

Hampton Board of Selectman

Minutes February 7, 2022

1. Call to order – 7:00 pm

- a. Members present – First Selectman Allan Cahill, Selectman Bob Grindle, Selectman John Tillinghast

2. Audience for Citizens

- a. Dayna McDermott
 - i. Stated the Gazettes were in shredder and someone took them out and put them back on the table; first Selectman Cahill stated he put them back.
 - ii. Shared her thoughts on the importance of linking the Hampton Gazette to the town website and elaborated on why it is “insightful”.
- b. Terry Warner
 - i. Stated she appreciates the Gazette and that whatever decision is made about what to do with it, should be consistent

3. Acceptance/Approval Minutes January 3rd, 2022 and Special Meeting of January 27th, 2022

- a. Selectman Grindle suggested making motion to approve with adjustments to a couple of spelling errors in minutes for the previous meetings
 - i. First Selectman Cahill made motion/Selectman Tillinghast moved/Selectman Grindle seconded. Unanimously passed.

4. Public Works

- a. First Selectman Cahill stated the DPW Department is focused on winter work, keeping up with the snow/ice. Discussed installing the refurbished Town Hall billboard and it will eventually be electrified. Stated that 376 Old Rte. 6 property was closed and is back on tax roles, effective immediately

5. Tax Collectors Report for December

- a. First Selectman Cahill made motion to approve/Selectman Grindle moved/Selectman Tillinghast seconded.
- b. Refunds – First Selectman Cahill made motion to approve the four refunds that were listed on the agenda and one that was not listed but added in person/Selectman Grindle moved/Selectman Tillinghast seconded. Unanimously passed.
 - i. Alfred E Spoerl - \$237.70
 - ii. Perry S Matchinis - \$11.89
 - iii. Christopher N James - \$21.42
 - iv. Christina Hammon - \$89.17
 - v. Ronald Auber/Cheryl Fogg- \$25.76

6. Old Business

- a. *Discussion and Action: Gazette link to Town Website*
 - i. First Selectman Cahill stated he has heard multiple people say that the Hampton Gazette should not be linked to the town website

- ii. Selectman Grindle stated he also still thinks it should be kept separate and has not heard any talk of it until the night of this meeting
 - iii. Selectman Tillinghast stated he looked at other town's websites to compare and noted that none of them have their towns newspapers linked to their websites. He agreed with the other selectmen that it should not be linked.
 - 1. First Selectman Cahill made motion to not add the Hampton Gazette link to the Town Website and keep them separate/Selectman Grindle moved/Selectman Tillinghast seconded. Unanimously passed.
- b. Discussion 2022-2023 Budget input*
- i. First selectman Cahill stated the bridge on East Old Rte. 6 has to be looked at and fixed up which will be at the town's expense. He also stated that the stipend for the emergency management director needs to be replaced. Cahill stated he attended a Health Insurance Meeting RD-11 pool and it was stated that there has been:
 - 1. 141% loss ratio
 - 2. Aging pool that is ill (not all covid related)
 - 3. Medical claims have gone up 9.3%
 - 4. Pharmacy claims have gone up 12%
 - 5. Connecticare came back with a no bid proposal at 15% which was voted on and approved
 - 6. A town employee who was insured with a family plan resigned and was replaced with an employee without a family
 - ii. First selectman Cahill and Selectman Grindle stated
 - 1. The compensation for town employees and officials should be increased by 3% as a starting point
 - 2. The line item for the Town Council should go to \$6,000
 - iii. Selectman Tillinghast stated that in the Community Center there have been rodent problems and there is a water leak in the furnace room
- c. Discussion Senior Club update*
- i. Selectman Tillinghast stated the stipend for the nurse (Jane) should be raised at least by \$500
 - ii. Selectman Grindle stated other towns provide grants
 - iii. First Selectman Cahill stated he is still waiting for a list of high priority people who need the most help and the Senior Committee needs to send him the list of members

7. New Business

- a. First Selectman Cahill stated Donna Cloutier is retiring as the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman and Cassie Haddad has been training to take over.
 - i. First Selectman Cahill made motion to hire Cassie Haddad as the new Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman/Selectman Grindle moved/Selectman Tillinghast seconded. Unanimously passed.

- ii. First Selectman Cahill made motion to start Cassie Haddad at \$19.00 per hour/Selectman Grindle moved/Tillinghast seconded. Unanimously passed.
- iii. Selectman Grindle stated a ZOOM platform will be made available for the Memorial Day Celebration at the Town Hall for people who wish to attend from home. Select Grindle will send out the link

8. Audience for Citizens

- a. Jessica Samios
 - i. Stated the Senior Clubs needs were returned to the Town/Town Clerk
 - ii. The Walmart deliveries have not been coming to her house
 - iii. The minutes for the Board of Selectman Special Meeting on January 27th, 2022 were not posted to tonight's meeting, the 7th.
 - iv. Stated for the record that she think it is a mistake not linking the Hampton Gazette to the Town Website
- b. Mark Samios
 - i. Also stated he thinks the decision to not link the Gazette to the Town website is a mistake
 - ii. Asked about the town having a Twitter account
 - 1. First Selectman Cahill stated it can be another "vehicle" for information
- c. Terry Warner
 - i. Stated she prefers Facebook rather than Twitter

9. Adjournment

- a. First Selectman mad motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m./Selectman Grindle moved/Selectman Tillinghast seconded. Unanimously passed. Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.