

SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2015

MINUTES

Attending:

Councilor Terry McAvoy

Mayor David Ryder

Councilor Dennis Marble

Town Manager Angus Jennings

Councilor William Shakespeare

Councilor Stephen Wilde

Councilor Greg Sirois

Chairman McAvoy called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. **MINUTES – September 14, 2015** – *Motion by Councilor McAvoy, seconded by Mayor Ryder, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 Services Committee meeting with no changes. Unanimous vote (6-0) in favor.*

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Discussion – Fall Soccer Programming Change for 2016** – *Town Manager Jennings provided background regarding evaluation of programming, parking and timing at the Lura Hoit Pool site. He presented a report prepared by Recreation Director Shelley Abbott that provided details regarding programming, timing and attendance, and recommending adjustments to the fall 2016 program calendar to work within available parking capacity. Councilor Marble said it looks like we have options to look at. Mayor Ryder said that the reliance on orange cones wasn't a solution and that the parking constraints and traffic patterns affecting the pool facility and Western Avenue were a concern. He said that the VFW fields, owned by the town, are busy on Sunday but not on Saturday, and could be a better alternative for soccer programs. There is also a soccer field behind the Skehan Center. Councilor McAvoy said we need to find out what fields are available, and Town Manager Jennings suggested that a town-wide map of recreational facilities with notes regarding utilization could be prepared over a period of time. There was discussion about park access in the winter and it was acknowledged that public works would not clear snow from the parks. There was discussion about the Outdoor Facilities Ordinance and the need to revisit it.*

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Reappointment Application – Recreation Committee – Jane Jarvi** – *Motion by Councilor Marble seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to recommend that the Town Council reappoint Jane Jarvi to the Recreation Committee. Unanimous vote in favor.*

b. The Connector Bus – discussion of costs and benefits – *Councilor Shakespeare spoke to discuss his request for this item to be included on the agenda. He said that he is not against the Bus running five days a week, but that it bothers him to see it running empty day after day. He said that it is utilized here and there, and picks people up at Hannaford's and along Main Road, but that he feels ¾ of the riders are from Bangor. He feels that the town should negotiate its cost share, and that the town should not be paying more than ¼ of the cost (of the Hampden route). He does not see the need for Bus service to the 4-mile square, and suggested that Hannaford's could be the area's bus stop. Councilor Sirois said that Hampden's costs should relate to who is picked up or dropped off in Hampden. Councilor Shakespeare said that they don't have the equipment or practices to track where people are picked up and dropped off. Councilor Wilde said that, north of Bangor, three towns split the cost among themselves. Councilor Shakespeare said that he's not against helping Bangor, but that we're paying almost \$100,000 a year. Councilor Wilde said that bus service supports our economic development, but Councilor McAvoy said that Hermon doesn't have bus service and it hasn't hurt them. Councilor Wilde said we need to look at the bigger picture. Mayor Ryder said we could buy a bus and hire two retirees part-time to run it. Councilor Marble said it's a bigger issue than ridership, that it can't be evaluated solely on a cost basis. Bangor provides most of the jobs for Hampden residents, and if we limit it too much we'll hurt people who rely on the service. He suggested that Town Manager Jennings contact Laurie Linscott to convey the Council's concerns regarding whether the current cost would be supported in the FY17 budget. Councilor Wilde agreed that the Town Manager should open a dialogue about the cost structure, and Councilor Marble said it should be made clear that the Council is not eager to continue at the current costs. Councilor Sirois agreed that the costs are too much, but said it's a service we need to continue. Town Manager Jennings will follow up with Laurie Linscott.*

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *None.*

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS – *Councilor McAvoy asked the Town Manager for an update on the town's franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable, as well as more information about the town's role in a regional consortium relative to cable. He would like to know whether the requirements for cable coverage in Hampden are being met. Mayor Ryder said it is hard to fathom that every house in town doesn't have the ability to access cable. Councilor Marble said there is a reimbursement opportunity for costs incurred for town investments in cable, and Councilor McAvoy said that PEG funds (Public Education and Government Access) were drawn from customer payments of the franchise fee on everyone's cable bills. Town Manager Jennings said he would learn more*

about the town's role in the regional negotiating consortium, the status of the town's cable franchise agreement, and any opportunity for funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted –

Angus Jennings
Town Manager