

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 28, 2008

A special workshop of the Hampden Town Council was held on Monday, January 28, 2008 for the purpose of reviewing goals and objectives. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance: Councilors: Mayor Rick Briggs, Andrew Colford, Andre Cushing, Edward Murphy, Matt Arnett and Shannon Cox. Thomas Brann was absent.

Town Manager: Susan Lessard

This was a round-table type review and discussion of the short-term and long-term goals and objectives identified by the Council in August, 2007. Manager Lessard had compiled an outline of the goals and objectives, including the responsible parties and proposed time line for implementation of each item.

Several items on the list have already been completed or are in progress:

1. OUTREACH TO EXISTING BUSINESSES – Economic and Community Development Specialist Dean Bennett has begun mailing letters to existing businesses to introduce himself and the services the Town has to offer.
2. COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT PROCESS – Completed
3. CABLE TV CHANNEL USE POLICY – Completed and adopted by Council
4. TANKER TRUCK PLAN DEFINITION – A plan is in place for delivery of a new truck in 2010
5. TRANSFER STATION REVIEW – The Public Works & Solid Waste Committee has discussed the problems related to the issuance of transfer station stickers and will be bringing a recommendation to the Council on February 4th.
6. REGIONALIZATION OF SERVICES – Manager Lessard is currently participating in the regional land trust project and is involved with the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce and other municipalities in looking at what types of municipal services could be offered on a regional basis such as general assistance, line painting and striping, assessing services and animal control.
7. WATER SOURCE/WATER DISTRICT – The PUC is currently reviewing the District's request for a rate increase and a decision could take up to 9 months. Attorney Russell has researched the process for the Town to take over the Water District and he has submitted a letter explaining what steps are necessary. This advisory letter will be on the Council's agenda for its meeting on February 4th. It was decided that it would be

best to wait until the issue of the rate increase is resolved before taking any steps toward taking over the Water District.

8. MAYO ROAD REBUILD – Updated cost numbers are being obtained, but have not come in yet.
9. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ROLE CLARIFICATION – There was some discussion about the roles of the current Economic Development Director, the Economic & Community Development Specialist and the Town’s Economic Development Committee. Manager Lessard will prepare a draft plan for the Council’s review at its February 4th meeting.

Items yet to be completed are as follows:

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING – This is part of the comprehensive planning process. Manager Lessard will have Economic & Community Development Specialist Dean Bennett develop a plan as to best way to encourage and assist in the development of affordable housing.
2. PROPERTY TAX REBATE PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY/LONG TERM RESIDENTS – Manager Lessard has obtained information from other municipalities who currently have such a program. She will prepare an analysis using Hampden’s numbers to determine fiscal impact. That information will be forwarded to the Finance Committee for review.
3. IMPACT FEE & TIF POLICY REVIEW – The timeline for this item will need to be moved back due to the fact that the Economic & Community Development Specialist was hired later than originally anticipated.
4. COUNCILOR ABSENCE POLICY – The Charter & Ordinance Committee will move this to the front burner and will have a recommendation for the Council in the near future.

The Council also identified several new goals and objectives:

1. NEW SCHOOL PROJECT – Manager Lessard asked that this item be added to the list because it will engage community time and require input from the Council if the question arises about the reuse of Hampden Academy.
2. TRANSPORTATION ISSUES – Councilor Cushing felt that with the new school project, transportation/traffic issues in and around the Four-Mile Square area need to be discussed.
3. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPTIONS – Councilor Murphy wants to look at options for alternative energy for town facilities.
4. TOWN FACILITIES – Manager Lessard noted that at some point the Council will have to look at facilities such as whether to have a recreational community

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center, potential need for additional space and parking at the municipal building, transfer station operation, and the library building.

5. **PAPERLESS COUNCIL PACKETS** – Councilor Cushing asked the Council to consider the possibility of receiving Council packets electronically. This would require purchasing laptop computers for each Councilor and would need to be included in the budget for FY 2009.

It was also decided that the Finance Committee will review the Town Manager's contract and compensation package as well as wage comparisons for other Town Staff.

Additionally, the Council decided that it will hold goal setting sessions in August of each year and then review those goals at the end of January.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Denise R. Hodsdon
Town Clerk