

**Approved, (with revisions to paragraph 7 under Audience for Citizens)
at the Monday, April 5, 2010 Board Meeting.**

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at the Town Office Building.

Present for the Board: First Selectman Kate Donnelly, Selectman Roger Dionne, Selectman Mike Chapel

Staff Present: Marlene B. Aulten, Recording Secretary

Item 1: Call to Order: First Selectman Donnelly called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

Item 2: Audience for Citizens:

Vi Marquis spoke regarding the antique show set up at the Community Center blocking a door, and the Center's non-functioning fire extinguisher.

Marcia Kilpatrick asked for a follow-up on AGvocate. First Selectman Donnelly noted that she is awaiting the application. Marcia inquired about the trees near the conference room; First Selectman Donnelly noted they had been trimmed. Marica also inquired about the possibility of door-to-door trash/recycling pick-up, and whether or not the cost would be less.

Linda Gorman spoke regarding the organization/size of the 'swap shack' at the Transfer Station.

Gay Wagner noted she could put people in touch with an individual who knows how to save trees infected with wooly adelgid.

Penny Newbury commented on the re-decoration of the Community Room. She asked if the formation of a Finance Committee was being considered.

Ed Burchfield spoke regarding the possibility of petitioning for a Finance Committee to determine interest.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola noted that BOS previously voted on revisions to be made to the December minutes that had not yet taken place, and regarding an FOI violation in regards to an Executive Session agenda by the former Board of Selectmen.

Linda Gorman said she 'seconded' Ms. McDermott-Arriola's input. She inquired as to the status of the State Investigator's report. She also spoke regarding the institution of the investigative process.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola spoke regarding a tax payer's right to know about an employee's raise.

Item 3: Liaison Reports:

A. D-11 Board of Ed - George Askew reporting:

Mr. Askew asked how many received the latest newsletter.

For those who had not, he noted that they could call him or the School to have a copy sent to them.

Mr. Askew reported that budgets are being carefully scrutinized. The Board is looking to maintain a 0% increase for fourth year. He noted that

May 3rd is the tri-town budget meeting with a budget referendum on May 4th.

He also noted that the girls have done well with basketball, and that course offerings will be increased for the next school year.

B. Hampton Board of Ed - John Burnham reporting:

Mr. Burnham noted that the HES budget process is also in process, though a bit behind due to inclement weather meeting cancellation. The Board will be meeting on March 18 (regular meeting) and two special budget workshop meetings are scheduled for March 23, and March 30. The target date for an approved budget is April 15.

Mr. Burnham also noted that the installation of an accordion wall, allowing the ability to create two rooms, was completed over the February break.

C. Fire Department - Chief Rich Schenk reporting:

Mr. Schenk reported that the Department responded to a “dog through the ice” call; fortunately, the dog was able to get out by himself. The Department also conducted an ice rescue drill at the reservoir. They were able to put a quick stop to Mike Barnard’s truck fire, Rich Schenk reporting; dog through ice. He also reported that the new truck is great, and the Department was completing a few minor upgrades. He noted that while there is a slight increase in their budget, it is still a “bare bones budget”.

D. Ambulance Corp: No report this month.

Item 4: Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, February 1, 2010.

MOTION:

Selectman Dionne made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/1/10 meeting; First Selectman Donnelly seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Item 5: Review of Financial Report -

For month ending February 28, 2010 submitted by Treasurer Ellen Rodriguez. Reviewed by Selectmen.

A. Transfers for the month ending February 28, 2010:

Treasurer Rodriguez recommended the following transfer and appropriations:

1. From #6405, Volunteer Transportation to #7100-08 Probate Court, \$60.00
2. Appropriate \$20,000.00 from the General Fund to Administration
3. Appropriate \$20,000.00 from the General Fund to Public Works.

MOTION: Selectman Dionne motioned to approve the transfer and appropriations as recommended by Treasurer Rodriguez; Selectman Chapel seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Item 6: Additions to agenda:

None

Item 7: Tax Collector’s Report: For month ending February 28, 2010, Tax Collector Baum reported the following via written memo:

“We received and deposited \$92,880.35 in February and have received \$3,622,483 on a year to date basis. This is \$115,368 ahead of last year, and at 94.94% of current

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collections versus 95.98% of current collections last year. We are on schedule to equal or exceed the budgeted rate of collection of 97%. Our tax amount for this fiscal year is approximately \$175,000 more than last year due to less State reimbursement."

7A. Tax Refunds: There are two refunds, for a total of \$616.01 the Tax Collector recommends the Board approve

1. \$574.27 due to overpayment
2. \$41.74 due to assessor changes/corrections

MOTION: Selectman Dionne motioned to approve the refunds as recommended by Tax Collector Baum; Selectman Chapel seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Item 8 Appointments/Terms: Marijo Dennison as representative to Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH). Term to be set by NDDH. First Selectman Donnelly noted an alternate is also needed to serve this agency.

