

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

October 19, 2009

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, October 19, 2009. The meeting was held at the municipal building council chambers and was called to order by Mayor Arnett at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Councilors: Mayor Matthew Arnett, Andre Cushing, Thomas Brann, William Shakespeare, and Jean Lawlis; Janet Hughes and Shannon Cox were excused

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

Town Counsel: Thomas Russell

Department Heads/Staff: None

Mayor Arnett noted that Councilors Cox and Hughes were absent this evening and asked for a motion to excuse them. Councilor Cushing so moved; Councilor Brann seconded the motion – unanimous vote in favor.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Treasurer's Warrants were reviewed and signed by the Finance Committee at its meeting prior to the Council meeting. Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to accept the balance of the Consent Agenda – unanimous vote in favor.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE – APPENDICES A-C 2009-2010 UPDATES

Manager Lessard explained that these are amended guidelines set annually by the State.

Mayor Arnett opened the hearing. Proponents – None; Opponents – None; General Questions or Comments – None. The hearing was closed.

Motion by Councilor Cushing, seconded by Councilor Brann to adopt Appendices A, B, and C – unanimous vote in favor.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE ORDINANCE APPENDICES A-C 2009-2010

The Municipality of HAMPDEN adopts the MMA Model Ordinance GA Appendices (A-C) for the period of Oct. 1, 2009—Oct. 1, 2010. These appendices are filed with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in compliance with Title 22 M.R.S.A. §4305(4).

Signed the 19th (day) of October (month) 2009 (year) by the municipal officers:

Wm. Shakespeare
(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

Jean Lewis
(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

[Signature]
(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

Matthew D Arnett
(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

ANDRE F. CUSHING JR
(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Signature)

Adopted by Town Council 10/19/2009

GA MAXIMUMS SUMMARY SHEET

(Oct. 1, 2009-Oct. 1, 2010)

APPENDIX A OVERALL MAXIMUMS

<u>County</u>	<u>Persons in Household</u>					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	596	695	887	1126.	1273.	

NOTE: For each additional person add \$75 per month.

(The applicable figures from Appendix A, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

APPENDIX B FOOD MAXIMUMS

<u>Number in Household</u>	<u>Weekly Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Maximum</u>
1	46.51	200
2	85.35	367
3	122.33	526
4	155.35	668
5	184.42	793
6	221.40	952
7	244.65	1,052
8	279.53	1,202

NOTE: For each additional person add \$150 per month.

APPENDIX C HOUSING MAXIMUMS

<u>Number of Bedrooms</u>	<u>Unheated</u>		<u>Heated</u>	
	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
0	93.	409.	110.	471.
1	106.	454.	126.	542.
2	132.	568.	161.	691.
3	169.	728.	205.	882.
4	176.	756.	228.	980.

(The applicable figures from Appendix C, *once adopted*, should be inserted here.)

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2. NOMINATIONS-APPOINTMENTS-ELECTIONS

There were none.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. PVCOG CHANGES IN OPERATION

Manager Lessard explained that PVCOG has been in a state of flux over the past several years and is in the process of restructuring. PVCOG's Advisory Committee has recommended the alteration of the region by creating three Leagues of Towns. There will be an annual meeting on October 29th to vote on the proposal. Manager Lessard reported that the Finance Committee discussed the proposal earlier in the evening and has recommended that the Town's representative attend the meeting and cast a vote in opposition to the proposed changes and to withhold dues until there is evidence that the organization more effectively meets its statutory obligations.

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to adopt the recommendations of the Finance Committee – unanimous vote in favor.

b. CABLE CONSORTIUM DUES

Manager Lessard reported that this item was also discussed by the Finance Committee and it was the committee's recommendation that the Town remain a member of the consortium and to pay the dues in the amount of \$3,054.00.

Motion by Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to adopt the recommendation of the Finance Committee – unanimous vote in favor.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. RED CROSS HEROES DINNER

Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Cushing to postpone action on this item until receipt of additional information – unanimous vote in favor.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Cushing reported that the Planning & Development Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on October 21st and the Committee on Committees will meet at 6:00 pm on October 27th.

