

**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

Monday, September 14, 2015

A special meeting of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, September 14, 2015 for the purpose of continuance of consideration of a request for abatement of personal property taxes received from Hughes Bros., Inc. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Attendance:

Mayor David Ryder
Councilor William Shakespeare
Councilor Dennis Marble
Councilor Terry McAvoy
Councilor Stephen Wilde
Councilor Greg Sirois

Town Manager Angus Jennings
Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon
Tax Assessor Kelly Karter
Janet & Peter Hughes of Hughes Bros.
Citizens

Hughes Bros., Inc. has asked the Council to abate taxes assessed in 2014 on equipment owned by the company at its gravel pit in Winterport. The request is to abate \$8,266.56 plus interest. Council consideration of the abatement request began at its meeting on September 1, 2015. At that meeting, Attorney Russell advised the Council that it would need to determine whether the facility in Winterport is a mining operation and thereby exempt from paying personal property taxes in Hampden. The Council felt further information was needed in order to make that determination and voted to continue consideration of the request.

Mayor Ryder began the meeting by asking Tax Assessor Kelly Karter to explain the Town's position relative to the personal property in Winterport. Kelly explained that after visiting the site, she abated everything she feels should be abated and that the only items remaining were mobile and could be moved from the site.

Attorney Russell provided a memorandum regarding the request in which he advised that the Council needed to determine whether Hughes Bros. qualifies for the mining provision of Title 36 §603(9) and whether the personal property at the Winterport facility is dedicated to that activity exclusively in Winterport.

Janet Hughes of Hughes Bros. responded to several questions from Councilors with regard to whether the facility is a mining operation and whether the equipment ever leaves the site. Mrs. Hughes explained that they are permitted by the DEP as a gravel mining operation. She also provided a packet of information entitled "What is Mining" and requested that it be included with the minutes of this meeting. Mrs. Hughes also assured the Council that the two loaders, the water truck and the screen are used exclusively in the Winterport operation and do not leave that facility.

Following further discussion, Councilor Shakespeare moved and Councilor Sirois seconded to abate the personal property taxes assessed to Hughes Bros. in the amount of \$8,266.56 plus any accrued interest. Vote was unanimously in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Hodsdon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the middle of the name.

Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk