

Hampton Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 3rd, 2023

7:00 PM

1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by First Selectman Allan Cahill.

a. Members present: Bob Grindle. Selectman John Tillinghast was absent.

2. Audience for Citizens: Rick Canavan of the Last Green Valley distributed packets created to list events and dates and left a limited amount of printed brochures available for visitors to the town hall. He also thanked the Town of Hampton for their support, and discussed activity currently being worked on by their board with an eye to Walktober. They are currently hosting various Spring Outdoors activities which can be found at <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/>. The board and Mr. Canavan discussed the mutual respect for the land trust organizations in the area.

3. Acceptance/Approval Minutes of March 6th, 2023—Bob Grindle moved to approve the minutes of March 6, 2023. Allan Cahill seconded the motion. The minutes should be amended to note the meeting was March 6, not March 7. The motion with amendment to date on the minutes, passed unanimously.

Reports:

D. Public Works:

First Selectman Cahill gave updates of cleaning from windstorms and black ice management.

E. First Selectman:

a. Town volunteers and HDPW dug the last grave by hand on the hill for Hampton's last World War II veteran since the heavy equipment couldn't be used.

b. The baseball field has been cleaned up and will be used 4 nights/week. Brooklyn Little League is assuming the membership of the Chaplin/Hampton Little League, and membership will be increased to allow more players to compete and more spectators can watch the games.

c. Keith Crawford of Little River Tree Removal cleared the Little River Watershed parcel.

d. New overhead doors have been installed at the old town garage, and the exterior camera system at the town hall is now functional and is connected to the First Selectman's phone and the town clerk's desktop.

e. Ordered a new sign for the front of the Town Hall.

f. Dave Foster will act as grand marshal for the Memorial Day parade.

g. First Selectman Cahill met with Southern New England executives from Frontier Communications. They are installing an infrastructure upgrade a fiber optic upgrade this summer starting in July with an anticipated completion in the fall.

4. Communications: First Selectman Cahill moved to accept with regret the resignation of Cassie Haddad, administrative assistant. Bob Grindle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Financial Report: No questions.

6. Tax Collector Report: Tabled. Timing is off because the board already accepted the report for February, and the selectmen are waiting for the March tax report to be submitted.

A. Refunds – None.

7. Appointment(s)—First Selectman Cahill moved to appoint Jennifer Nelson as new administrative assistant to the selectmen. Bob Grindle seconded the appointment and it passed unanimously.

8. Board/Committee/Commission Minutes/reports for review: None

9. Additions to agenda: None

10. Old Business

A. Little River Agricultural Land Bid Openings: The town received two (2) bids:

Woodhill Farm on 3/30/2023 at 10:16 AM for \$1200/year for grass

Thomas Lehoux for Ireland Farm, LLC for \$100/acre for approximately 20 acres for \$2,000/year over 3 years for a cumulative bid of \$6,000.

First Selectman Cahill moved to award the parcel to Ireland Farm for \$100/acre. Bob Grindle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. 23/24 Budget Review—Tritown collaborative of Hampton, Eastford, and Pomfret met last Tuesday night and KB Ambulance and the president of the Pomfret Fire District are requesting an 8% increase (about \$6,000), and the BOF was informed. They agreed to renew for one year. They hope to have a 3-5 year agreement for the next year's meeting for stability purposes. It will continue to be challenging to sustain small hospitals. Another

topic of discussion is the increase to town employees. Pomfret and Canterbury are giving an 8% increase the employees. Selectmen discussed purpose of maintaining staff and balancing insurance and salary constraints.

C. Notification System Follow-up: No update. Developing a list for the website and town newsletter so a dynamic is developed to update listings.

11. New Business: None

12. Audience for Citizens: Sue Hochstetter wanted to discuss the reframing of various maps within the town hall. Mark Samios thanked First Selectman Cahill for the clearing of the Little River Watershed parcel.

Bob Grindle moved to adjourn at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Nelson, Administrative Assistant