Councilor Brann reported that the Infrastructure Committee will meet at 6:00 pm on October 26th. He further reported that the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled to be turned over to the Council at the first meeting in November.

Manager Lessard reported that the Finance Committee met this evening and in addition to the PVCOC proposal and Cable Consortium dues invoice, the committee reviewed the pool's fuel usage and transfer station costs. Manager Lessard pointed out that the installation of the new boilers at the pool has resulted in a dramatic reduction in the use of fuel oil and she noted that with the savings, the payback on the boilers will be less than two years. She also noted that the transfer station savings on construction and demolition debris disposal have exceeded what was originally projected.

Councilor Lawlis reported that at its last meeting the Services Committee heard a presentation from the Library about a new circulation desk and discussed a proposed outdoor facilities ordinance, which will be considered in detail at the next meeting. Following the Services Committee meeting, the Dog Park exploratory committee met and she reported that there were a lot of very good ideas that came out of that meeting. The committee will meet again tomorrow evening at 5:30 pm at the tennis courts on Canoe Club Road, a potential site for the park.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

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

F. COUNCILOR'S COMMENTS

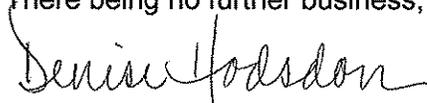
Councilor Shakespeare suggested that with the savings being realized at the pool since the installation of the new boilers, it might be time to look at replacing the old furnace at the library. Manager Lessard noted that the Public Works Director will be looking into some grant opportunities through the Efficiency Maine grants for improving heating systems.

Councilor Cushing expressed appreciation to the Pool Director and Public Works Director for their work in securing the new boilers for the pool. He noted that this is an example of the employees who work for the town and are willing to look for savings for the citizens.

Mayor Arnett reiterated the Council's opposition to upcoming Referendum Questions #2 (Reduction in Excise Taxes) and #4 (TABOR II) and urged everyone to think seriously about whether they want to see that kind of action taken. He also encouraged residents to contact the Council if they believe there are items in the local budget where we could make efficient and effective reductions.

G. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.



Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk

MANAGER'S REPORT
October 19, 2009

Tax Collections – I am happy to report that as of today we have collected 49% of property taxes due for 2009/2010. That is just 1% under the total due for the entire first half of the year.

Halloween – Edward's Shop n Save is working with Public Safety again this year on a Halloween party. The young and the young at heart are invited to attend this year's party on October 31st beginning at 5 p.m.!

Sewer Project – The Route 1A Sewer Project should be completed by the end of this week or beginning of the next. I am happy to report that the project has gone very smoothly, within budget, and on time.

Absentee Voting – Absentee voting is a brisk business at the Town Office! The Clerk reports that we are seeing a high turnout of them thus far for an 'off-year' election – 250 have been issued so far and there is still two weeks until the election! In comparison, in the 2007 off-year election – there were only a 107 absentee ballots cast in total.

Assessor Job Listing – The assessor position has been posted and resumes are due back in by November 17th. I anticipate interviews before the end of November. In key position hirings, I have asked for a few councilors to 'volunteer' to sit in on the second round of interviews. Assessing is certainly a key position for us so if there are any of you who wish to participate – please let me know.

School Contract Update – According to the School Superintendent, the School Board will be asked to award the site work contract to the low bidder for a negotiated price based on amendments to the work required. The Assistant Superintendent informed me that both the contractor and WBRC had indicated that the proposed revisions (\$852,550) to reduce the cost will not impact the quality of the project. We have received a copy of the contract revisions and it is being reviewed by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Town Planner.

Public Works Director – I am happy to report that PW Director Chip Swan has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association. He has also volunteered to serve on a Policy Committee with the MDOT regarding potential changes in the way that the State and Towns share responsibilities for road maintenance.