



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

MONDAY

AUGUST 18, 2014

7:00 P.M.

NOTE: These minutes are action minutes only recording motions and votes. Video tapes of all meetings are available for review at the Town Office.

Attending:

*Mayor Carol Duprey
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor David Ryder
Councilor Greg Sirois
Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon
Media Representative
Town Attorney Tom Russell*

*Councilor William Shakespeare
Councilor Jean Lawlis
Councilor Ivan McPike
Town Manager Susan Lessard
Public Safety Director Joe Rogers.
Residents*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Duprey.

- A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** *Mayor Duprey led the pledge of allegiance.*
- B. CONSENT AGENDA** – *No items were requested to be set aside for discussion from the consent agenda and it was approved by unanimous consent.*
- 1. SIGNATURES**
- 2. SECRETARY’S REPORTS**
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS**
- a. Email from Woodard & Curran – Elm Street East Guard Rails**
- 4. REPORTS**
- a. Finance Committee Minutes – 7/7/2014**
- b. Monthly Department Reports – June 2014**
- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**
- D. POLICY AGENDA**
- 1. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS** – *Mayor Duprey thanked all who were involved with Hampden Children’s Day and said that the fireworks display was awesome.*
- 2. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**
- 3. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS - None**

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Saturday Bus Service** – *The Town Manager explained the process for the comment period with the Bangor public hearing and stated that the Town had included \$28,000 in the budget for the Saturday bus service.*

Public Comment:

Debbie Dufton, 451 Monroe Road, believes the Town should provide Saturday bus service and that the Town should be taking care of all of its residents. She urged the Council to vote for the Saturday bus service.

Joyce Rankin, 695 Main Road North, stated that she knows about 14 people who use the Saturday bus service to get to work and that they would have to pay \$18 for a cab one way if it were not for the bus.

Angela Rankin, 695 Main Road North, stated that she works at WalMart in Brewer and it would cost her \$60 a month to take a cab to work on Saturdays.

Lisa Carter, Western Avenue, stated that there are many budget crunches and taxes are going up. People using the bus to go to work is a worthy cause but not to go gambling. She further stated that the Town should be smart about how to save money by such things as sharing CEO duties with other towns and seriously considering whether Saturday bus service is worth the investment.

Terry McAvoy, Monroe Road, is opposed to Saturday bus service. He questioned the ridership numbers and in his opinion the numbers do not reflect very many people from Hampden who use the bus and that Bangor is the winner in this route and Hampden is the loser. Saturday service had a five year trial period and he does not consider that it is successful.

Jeremy Jones, Partridge Road, stated that it would be cheaper for the Town to pay for taxi trips on Saturdays for residents than to subsidize Saturday at the rate of \$538 per Saturday. He suggested walking, carpooling, biking, hitchhiking or asking friends for rides as an alternative.

Cindy Philbrick, Western Avenue, stated that the Rankins said that they would be happy with a voucher system that got them to work if the bus were not available.

Public comment closed.

Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Brann to continue Saturday bus service for \$28,000 per year.

Discussion.

Councilor McPike – The Town budget has been going down since 2009 and the RSU 22 budget has been going up dramatically. The RSU budget was voted in 2-1 and added more money to the amount

needed from property taxes. It is time to take some sort of stand for town services and to support all the people not just the affluent ones.

Councilor Lawlis is concerned about all the people who use the bus for work, family visits, and shopping. She stated that all residents use different services provided by the Town.

Councilor Shakespeare went to the Public Hearing in Bangor last week with Councilor Brann and listened to citizens testify that they need this service. He was dismayed that only 4 people were there. \$538 per Saturday is a lot of money but when you factor in the cost of driver/bus/fuel, etc. it adds up. He would like to see limitations on the number of runs in the future but will be supporting it this year.

Councilor Brann – stated that he has served in Town government for 20 years and that the Town has gone to great lengths to not put people out of their homes for nonpayment of taxes. He stated that the Town does public works projects on streets that not all people use and that it is the responsibility of the Town to take care of citizens from birth to death.

Mayor Duprey understands that people need the bus to get to work but other people in other parts of Town cannot get the bus and they find other alternatives. She cannot justify the expense for the small portion of town that it serves.

Vote on the motion 4-3 (McPike, Brann, Lawlis, Shakespeare in favor and Ryder, Sirois, Duprey opposed). Motion carried.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Set 2014/2015 Mil Rate** – *The Manager presented the mil rate as \$17.50, which is an .85 increase due to \$20,392 in increased County Tax, \$382,699 increase in RSU #22 tax assessment, and \$79,764 from the town due to State Revenue sharing reductions. The mil rate was \$15.90 for six years and then went up .75 last year due to a very large increase in the school assessment. The mil rate allows for a 1% overlay to cover abatements.*

Public Comment:

Joyce Rankin – Main Road North suggested that we charge fees for disposal of trash at the transfer station.

Lisa Carter, Western Avenue, said that she understood that much of the increase was coming from the school but it offends her when she watches Councilors laugh at citizens when they talk about taxes going up. She asked for more respect when raising taxes.

Motion by Councilor McPike, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to approve the mil rate as recommended.

