

*Town of Hampton, Connecticut
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Regular Meeting – February 6, 2012
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DRAFT

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, February 6, 2012 at the Town Hall.

Present for the Board: First Selectman Allan Cahill, Selectman Mike Chapel, Selectman Bob Grindle

Staff Present: Liz Stillman, Recording Secretary

ITEM 1: Call to Order: First Selectman Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and thanked Selectmen Chapel and Grindle for running the January Board of Selectmen meeting in his absence.

ITEM 2: Audience for Citizens

Jill Barton expressed concern about Parker Road maintenance on the unimproved part of the road. Ms. Barton clarified that the road was “unimproved”, not “unmaintained” or “discontinued”, and asked that the town maintain the road, using the State funds as other roads in town.

First Selectmen Cahill commented that he had asked the Road Crew to plow the road if there was a significant snow fall.

Ms. Barton asked for a commitment from the Board of Selectmen that the road would be maintained.

Selectman Chapel suggested that a time be scheduled to take a look at the road, so the Board of Selectmen and the residents would be on the same page and look a plan of action.

Ms. Barton repeated her request for the Board to commit to maintaining the road.

Troy Lake suggested that the discussion between the board and Parker Road residents might be what the definition of what “maintained” is.

Selectman Grindle agreed that he would like to see what the road looked like through the resident’s eyes.

First Selectman Cahill clarified that the work that had been done on Carter Road had been done by him, and not by the Road Crew.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the town is obligated to maintain the road for about 2000 feet, and these houses on Parker Road are only a few hundred feet up the road and asked for a meeting with the selectmen.

Ms. Barton and Ann Bladen asked for an appointment to meet with the selectmen, and the Board agreed that it would be sometime this week.

Linda Gorman (town librarian), with the endorsement of the Library Board, presented a request for an agenda item to be added to this meeting a request for approval, effective immediately, to compensate her for the 20-24 hours per week as the Town Librarian that she works, which is over the 16 hours a week for which she was originally hired. Since being hired over two years ago, Ms. Gorman has consistently worked over 21 hours a week and is also charge with the coordination and execution of several library sponsored events, fundraisers and ongoing projects that she currently donates 5-7 hours a week to accomplish. The practice of requiring her to work without compensation, she has been told by the State liaison at the Library on the State level, is illegal. She had proposed to the Library Board of Directors that she submit a timesheet to the town Treasurer, recording the amount of hours she has worked and be compensated up to 24 hours a week. Ms. Gorman stated she would continue to volunteer her time, but insisted that she be compensated for the hours she is required to work. Ms. Gorman submitted a letter to the board with supporting documents including her original job description and what the job description is currently. Ms. Gorman is not asking for a raise, or health insurance.

Troy Lake (chair of Recreation Commission) thanked the Board for returning to the historical protocol for taking the recommendation of the commission for appointments to that commission and asked the Board of Selectmen to keep an eye on the Recreation Commission as they continue to work on updating the ordinance for the Recreation Commission and expedite the process.

Ed Burchfield asked if the audience would be able to speak on topics as they arise, First Selectmen Cahill stated that it would at his discretion. Mr. Burchfield stated that as it applies to appointments; it concerns him that

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aside from Angelicka Hansen and Eleni Yanouzas, people that were serving on the Recreation Commission had expired terms. Mr. Burchfield stated that Troy Lake, who had been serving as the Chair of the Recreation Commission, knew that his term had expired a year and a half to two years ago and continued to misrepresent himself and serve as Chair without recusing himself. Mr. Burchfield also stated that the Connecticut State Statutes override the town ordinances if there was a mistake made, which there was, and that the Recreation Commission should have 9 members and not the 11 that would be active if all members were appointed tonight, and suggested any people that were not appointed as members of the commission could still serve the commission without a vote. Ed Burchfield asked that the Board either appoint Angelicka Hansen and Eleni Yanouzas, or no one, until that ordinance is fixed and in place.

JoAnn Freeman stated that the programs that the Recreation Commission put together has brought a different life and vitality to the town and suggested more people come to them and enjoy them. She acknowledged the hours involved in a volunteer position.

Kathy Donahue also wanted to express her support for the Recreation Commission and asked that the Board make the appointments tonight, as she would like to see a quorum met at their next meeting, so the Commission continues their work.

Troy Lake added as a point of order, that all the members currently serving were appointed by a previous administration and that the ordinance reflects a certain period of time that was not designated upon appointment of that group, and that is why a modification of the ordinance is being asked for, to establish that. Mr. Lake added that the Commission approached the Board of Selectmen to appoint certain periods of time, to better meet the ordinance.

