

## TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2008

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, January 7, 2008. The meeting was held at the municipal building council chambers and was called to order by Attorney Thomas Russell at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:** **Councilors:** Rick Briggs, Thomas Brann, Andrew Colford, Edward Murphy, Shannon Cox and Andre Cushing. Matthew Arnett was excused.

**Town Manager:** Susan Lessard

**Town Counsel:** Thomas Russell

**Department Heads/Staff:** Town Planner Bob Osborne and Lieutenant Frank Coombs

Citizens

The first order of business was the swearing in of Councilor-Elect Andre Cushing by Attorney Russell. Next was the election of Town Council Mayor and Attorney Russell requested nominations. Councilor Colford nominated Councilor Briggs and Councilor Brann seconded the nomination; nominations were closed. By roll call, vote on the nomination of Councilor Briggs for Mayor was unanimously in favor. After swearing him in, Attorney Russell turned the gavel over to Mayor Briggs to conduct the remainder of the meeting.

Mayor Briggs then asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor. Councilor Brann nominated Councilor Colford and Councilor Murphy seconded the nomination; nominations were closed. By roll call, vote on the nomination of Councilor Colford for Deputy Mayor was unanimously in favor.

Before commencing with the agenda, Mayor Briggs acknowledged the passing of two of Hampden's citizens, Frank Jewell and John Wilson, and called for a moment of silence.

Councilor Arnett was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency and had requested an excused absence. Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to excuse Councilor Arnett – unanimous vote in favor.

### A. CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Treasurer's Warrants for signatures of the Finance Committee. Councilor Brann requested that Item A.3.c. be set aside. Motion by Councilor

Cushing, seconded by Councilor Colford to accept the balance of the Consent Agenda – unanimous vote in favor.

**A.3.c. PUC/TOWN – WATER DISTRICT RATE INCREASE HEARING**

Councilor Brann noted that this is a notification from the PUC on hearings associated with the Water District's proposed rate increase. He wanted to let everyone know that the Town and James Feverston have been granted intervener status and copies of the schedule and information requested from the Water District are available at the Town Office. The public witness hearing is scheduled for 6:00 pm on January 23, 2008 at Reed's Brook School. Manager Lessard encouraged anyone who has questions or concerns about the rates to attend the hearing. She also hopes that the hearing will be filmed for re-broadcast on the Town's Cable TV channel.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to accept Item A.3.c.

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**C. POLICY AGENDA**

**1. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A VICTUALER'S LICENSE RECEIVED FROM STEPHANNE RUSSELL d/b/a NEALLEY'S CORNER STORE at 1230 KENNEBEC ROAD

Mayor Briggs explained the procedure for the public hearing and then opened the hearing.

Proponents – None; Opponents – None; General Questions or Comments – None. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilor Murphy, seconded by Councilor Colford to approve the application – unanimous vote in favor.

**2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS**

There were none.

**3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a. DEFIBRILLATOR PURCHASE – REQUEST TO WAIVE BID PROCEDURE

Lieutenant Frank Coombs reported that the fundraising efforts of Edwards' Family Shop 'N Save for a defibrillator for the Fire

Department have been completed. Frank said the cost of the unit is \$14,015 from Progressive Medical International. It is a reconditioned unit and has the same warranty as a new unit. Frank informed the Council that Progressive Medical is the only company that has a remanufactured Life Pack 12 so he is requesting that the Council waive the bid procedure.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Colford to waive the bid procedure for the purpose of purchasing a defibrillator – unanimous vote in favor.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to authorize the purchase of the defibrillator as requested with funding to come from donations and reserve funds. By roll call, vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

Manager Lessard and the Council expressed appreciation to the Edwards family and employees for spearheading this effort and to members of the community for their support.

**b. CREATION OF TREE BOARD – REFERRAL TO APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to refer this item to the Appointments Committee – unanimous vote in favor.

**c. OUTDOOR GRADUATION UPDATE**

Manager Lessard reported that she has met with Superintendent Lyons and Assistant Superintendent Genest and the District will work with the students to facilitate an outdoor graduation without the students soliciting funds from the three towns. The funding for outdoor graduation will be included for consideration in next year's SAD #22 budget. Manager Lessard did note that the Town will continue to make the same in-kind contributions as last year.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. DANCE HALL SUBDIVISION – OPEN SPACE DEDICATION**

Town Planner Bob Osborne recommended acceptance of the open space as proposed on the plan.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cox to accept the open space as proposed by Lane Construction as part of their Dance Hall Subdivision – unanimous vote in favor.