Discussion:

Mayor Duprey stated that she believes that the Town could have done a better job tightening its boot straps and will not be supporting the

proposed mil rate. She urged people to look at the school budget more closely as well.

Councilor Shakespeare stated that he had never seen any Councilor take the budget or the mil rate lightly. No Councilor wants to see taxes go up.

Vote on the motion 6-1. (Duprey opposed). Motion carried.

- b. Proposed Amendment to Fees Ordinance – Article 8 Pool Fees – Introduction for Public Hearing – Article 8 Pool Fees amendment to the Fees Ordinance introduced for public hearing by Councilor Lawlis.**
- c. Proposed Amendment to Town Charter – Article II Town Council Quorum – Introduction for Public Hearing – Article II Town Council Quorum, amendment to Town Charter introduced for public hearing by Councilor Sirois.**
- d. Proposed Amendment to Town Charter – Article IX Referendum and Initiative – Introduction for Public Hearing – Article IX Referendum and Initiative amendment to Town Charter introduced for public hearing by Councilor Sirois.**
- e. Proposed Amendment to Town Charter – Article X General Provisions – Introduction for Public Hearing – Article X General Provisions, amendment to Town Charter introduced for public hearing by Councilor Lawlis.**
- f. Town Charter – Sections VII and VIII – Reviewed by Finance & Administration Committee – no changes recommended – This item was for information only. No action was taken.**
- g. Future of Parks and Trails in Hampden – Councilor Shakespeare**
 - 1. Turtle Head**
 - 2. Dorothea Dix**
 - 3. Papermill Park**
 - 4. Others**

Councilor Shakespeare discussed the need for a plan for maintenance and responsibility for the parks and for a plan for the long term needs of the parks. He and Councilor Brann had visited Dorothea Dix and Turtle Head and were very concerned at the state of the parks and their facilities. This item was referred to the Services Committee for work on the plans requested.
- h. Personnel Loss – Development Impacts – Councilor Brann**

Councilor Brann expressed concern over resignations that were occurring in staffing and potential impact to the Town's ability to handle development and make it more difficult to reach the goals of broadening the business tax base.

Public Comment –

Terry McAvoy, Monroe Road does not see the resignations as problematic for development.

Discussion –

Councilor McPike stated that he believed that personnel administration was the job of the Manager.

Councilor Ryder stated that the CEO position has already been replaced and the GIS/IT position has been advertised. People had taken other jobs for their own reasons but the Town has not lost ground.

Councilor Lawlis stated that she believes we have remarkably low personnel turn over and two resignations does not represent a trend.

No action was taken on this item.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Lawlis reported that Services met last Monday and had a report on Papermill Park and went over the questionnaire with City of Bangor representative regarding resources available for physical activity in the Town.

Councilor Sirois reported that Planning & Development met on August 6th and talked with Chip Laite from Sargent's about the Business Park, heard from a resident with concerns about fireworks, and gave credit to Dean Bennett for doing good work in Economic Development for the Town.

Mayor Duprey reported that the Finance Committee reviewed a revision to the fees ordinance for Pool fees.

- F. MANAGER'S REPORT –** *A copy of the Manager's Report is attached and made part of the minutes. Other items mentioned by the Manager were that the Town is looking in to alternatives for Justin.TV as a live streaming option for video, a statement will be included with the tax bill as to the source of the mil rate increase, and asked if the Council wanted to continue videotaping school board meetings. This item will be put on the next agenda for discussion.*

- G. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS –** *Councilor Lawlis urged people to patronize the ice cream stand in Schacht's parking lot.*

Councilor Shakespeare thanked Councilor Sirois for his comments regarding economic development and that nothing happens on its own. He thought that the meeting was a good one where people were respectful and agreed to disagree.

- H. ADJOURNMENT –** *The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.*

Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk

MANAGER'S REPORT
Monday, August 18, 2014

Tax Bills – Tax bills should be in the mail by Friday, August 22nd. First half is due by Wednesday, October 1st to avoid interest.

Children's Day – Hat's off to the Recreation Department and the Children's Day Committee for another wonderful day of festivities. Thank you also to all the volunteers and all the organizations that participated. The location on the grounds of the new Hampden Academy was perfect and thanks to RSU 22 for allowing it to be located there.

Nomination Papers – A reminder that nomination papers for District Council seats as well as four School Board seats and one seat on the Water District Board of Trustees are available and must be returned no later than Thursday, September 4th. So far we have had one person take out papers for district I, II, and IV and 2 take out papers for district III. 4 persons have taken out papers for the 4 available School Board seats and no one has yet taken out papers for the Water District Board of Trustees.

Free Pesticide Disposal – The State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Environmental Protection have collaborated to provide collection of unwanted pesticides from homeowners, family-owned farms, and greenhouses. Collection sites will be in Bangor, Presque Isle, Portland, and Augusta in October. It is necessary to register in order to participate. To register, get details and learn more about the program you can go to the Bureau of Pesticide Control web site at <http://www.thinkfirstspraylast.org> or by calling 287-2731. Since there is not a regional hazardous waste disposal option this year – this is a great way for people to be able to get rid of unwanted pesticides at no charge.