



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

MONDAY

APRIL 3RD, 2017

7:00 P.M.

6:00 p.m. – Finance & Administration Committee

Attending:

Mayor Ryder

Councilor Sirois

Councilor McPike

Councilor Wilde

Councilor Marble

Councilor Cormier

Councilor McAvoy

Town Manager, Angus Jennings

Town Clerk, Paula Scott

Jeremy Jones, resident

- A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *Mayor Ryder led the Pledge of Allegiance*
- B. CONSENT AGENDA** – *Councilor Wilde made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilor McAvoy. Unanimous vote in favor.*

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

- a. **March 20, 2017 Council Meeting Minutes**

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Spring 2017 Hampden Highlights Newsletter**
- b. **Award of MMA Risk Management Scholarships for Officer Eyles, Officer Egan and Lieutenant Pugsley**
- c. **Legislative Bulletin for March 17, 2017**
- d. **Legislative Bulletin for March 24, 2017**
- e. **Notification of MMA class "Roles of Elected Officials & Municipal Managers" to be held April 11, 2017**
- f. **Memo regarding Planning Board Public Hearing on April 12, 2017 for the purpose of proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments to Article 1**
- g. **Victualer's License Renewals –**
1. **JC's Variety**
 2. **Best Western White House Inn**
 3. **Dysart's Travel Stop**
 4. **Armstrong Tennis Center**

NOTE: The Council will take a 5-minute recess at 8:00 pm.

- 5. Pizza Gourmet
- 6. R & K Variety

4. REPORTS

- a. Finance Committee Minutes – 03/06/2017
- b. Infrastructure Committee Minutes – 02/27/2017
- c. Planning & Development Committee Minutes – none
- d. Services Committee Minutes – none

- C. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *Jeremy Jones of the Partridge Road approached the podium and remarked about the upcoming Community and Volunteer Forum, to be held on April 9th. He stated that he is a community volunteer for the trails in Papermill Park and that there are many good people in our town who volunteer for different groups. He encouraged the public to volunteer to keep taxes down.*

D. POLICY AGENDA

1. NEWS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

- a. **Donation of \$700.00 from TEACH/LEARN/SUPPORT for the purpose of helping to support the Recreation Department Programming Scholarship** – *Mayor Ryder informed members of the public that the Recreation Department's new Programming Scholarship was recently given a donation of \$700.00 from the TEACH/LEARN/SUPPORT group and expressed thanks on behalf of the Town Council.*

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

3. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

- a. **Re-appointment of Aimee Smith to the Board of Assessment Review – referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – *Councilor Wilde made a motion to reappoint Aimee Smith to the Board of Assessment Review. Councilor McAvoy seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Update on the March 27th meeting with the RSU, other Town's within the RSU and State Representatives** – *Manager Jennings recapped the meeting that took place the previous Monday with State*

and local Representatives and RSU leadership. Senators Thibodeau and Cushing were in attendance as well. Discussion revolved around the decline in State Revenue Sharing since 2008-2009, as well as concerns with the school funding formula that leaves too many costs to the local property tax payer. Concerns were especially raised about the Legislature's proposed changes to the formula that will cause a delay in the school being able to put forth budget numbers and will therefore affect the town's budget process. Manager Jennings stated that when he presents the town's budget by the first of May, it is not likely that he will have real numbers from the school until early June. As the largest portion of the municipal budget, the disruptive nature of these late changes to school funding was conveyed to the State elected officials who were at the meeting. Councilor McPike spoke stating that he felt this was a good first step and was glad to see all the local representatives, board members and managers that came but was disappointed that two of the State representatives did not show up. He hopes that this happens again, and more than once a year so that state government understands the local concerns. Manager Jennings noted that after being told about the delay in the changes to school funding formula, he inquired as to what he should tentatively put forth as a placeholder for the budget and was told a 3% increase. This would result in a \$902,000 increase overall, and a \$190,000 increase for the Town of Hampden. That means that without changing the mil rate, and holding all other municipal expenses level, which is unreasonable to expect, the overall valuation would need to increase by 10.4 million just to cover the school budget increase. He asked for Council support to send a letter to the RSU against a standard 3% increase. The Mayor called for a show of hands in support of the Manager sending a letter and it was unanimous consent.

- b. Renewal of Motion – Request for authorization for the expenditure of \$14,643.95 from the Conservation/Recreation Account for the purpose of funding eligible projects – as moved and seconded by Councilors Wilde and Marble on March 20th, 2017 –** *Mayor Ryder explained to the public that this renewal of motion was due to the fact that after the motion and second were made on March 20th, and the following discussion afterwards, there was no vote taken. At this time, he recognized Jeremy Jones of the Partridge Road who approached the podium and stated that with regard to the signage to be placed at Turtle Head Park, there was discrepancy on the boundary there. Manager Jennings responded saying that it appeared, based on the GIS data parcels that have not been updated and are not survey quality, that the marina ramp is on private and not public property. He stated that the ramp is without a doubt on public property. Mr. Jones stated that in addition to that, there have been new survey pins placed in the gravel, on the shore side, in the middle of the gravel parking lot beyond the ramp and asked to hold off on the sign until the discrepancy could be worked out. Manager Jennings stated that the*

sign has already been made from a grant received last summer with a disclaimer on the GIS but will look into the new information regarding the survey pins.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Request for authorization for the expenditure of up to \$1,200.00 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account (3-702-00) for the purpose of paying for the CAT 5 overspeed rupture valve test on the Municipal Building elevator – referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – *Councilor Wilde reported that this was discussed and recommended in Finance Committee and made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1,200 from the Municipal Building Reserve Account for the purpose of paying for the CAT 5 overspeed rupture valve test on the municipal building elevator. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- b. **Request for authorization for the expenditure of \$3,725.39 from the IT Reserve Account (3-711-00) for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser Toughbook laptop and docking station - Referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – *Councilor Wilde reported that this was discussed and recommended in Finance Committee and made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$3,725.39 from the IT Reserve Account for the purpose of purchasing a police cruiser Toughbook laptop and docking station. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*
- c. **Service Fees – Abatement requests based on 2% revenue threshold – referral from Finance & Administration Committee**