**b. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT DISCUSSION**

Manager Lessard distributed a Committee Selection form to each Councilor and asked that the forms be returned to the Mayor by

January 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Council workshop at 6:00 pm prior to the next Council meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to finalize committee assignments.

**c. P V C O G B A L L O T A N D A P P O I N T M E N T O F  
R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S**

This item was not on the agenda so Councilor Brann moved to set aside the rules for the purpose of adding discussion of P V C O G requirements. Councilor Colford seconded the motion and vote was unanimously in favor.

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Colford to vote for the slate of officers as presented on the ballot – unanimous vote in favor.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cox to appoint Mayor Briggs and Deputy Mayor Colford as Hampden's representatives to P V C O G – unanimous vote in favor.

**D. C O M M I T T E E R E P O R T S**

Councilor Cushing reported that the Communications Committee is working on the next newsletter, which will go out by the end of January. He also reported that with the help of the interns from NESCOM, the Cable TV programs, *Hampden Highlights* and *Hampden Happenings* are back on a regular schedule. The Committee will also be working on some strategic goals to provide more content to the residents via the internet. Manager Lessard also reported that the Communications Committee is looking for some assistance in spreading the workload for the television shows, from production to hosting, and encouraged anyone interested in the Channel 7 portion of Communications to contact her or Councilor Arnett or Councilor Cushing.

**E. M A N A G E R ' S R E P O R T**

A copy of the Manager's Report is attached hereto.

Manager Lessard further reported that there is a pump station problem between the Mayo Road pump station and the pump station at the end of Route 202. The alarm light has been going off and we are working on determining the problem and finding a solution.

She also noted that it is time to get new transfer station stickers and residents need to bring in their current auto registration at the time of renewal.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

January 7, 2008

Economic & Community Development Specialist – Dean Bennett's first day on the job was today. We are converting the Committee meeting room off the Council Chambers to the office for Economic & Community Development. We will be further integrating it with the Planning/CEO functions as time goes on.

Snow snow snow – The record snowfall has challenged Public Works this year. Complaints received over mailboxes, road conditions, visibility, etc. have been addressed as best we can. As I continue to explain to residents – we have not changed our snow/road maintenance practices at all. The same roads are treated in the same fashion that they have always been treated. The big difference is that we have a LOT more snow than we have had in many years. In addition – one storm left a layer of ice that took some doing to remove. Our grader has been a very active piece of highway maintenance equipment this winter season.

Health Officer – The rules for Health Officer training and activities have been changed by the legislature during the past session. In discussing this with our current Health Officer, Vivian Gresser, she indicated that the new requirements were really more involved than she had time to do and also address the ever-increasing assessing requirements. I asked her to contact the City of Bangor to see if they would be interested in performing the Health Officer function for the town – and if so, what that would cost. She discussed the idea with an official from Bangor who indicated that it was a service that was already being considered for 'regionalization' with surrounding towns. There will be a meeting in February to discuss this and I will keep the Council apprised as to its possibilities.

Water District – Public Hearing – There will be a Public Hearing at Reed's Brook school on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of the PUC taking testimony in regard to the proposed Water Rate Increase. I would encourage all concerned Water District ratepayers to attend this meeting.

"Penobscot Reads" Program – The Bangor City Council has invited representatives of the Hampden Town Council to attend a meeting on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Bangor Police Station for the purpose of discussing this year's selected book, "The Eyre Affair" by Jasper Fforde. Space is limited. A letter discussing this is attached to this report.

PVCOG Representatives – 2008 - EMDC is requesting that we provide them with information on who will represent the Town of Hampden on the Penobscot Valley Council of Governments in 2008. Mayor Briggs and Councilor Gilberti were the named representatives in 2007.

SAD #22 Staff/Elected Officials Meeting – There is a meeting on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at the High School guidance office of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Elected Official and manager of each of the district communities for the purpose of discussing the status of the new high school project.