ITEM 3: Acceptance of Minutes

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to accept the January 2, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting as written. Selectman Chapel seconded. First Selectman Cahill abstained. Motion passed.

ITEM 4: Liaison Reports

A. D-11 Board of Education

George Askew reported that heating oil negotiation resulted in a \$3.09 price. The Army Band played a concert last week, and that was well received. *Guys and Dolls* is on this weekend. The budget process is well underway. April 10, 2012 is a special physical plant public meeting to review the budget. May 7, 2012 is the public hearing and historically there is a vote to adjourn to referendum on May 8th.

B. Hampton Board of Education

John Burnham reported there is a regular meeting on the 8th of this month to discuss the budget, and all programs are on the table. The superintendent is currently scheduling "house calls" to meet townspeople and to connect folks in town that might not typically talk, to create discussion regarding issues regarding the school and education in town. Dr. Graseck is planning to do a series of these house calls, and then the Board of Education would open up some public forums. Anyone who is interested in hosting one of these "house calls" should contact Dr. Graseck to schedule.

Kathy Donahue stated that a woman who wanted to attend one of these meetings was told that she couldn't attend this one, but that she could host her own. Ms. Donahue suggested that these meeting should be public. Ms. Donahue also had concerns about handicap accessibility and whether there was a teacher representative at these meetings.

C. Fire Department

D. Ambulance Corps

ITEM 5: Communications

First Selectman Cahill read a letter from Bob Burgoyne from the Ordinance Committee.

MOTION: First Selectman Cahill moved to accept Bob Burgoyne's resignation from the Ordinance Committee, effective January 17, 2012, with regret. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; Motion approved.

First Selectman Cahill reported that Hampton had won the Democracy Cup awarded by the Secretary of State and that there would be an awards ceremony on February 16th at 2:30pm at the Town Hall.

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ITEM 6: Financial Reports

Selectmen reviewed the financial reports.

MOTION: First Selectman Cahill moved to transfer \$629.67 from Contingency to Garage Oil fund. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

ITEM 7: Tax Collector Report

First Selectman Cahill read the Tax Collector's report dated January 31, 2012.

MOTION: First Selectman Cahill moved to accept the Tax Collector's report as written. Selectman Grindle seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

MOTION: First Selectman Cahill moved to accept the refund request of \$60.53 as requested by the Tax Collector. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

ITEM 8: Appointment(s)/ Term(s)

A. Ordinance Committee

MOTION: First Selectman Cahill moved to appoint Bob Petix and Perry Matchinis to the Ordinance Committee with a term ending July 6, 2012. Selectman Grindle seconded. All in favor; Motion passed.

B. Recreation Commission

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to appoint Troy Lake, Kaye Johnson, Gordon Hansen, and Angelika Hansen to the Recreation Commission with a term ending January 31, 2014 and Mark Davis, Juan Arriola, Gay Wagner and Eleni Yanouzas to the Recreation Commission with a term ending January 31, 2016. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

C. Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator

MOTION: Selectman Cahill moved to appoint John Gorman as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. Selectman Grindle seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

ITEM 9: Board/ Committee/ Commission Minutes for Review

Selectmen reviewed board/ committee/ commission minutes from the month of January.

ITEM 10: Additions to the Agenda

First Selectman Cahill requested to add discuss of the request of the librarian to be compensated 5-7 additional hours per week.

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to discuss the request of the librarian to be compensated 5-7 additional hours per week. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

Discussion followed.

First Selectman Cahill is empathetic for additional time and compensation needed for the librarian; however he does not see a place to move that money from the library's overall budget to the librarian's salary line item within this budget year. First Selectman Cahill stated his intention to build additional compensation for the librarian into the 2012-2013 budget.

Selectman Grindle raised the question of the legality of the issue.

Selectman Chapel asked if there would be a February Board of Selectman meeting on the third Saturday of the month (February 18th), First Selectman Cahill asked the other Selectmen to handle that meeting, as he would be out of town that day. Selectman Chapel requested that the Board table the discussion until that meeting, and talk to the Treasurer. First Selectman Cahill agreed that taking that time to do due diligence and investigation and address the compensation at that Saturday meeting or the March Board of Selectmen meeting (March 5, 2012).

Selectman Grindle stated that he is not comfortable with the current situation, and perhaps there might be a place to take the money from this fiscal year, since the winter has been mild so far.

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Selectman Chapel directed a comment to the librarian, Linda Gorman, that he did not think the Board disagreed with the need for additional compensation, just about where that funding would come from.

