

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **AGENDA**

Monday, April 5, 2010  
5:45 pm

Hampden Town Office

1. Minutes of 3/15/2010
2. Review Treasurer's Warrants
3. Financial Statement Review
4. Old Business
  - a. Homestead Exemption – State Reduction
5. New Business
  - a. Recognition – Christopher Francis – Eagle Scout – Dorothea Dix Park Improvements
  - b. Recognition – Brian & Cindy Carlisle (Pizza Gourmet) – 20 Years 'Pizza & Poetry' Donor
  - c. Recognition – Justin Russell – 10 Years of Design & Maintaining Library Website
6. Public Comments
7. Committee Member Comments

TO: Hampden Town Council  
FROM: Sue Lessard, Town Manager  
DATE: 3-30-2010  
RE: State Homestead Exemption

This year the State reduced the annual Homestead Exemption for residents from \$13,000 of valuation to \$10,000 of valuation. At our current mil rate, even if we maintain the same mil rate, those residents (1,860 households) will see an immediate \$47.70 increase in their tax bills. I called the State Bureau of Taxation to discuss whether the Town could vote to 'fund' the missing \$3000 exemption if it chose to do so. I was informed that it was not legal for us to do so and call it Homestead. That program is strictly defined by State Statute and for the upcoming year – the amount of valuation that can be exempted under that program is \$10,000. However, he did indicate that the Town had the ability to have a program that exempted this valuation and funded it accordingly through the budget process.

The total cost of funding the \$3000 exemption balance would be \$88,722. At our current valuation, that translates to 16 cents on the mil rate. I am not sure that I can find another almost \$90,000 to reduce the budget in order to accommodate this, but if I can, I would like to do so. If not, 1860 of our property tax payers (60+%) are going to start off with an almost \$50 increase in their tax bill even if we keep the mil rate the same. Although this is not a huge amount – it is still a bump.

**AUDIT OF BILLING AMOUNTS**

			<b>-LAND-</b>	<b>-BUILDINGS-</b>	<b>-EXEMPTION-</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT</b>
2719	ZIMMERMAN, ALTHEA 39-0-015		56,900	108,400	10,000	105,300
155	ZYDLEWSKI, JOSEPH D. 02-0-002-I		43,400	166,200	10,000	199,600
Subtotal			85,706,000	248,500,800	18,556,800	314,278,000
Accounts	1,860	Totally Exempt	6			
Total			85,706,000	248,500,800	18,556,800	314,278,000
Accounts	1,860	Totally Exempt	6			

$$1860 \times 3000 \times 15.9 = \$88,722.00$$

            
town's extra share  
for 13% exemption

Date: February 28, 2010

Susan Lessard  
Town of Hampden  
106 Western Avenue  
Hampden, ME 04444

Re: Eagle Scout Recognition

Dear Ms. Lessard:

On April 18, 2010, our son, Christopher Roland Francis, will be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 41 Hampden, Maine. Christopher competed his Eagle rank requirements on May 4, 2009. His service project was to construct a flagpole, which was complimented with a concrete walkway and flower garden for the Dorathea Dix park in Hampden.

Christopher is currently a Junior at Hampden Academy and is planning to attend college to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering. Christopher continues to be active in his Troop and currently holds the position of Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. He is also very active in Order of Arrow, which is a higher-level fraternity in Scouting where members must be elected by their peers. He has attended many conferences, taught various leadership courses and will be attending the National Jamboree in Fort AP Hill Virginia in August of this year. He is a highly respected member of the Scouting community so if you could possibly take the time, he would appreciate an acknowledgement of this very important achievement in his life. His name is as follows:

Christopher Roland Francis  
49 Patterson Road  
Hampden, Maine 04444

Thank you also for all your hard work on behalf of the public, and for your kind attention to this request.

Very truly yours,

*Ron Francis*  
*Julie Francis*

Ron & Julie Francis

**town council recognition**

Thursday, March 18, 2010 5:44 PM

**From:** "Debbie Lozito" <debbie.lozito@edythedyer.lib.me.us>  
**To:** lightlady\_1@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** "Debbie " <Debbie.lozito@edythedyer.lib.me.us>

Sue,

Would you ask the town council to recognize Brian and Cindy Carlisle for their twenty years of supporting our annual April Pizza and Poetry program? We can make a certificate here, but something from the council for customers to see at the restaurant would be more impressive.

Background: April is national Poetry Month and in 1990 Susan Hansen EDL Children's Librarian began the program. Each child reads a poem—some write their own, some read published poems. Then everyone has pizza. Each year Brian & Cindy donate up to four large pizzas. That's a lot of pizzas in twenty years!

Also—while we're at it. . . a certificate of appreciation/recognition from the council would be nice for Justin Russell who is "retiring" from his ten year volunteer job of creating and maintaining our website.

Background: Mark Russell, Justin's dad and chair of the EDL trustees suggested Justin when we were looking for someone to build a site for the library. He built it in September, 2000 and I think having a certificate of recognition from the town council would be a good addition to his resume.

Thanks  
~Debbie

Debbie Lozito  
Director  
Edythe Dyer Community Library  
269 Main Road North  
Hampden, Maine 04444  
207-862-3550