Community Housing of Maine, requested abatement \$1,794.62 – *Councilor Wilde made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$1,794.62. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. At the request of Councilor Marble, Manager Jennings explained that Service Fees are fees in lieu of taxes authorized by statute that a municipality can impose on certain tax exempt residential non-profits for community services that are used by the non-profit. In a nut shell, there is a formula used by the Tax Assessor that is based on the total town budget minus education and general assistance costs. Motion was brought to vote. Unanimous vote in favor.*

OHI George Street, requested abatement \$1,265.83 – *Councilor Wilde made a motion to approve the abatement in the amount of \$1,265.83. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.*

OHI Patterson Road, requested abatement \$1,453.99 – *Councilor Wilde made a motion to approve the abatement in the*

amount of \$1,453.99. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.

Penquis Mental Health Services, requested abatement \$1,744.63 – Mayor Ryder explained that this item will be tabled until a later date as it was not referred for abatement in Finance Committee and will be brought back to Finance Committee at a later date.

The Housing Foundation, requested abatement \$15,606.11 – Councilor Wilde made a motion to approve the abatement request in the amount of \$15,606.11. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.

- d. **Krista McBean abatement request for years 2015/2016 and 2014/2015 in the amount of \$945.00 each year – Referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – Councilor Wilde reported that this was discussed in Finance Committee and was recommended to Council for abatement. Councilor Wilde made a motion to approve the abatement request in the amount of \$945.00 for 2014-15 and \$945.00 for 2015-16. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.
- e. **Status of tax collection year-to-date – Barbara Geaghan, Tax Collector** – Manager Jennings reported on the memo from the Tax Collector that we have collected 77% of our taxes as of March 29th. Due date is April 5th.
- f. **Request for rescission of Order 2015-02, Order Establishing Eligibility for Town Issued License Plates, Procedures and Hours of Operation – Referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – Councilor Wilde explained to the public that this rescission was not to take away anything having to do with issuing license plates, but rather to increase the hours for processing. Councilor Wilde made a motion to rescind Order 2015-02 Order Establishing Eligibility for Town Issued License Plates, Procedures and Hours of Operation. Motion was seconded by Councilor Sirois. Unanimous vote in favor.
- g. **Council action on Alewife fishing rights** – Councilor Marble made a motion that the Town of Hampden retain its current Alewife fishing rights. Councilor Sirois seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor.
- h. **Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with MRC and Fibrigh for potential Town contribution of up to \$167,000 toward Coldbrook Road infrastructure costs – referral from Finance & Administration** – Councilor Wilde stated that this was discussed in Finance Committee and recommended to Council for approval. Councilor Wilde made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with MRC and Fibrigh for the Town's contribution of the cost of Coldbrook Road infrastructure, with \$67,000 to come from

current TIF funds and \$100,000 from future TIF funds. Councilor Marble seconded the motion. Councilors Wilde, Sirois, Marble, McAvoy, McPike and Mayor Ryder voted in favor. Councilor Cormier voted in opposition. Motion carries.

- i. **Council Resolution to exercise the Put Option for the sale of PERC ownership interests – Referral from Finance & Administration Committee** – Mayor Ryder stated that this was tabled in Finance Committee and therefore would not be acted on by full Council until a later date.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Services – Councilor Marble reported that the next meeting is Monday the 10th.

Finance & Administration – Councilor Wilde reported that items discussed in Finance Committee were acted on tonight.

Planning & Development – Councilor ~~Marble~~ **McPike*** reported that the next meeting is Wednesday the 5th. **Corrected at 4/18/2017 meeting*

Infrastructure – Councilor Sirois reported that at last meeting they discussed the petition for street lights on Chickadee Lane and the work scope for more environmental testing by Drumlin. Members were updated on the status of the Grist Mill Bridge portion of the MDOT road project and that the bridge is the town's responsibility. Discussed the possibility of reaching the population threshold of 7500 which would create an urban compact that would make the town responsible for summer and winter maintenance on state roads. Members also discussed the mailbox policy.

- ## F. MANAGER'S REPORT
- Manager Jennings again reminded everyone that the tax due date is the 5th. He echoed Jeremy Jones comments about volunteers being needed and encouraged all to attend the Community Forum. He thanked the Hampden Business Association for the financial support for the forum. He reported that the Hampden Highlights newsletter was mailed this past weekend and noted that dates for budget discussion were highlighted on page two. He encouraged the public to get involved in the budget process.

G. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS

Councilor McAvoy – Reminded everyone to shop local and buy American and wished good night to Hampden.

Councilor Cormier – No comment

Councilor Marble – Followed up on Jeremy Jones and the Manager's comments and invited the public to take part in the process of town budget.

Councilor Wilde – Stated that although it doesn't seem like it, spring is coming!

Councilor McPike – No comment

Councilor Sirois – No comment

Mayor Ryder – Encouraged the public to look at the schedule of budget dates and to come to meetings to give the Council feedback and insight. He stated that the Council encourages citizen participation.

- H. ADJOURNMENT** – *With no other business, Councilor Sirois made a motion, seconded by Councilor Wilde, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paula A. Scott, CCM
Town Clerk*