January 10<sup>th</sup> Augusta – School Meeting – I will be attending a meeting in Augusta on January 10<sup>th</sup> along with school representatives, MDOT, and the architects/engineers at the Department of Education. The purpose of the meeting is to make sure that the Department of Education is on board with the ideas developed during the new school process related to it being ‘community centered’ both in location and in philosophy.

New School – Green Electricity – The committee looking at the new school project has asked about the idea of utilizing the electricity generated from the gas-to-energy project at Pine Tree Landfill for the school. Although there is not currently a method in place to allow it – there are several options which might make it possible not only for the school but for the Town needs as well. I sent a letter to the school board asking if this was something that they wished the Town to look into since the new school is being constructed as a ‘green’ entity.

Probation Completed – Public Works Director – I am happy to report that Public Works Director Chip Swan has successfully completed his 6 months employment probation. He is doing a good job despite a challenging winter season.

HBA Meeting – The next meeting of the Hampden Business Association will be on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at the Havelock, Estey & Curran building located at 8 Commerce Court in the Business Park.

**CITY COUNCIL**

Susan M. Hawes, Council Chair  
Patricia A. Blanchette  
Peter R. D'Errico  
Frank J. Farrington  
Geoffrey M. Gratwick  
Richard D. Greene  
Gerry G. M. Palmer  
Richard I. Stone  
Harold A. Wheeler

January 2, 2008

Dear Councilor:

For the last six winters, the Bangor Public Library has sponsored a "Penobscot Reads" program. Citizens are encouraged to read the same book and get together for discussions – a chance to exchange ideas, to build community, to get to know each other. For the past four years, the Bangor City Council has held its own special sub-group. It has been great fun and very successful.

This year we would like to invite other elected local representatives to join us for our stimulating evening of conversation, food and discussion. All of our local libraries have come together for the first time and have chosen *The Eyre Affair* by Jasper Fforde, a blend of science fiction, action and mystery complete with time travel and alternate history and with an underlying theme of the importance of literature.

**Where:** Bangor Police Department Classroom, 240 Summer Street

**When:** 5:30 – 8:00, January 31, 2008

**Participants:** limited to 18

**Sign up:** call Jane Robbins-Teel at 992-4203 ASAP at Bangor City Hall to get book and with questions

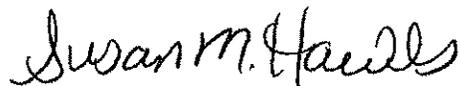
**Facilitator:** Marge Irvine

**Cost:** Free – sponsored by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council

Get to know your local elected colleagues, eat good food, enjoy a gentle libation, and think new thoughts. Please join us!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Susan M. Hawes, Council Chair



City Councilor Geoff Gratwick

## F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

Councilor Colford welcomed Councilor Cushing and thanked his fellow Councilors for their support in electing him as Deputy Mayor.

Councilor Brann commented that the snow may be a nuisance, but it looks really nice.

Councilor Cushing said it was nice to be back and he knows he has big shoes to fill. He thanked the Edwards team for their efforts and said the spaghetti supper fundraiser will be broadcast in January as one of the *Hampden Happenings* segments. There are copies of DVD's available at both the Town Office and the Dyer Library for anyone who does not have cable television.

Councilor Cushing also congratulated the Hampden Academy Mock Trial Team on becoming State Champions once again. Councilor Cushing noted that he had the honor of being the last member that Frank Jewell brought into Kiwanis prior to his passing. He said Mr. Jewell was known by many as "Mr. Kiwanis" and there will be a scholarship fund in his name to be given to a Hampden Academy student. The fund is being administered by SAD #22, but a lot of the funding is raised through Kiwanis projects.

Councilor Cox noted that Hampden Academy lost another student, Matt Osborne in a tragic accident over the Christmas holidays. She asked that everyone keep his family in their thoughts and prayers as we go into the new year.

Councilor Murphy commented that he has heard a lot of positive comments on the Christmas lights.

Mayor Briggs expressed kudos to the advisors and volunteers who work with the Mock Trial Team. He also asked Manager Lessard to draft a letter on behalf of the Council thanking the Edwards' family and employees for their contributions in the defibrillator fundraising efforts.

## G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Denise Hodsdon  
Town Clerk