Linda Gorman stated that other town employees would be paid if they worked over-time, and that if the library is required to be open a certain amount of hours, those hours and services need to be provided.

First Selectman Cahill commented that the Board will research the issue and report back.

ITEM 11: Old Business

A. Garage Update

There are some mechanical issues that are being worked on, some solutions/ strategies will be implemented to cut down on energy costs at the new town garage.

Toby Vertefeuille stated that he is available to answer any questions.

B. Feral Cat Update

Lisa Sanchez Gonzalez read and submitted a press release regarding feral cat colonies in Hampton to the Board. Email the committee at feralkittycomm@gmail.com if you have questions or need help with feral cats. Ms. Sanchez Gonzalez discussed social media outreach options and working on reaching all members of the Hampton community. Call 860.942.9676 if you need immediate help, as it is mating season now. A full report will be presented in April 2012.

ITEM 12: New Business

A. Resolution of Endorsement for Risk Management - Brokerage Services Analysis

First Selectman Cahill read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut is making available regional service sharing funds through Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) which encourages regional collaboration.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: that the Town of Hampton hereby agrees to participate in the WINCOG Regional Performance Incentive Program:

Risk Management/ Brokerage Services Analysis

The Risk Management / Brokerage Analysis project will involve reviewing and making recommendations for cost savings across a wide spectrum of Risk Management and Brokerage services currently undertaken by our member towns.

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to approve the above resolution regarding Risk Management - Brokerage Services Analysis with WINCOG. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

B. Resolution of Endorsement for Windham Region GIS and Cadastral Data Center Expansion

First Selectman Cahill read the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut is making available regional service sharing funds through Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) which encourages regional collaboration.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: that the Town of Hampton hereby agrees to participate in the WINCOG Regional Performance Incentive Program:

Windham Regional GIS & Cadastral Data Center Expansion

The Geographic Information Systems project will expand on the current WINCOG Cadastral Data Center and provide additional GIS services to the member towns.

MOTION: Selectman Grindle moved to approve the above resolution regarding Windham Region GIS and Cadastral Data Center Expansion with WINCOG. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

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C. Discuss and Act on request for streetlights on East Old Route 6

First Selectman Cahill stated that there was a request for an additional streetlight on East Old Route 6 where it meets Route 6. CL&P has presented a proposal for either a light with 84 watts at \$9.53 a month or a light with 172 watts at \$13.33 a month, which is between \$180-274 a year. Selectman decided to table the discussion and try to work the streetlight in to the 2012-2013 budget, and talk to Planning and Zoning Commission.

D. Discuss and Act on negotiating the purchase of the Loisel property using funds from the Land Acquisition Account

Selectman Chapel stated that a large tract of land has become available. First Selectman Cahill read a letter from the Conservation Commission supporting the Board of Selectmen in their efforts to negotiate the purchase the property using the Land Acquisition fund.

Vie Marquis asked if this was the same piece of property that was being presented for a home build to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agency tomorrow night, and suggested finding out if the property was useable before negotiating a sale.

Selectman Chapel described the property (just under 170 acres) and that there are wetlands on the property, but it is not all wetlands.

Discussion followed regarding the property amongst the audience.

MOTION: Selectman Chapel looking into looking into negotiating the purchase of the Loisel property. Selectman Grindle seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

E. Discuss and Act on setting budget workshop dates

MOTION: Selectman Grindle proposed budget workshop meetings on March 6, March 20 and April 3 at 1:00PM and April 26, 2012 at 7:00PM. Selectman Chapel seconded. All in favor; motion passed.

ITEM 13: Audience for Citizens

Linda Gorman stated that on the previous Saturday, she had called the animal control officer, Mike Fayne, and he responded right away and took care of the dog that she had called about. Ms. Gorman wanted to express her appreciation.

Troy Lake welcomed the members to the Recreation Commission that had been appointed this evening. Mr. Lake assumed responsibility of getting members sworn in and stated that the Recreation Commission proposed budget would be submitted soon.

Kathy Donahue expressed her appreciation for the audience participation that is permitted throughout the meeting.

Ed Burchfield commented on town employees paid time versus volunteered time (such as the road crew members volunteering for the fire department), with no anticipation of compensation.

Penny Newbury discussed overtime requests, and whether overtime was typically budgeted for other departments. It was clarified that overtime for the librarian was not budgeted.

ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: There being no further business for the Board to discuss at this special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Selectman Grindle/Chapel moved/seconded to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.; all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Stillman
Recording Secretary