

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 7, 2011

Attending:

Mayor Matthew Arnett	Councilor Jean Lawlis
Councilor William Shakespeare	Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Janet Hughes	Councilor Andre Cushing
Councilor Kristen Hornbrook	Town Manager Sue Lessard

1. Minutes of 1-24-2011 – *The minutes were reviewed and accepted with no corrections.*
2. Review and sign warrants – *The payment warrants were reviewed and signed with no questions.*
3. Old Business
 - a. Hampden Academy Re-use – *The Committee discussed what steps the Town might want to take in regard to the Hampden Academy re-use issue. The Mayor provided background on the legal options available to SAD #22 and the circumstances under which the property might become available to the Town if it chose to accept it as a transfer from SAD #22. Councilor Brann expressed concern over the cost to the Town of acquiring the property if the demolition of existing structures has not been done prior to the transfer. Other Councilors indicated that the Town Council should exert what pressure it could on the School Board to discourage them from the idea of creating another 'school' or 'educational use' on the Hampden Academy property once the high school moves to the new location. Councilor Cushing informed the Committee that Senator Thibodeau had introduced a bill that would require SAD#22 to hold a referendum on any plan that they developed for re-use of the property. Councilor Hughes suggested that the next edition of the newsletter contain a positive article about town ideas for reuse of the property. It was also the consensus of the committee that information should be gathered if possible from developers about what a redevelopment at that site might take.*
 - b. Hamlin Marine Land Swap – *The Committee discussed the idea of an even swap of parcel for parcel between Hamlin Marine and the Town for the parcel on which the marina is located and the eleven acre parcel adjacent to it that is vacant. Both are valued similarly. Motion by Councilor Hughes, seconded by Councilor Cushing to recommend to the full Council an even swap of the two*

parcels that have been under discussion, evaluation, and review for the past several years. Vote 7- 0. It was also the consensus of the Committee to extend the thanks of the Council to Hamlin Marine for the generous offer of boat donations going forward and to create a committee to determine how best to take advantage of those donations and how to best distribute the proceeds.

4. New Business

- a. *Scott Luciano – Application for Reappointment to Personnel Appeals Board – Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to recommend to the full Council that Scott Luciano be reappointed to the Personnel Appeals Board subject to meeting with interested Councilors prior to the Finance Committee meeting on 3/7/2011. Vote 7 – 0.*

5. Public Comment - None

6. Committee Member Comments

Councilor Cushing asked for thoughts concerning the Paper Talks Ad. Councilors Lawlis and Shakespeare spoke in opposition to the donation due to the tight budget constraints; Councilor Brann spoke in support of the ad and suggested that the subject should be considered by the Communications Committee prior to Council action.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Lessard
Town Manager*