voters learned of the recommended budget as well as other warrant articles being presented on the 2021 Town ballot with one amendment to the wording of Article 15, a citizens' petition, being made by the legislative body. The 2021 operating budget of \$2,902,265 represents an increase over last year's budget of \$116,196. The 2021 default budget totals \$2,858,105.

The 2020 Town and School Report has been forwarded to the printer. In an effort to keep costs down, a limited number of reports will be printed and made available for **pick-up** during the first week of March from the Town Hall or Library during regular business hours. Please note that these buildings are closed to the public other than by appointment; please call in advance. It is requested that one copy per household be obtained. An electronic copy can be viewed at [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://www.hamptonfalls.org)

The 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.

#### **PARKING BAN & SNOW REMOVAL**

Townpeople are reminded that effective December 15, 2020, no overnight parking (6 pm - 6 am) 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](mailto:townclerkcollect@hamptonfalls.org) 603-926-4618 ext. 101

#### **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 available approximately two to three weeks prior to the 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 up until February 25th or with the Supervisors of the Checklist on election day (show proof of identity, age and domicile).

#### **TOWN ELECTION**

The annual Town and School District Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at **Lincoln Akerman School**. Hampton Falls' voters vote all money articles and the annual budget by ballot. **I.D. IS NOW REQUESTED IN ORDER TO VOTE IN EVERY ELECTION** (or fill out a challenged voter affidavit)

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#### **VEHICLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

**We are open by appointment only, please call to schedule.**

**OR you may use the following procedures and utilize the drop box**

**If you 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 at our outside 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.

**We ask you that you continue to renew your registrations online as well as licensing dogs.** Please visit the Town Clerk's page on [www.hamptonfalls.org](http://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 mailbox. You can also call into the office to process a renewal over the phone or schedule an appointment to come in and renew.

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

#### **FILING FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE**

Please call ahead to schedule an appointment to apply for a new marriage license. Please note the appointment will take about 45 minutes. Any New Hampshire Town or City Clerk can do the filing for a marriage license. The cost is \$50 and requires both persons' I.D. and final divorce or death certificates if filing for a subsequent marriage other than your first.

#### **VITAL RECORDS AND 3-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](mailto: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.

#### **TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAYS**

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

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#### **TAX INFORMATION**

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](http://www.hamptonfalls.org). 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. The Tax Office is now merged with the Town Clerk Office, when coming in for your taxes please go to the former Town Clerk window. 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 by April 15.

#### **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](mailto:buildinginspector@hamptonfalls.org).

#### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - Lyn Stan, Chair**

The Hampton Falls Parks and Recreation Commission continues to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. Our mission is to provide programs and facilities that develop the physical condition and wellness for a quality of life that benefits our young and adult residents; we encourage volunteerism to promote unity within the community. The Commission encourages residents with ideas for recreational activities or interests in organizing recreational activities to join our monthly meetings.

Current Board members are: Lyn Stan, Chairperson, Karen Sabatini, Treasurer, Beth Forgione, Secretary, Pam Fitzgerald, Tuesday Orluk and Phil Chura.

The Commission continues the management of Governor Weare Park. The scheduling of all teams and leagues using the fields including; Cal Ripken Baseball, Hampton Attack Spring and Fall Soccer and Lacrosse, are overseen by Mike Montville, Mark Lane and Ad hoc member Larry Smith. If interested in working with the leagues, please contact Mike or Mark. Governor Weare Park will continue to be used by our community residents to have a fun pick-up game with their families and friends.

We are pleased to see that Mother Nature has blessed us with perfect winter skating days for all. Once again, we thank Grant Winnes and his team of volunteers for maintaining our Ice Rink for all to enjoy.

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The Hampton Falls Summer Camp program run by Lincoln Akerman School Art teacher, Stacey Bellen, now tentatively scheduled from July 5– July 30. This summer camp program provides kids with many fun-filled activities and recreation in spite of COVID-19 restrictions, it continues to be a big hit for Hampton Falls children.

We look forward to Castleberry Fair Craft show on Mother's Day Weekend, May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by there are many great gift ideas for Mom.

The annual Art on the Common has not been scheduled to date. The event director is still looking for volunteers. If you have a passion for the arts please contact Carol Whalen.

Friends of the Hampton Falls Bandstand will kick off the 2021 season on June 17<sup>th</sup> thru August 26<sup>th</sup> with diverse and cultural performances. The Bandstand audience continues to grow and has a regional following with the many Tribute bands along with addition of Cool Wheels car shows. The Cool Wheels is seeking volunteers, if interested please contact Steve Sabatini. Please go to Friends of the Hampton Falls Bandstand/Hampton Falls Cool Wheels social media pages for full lineup and updates.

This summer, we plan to bring back the Children's program with Wayne from Maine. The 50-minute show is a musical adventure thru various musical styles designed for the young and young at heart. Audience participation is always encouraged.

The Seniors Organizing for Seniors hopes to resume discussions soon. The group is planning a concert this summer featuring some of the great all time sing along classic songs. Stay tuned for details.

The Parks and Recreation Commission are always looking for people to complement our team. Do you have a passion to build community spirit or have creative ideas? If you can answer YES, please consider joining our team.

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

Non-Emergency Telephone Contact - 926-5752 or email [chief@hffd.org](mailto: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.)

### **HAMPTON FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Tracy Healey Beattie, President**

The Museum seems to sit idle, surrounded by snow and bare trees but the Trustees, in various style masks, are busy inside, preparing for post-COVID gatherings. Several projects are in process. An example is the E-Newsletter that Ward Dilmore and Karen Sabatini are developing for a Spring mailing. They welcome all photos, anecdotes or historical material that you might like to share. Another continuing item on our list is Oral Histories. Wendy Harrington has expertise in this area and will be

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doing video recordings beginning this month. Martha Coombs agreed to record her mother's reflections and we are most grateful for her efforts. If you have thoughts on who might be contacted, please give Wendy a call. Trustees Linda Hladik, Anne Coombs and Beverly Mutrie work diligently on accessing items that have been given to the Museum. We are always looking forward to your historical donations to enhance our collections.

Museum restoration continues with a current endeavor to refinish the museum floor. The Birch floor was put in place well over one hundred years ago and is deserving of a renewed look! Part of the renovation effort is to provide a more open area, one that people can better experience this beautiful architectural gem. With any initiative, we work and consult with the Selectmen, grateful for their support and shared ideas. With space in mind, we have two antique church pews that are in need of a new home. Be in touch if you are interested in these beautiful pews from our Baptist church. Mark Thompson could help you with this.

Karen Galat has been kept very busy as our new Treasurer and we appreciate her commitment. COVID-19 confinement keeps our Carolyn Petit at home but she is writing her own narrative for the museum....growing up in Hampton Falls. Lots of projects ahead and how we welcome your ideas and involvement. Dare I add that any little donation would be humbly appreciated? The coffers have a tendency to dwindle!

The daffodils WILL come and with them new beginnings. Stay well and look for our first E-Newsletter in April.