Motion: Selectman Chapel motioned to approve the appointment of Marijo Dennison as Hampton's representative to NDDH; Selectman Dionne seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Item 9: Committee/Commission minutes for review:
Reviewed by Selectmen.

Item 10 Old Business:

A. Discuss and Act on Dairy Farm Abatement request:

A Dairy Farm abatement renewal has been requested by Clark Woodmansee for his Pomfret Road Dairy Farm. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Selectman Dionne motioned to approve the Dairy Farm Abatement renewal at a level of 25 % rather than the 50% requested. First Selectman Donnelly seconded; Selectman Dionne and First Selectman Donnelly provided yes votes, Selectman Chapel opposed; motion carried.

ITEM 12 NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discuss and act on establishing a committee for local option for property relief, and appoint members Harry Baum, Mario Fiondella, Joan Fox, and Roger Dionne

The Committee's charge is to investigate the possibility of instituting a Town-wide abatement (aka Circuit-breaker program) on taxes for those over 65 who are disabled and/or have very low income. The Committee will forward a plan to the Board for review.

MOTION: Selectman Chapel motioned to establish a committee for local option for property relief (Circuit breaker program); Selectman Dionne seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

MOTION: Selectman Dionne motioned to appoint Harry Baum, Mario Fiondella, Joan Fox, himself, and additionally, Fred Curry and Gay Wagner to the committee.

B. Discuss and act on joining Ct Clean Energy Fund's 20% by 2010 Campaign:

The Green Energy Committee has an interest in this campaign. Selectman Dionne noted that several towns are involved, and it relates to how Town's can conserve energy in their buildings, and use renewable sources of

energy. He is entering our Town's buildings into an energy star database so we will know how much energy we are consuming, and how we can move forward with conservation. First Selectman Donnelly noted that due to the recent insulation upgrade in Town Hall, half of the amount of energy was needed this February as compared to last February's usage. Another component of the program is the need to purchase 20% clean energy resources to provide our energy.

MOTION: Selectman Dionne motioned to join the Ct. Clean Energy Fund's 20% by 2010 Campaigning; Selectman Chapel seconded; Selectman Chapel seconded, all in favor; motion carried.

C. Report on Housing Rehabilitation Program Lien Subordination Request from Small Cities program:

Peter Sanborn, Hampton Small Cities Program Manager, submitted a report for the Board's review regarding the subordination of an existing housing rehab loan. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Sanborn's report is available for review in the First Selectman's Office.

D. Discuss and act on sale of fire truck and backhoe:

Brief discussion ensued. Fire dept had a few offers for the truck purchased from Windham some time ago which was upgraded over time. The dept. asks if we they could keep the proceeds to cover the overruns on the new truck. The top offer so far was approximately 3K; this is the GMC service truck. Mike noted that 10-15% would be lost if sent to auction. He advised running an ad and /or on the website. Rich asked if they are to advertise; kate noted we will take care of that in our office. Roger asked if Rich would be comfortable splitting the proceeds with the Town. Rich noted that whatever the Town wants if good with them.

MOTION: First Selectman Donnelly motioned to have the Fire Department retain the proceeds from the sale of their fire truck; Selectman Chapel seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

As pertains to the backhoe, we have received 2 sealed bids; the last day for submission is Tuesday, 3/10/2010.

E. Discuss DPW Foreman's February report and road paving

This report will be posted on the website.

F. Discussion of salary adjustment request from Registrar of Voter's Joan Fox:

The Board received a letter from Ms. Fox, Dated February 11th, 2010, requesting a salary increase, retroactive, based on what she has determined to be mis-information regarding salary information at the time of her hire she was advised of a pay scale, yet no previous registrar has been paid **MOTION:** Selectman Dionne motioned to table this issue Roger moved to table; mike seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

ITEM 12: Communications:

ITEM 13: Audience for citizens:

Fire Chief Rich Schenk noted that he will be attending an ISO workshop in Chaplin; Selectman Dionne will also be attending. Registration is through March 5th.

Dayna McDermott-Arriola expressed the opinion that a citizen cannot be stopped from speaking during an *Audience for Citizens* as it is a violation of the First Amendment, and is discriminatory.

Penny Newbury spoke regarding the interaction of the Board members amongst themselves at tonight's meeting.

Gay Wagner expressed her opinion regarding the loss of transparency, the audio recording of the meeting not being on the web site, the notification of the public regarding Committee formation, and the future attendance of the Tax Collector and Treasurer at Board meetings. She inquired as to how citizens can receive a copy of the Treasure's monthly financial reports.

Ed Burchfield spoke regarding sign up lists for distribution of specific reports.

Allan Cahill spoke regarding a bill he would submit to the Town for repairs to a Town truck requested by the DPW Foreman.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Board, Selectman Dionne moved to adjourn at 7:45-p.m.; Selectman Chapel seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marlene B. Aulten
Recording Secretary