



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL  
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
**MINUTES**

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 4, 2013

7:00 P.M.

*Attending:*

*Councilor Janet Hughes  
Councilor Jean Lawlis  
Councilor Tom Brann  
Councilor Bill Shakespeare  
Councilor Carol Duprey  
Councilor Shelby Wright*

*Town Attorney Thomas Russell  
Town Manager Susan Lessard  
Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon  
Citizens*

*The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hughes at 7:07 pm.*

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

a. January 22, 2013

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Hammond Street Senior Center – Thank you
- b. Senior Citizen Group – Petition Requesting Continued Use of Skehan Center for Exercise Class

4. REPORTS

- a. Finance & Administration Committee Minutes – 1/22/2013
- b. Infrastructure Committee Minutes – 1/28/2013

*Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Brann to accept the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote in favor.*

**B. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – *There were none.*

**C. POLICY AGENDA**

**1. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. **Ordinance Exempting Eligible Active Duty Military Personnel from Vehicle Excise Tax** – *Mayor Hughes read the significant content of the proposed ordinance for the record and then opened the public hearing. No one spoke in favor or opposition and there were no questions or comments. The hearing was closed. Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Brann to reject and not accept the ordinance. Following discussion, vote on the motion was 4 – 2 (Duprey and Wright); motion carried.*

## 2. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

- a. **Finance & Administration Committee Recommendations re Committee Reappointments:** - *Mayor Hughes reported that it was the recommendation of the Finance & Administration Committee to reappoint both applicants to their respective boards.*
  1. **Gerry Ouellette – Personnel Appeals Board** – *Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Brann to reappoint Gerry Ouellette to the Personnel Appeals Board. Unanimous vote in favor.*
  2. **Aimee Smith – Board of Appeals** – *Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Brann to reappoint Aimee Smith to the Board of Appeals. Unanimous vote in favor.*

3. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – *There was none.*

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Sewer Commitment – 10/1/2012 to 12/31/2012** – *Motion by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Wright to approve the sewer commitment for the period of 10/1/2012 to 12/31/2012. Unanimous vote in favor.*

## D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Infrastructure Committee** – *Councilor Wright – the committee met on January 28<sup>th</sup> and discussed a request from an owner of multiple properties for individual transfer station decals for each of those properties; and a request from Hamlin Marine for permission to locate a pole on the marina property they are currently leasing.*

**Planning & Development** – *Councilor Brann – the Committee held a special meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the goals of the Council relative to the reuse of the old Hampden Academy property. The committee decided that a request for proposal be developed and presented at the next meeting which is scheduled for 6:00 pm on February 6<sup>th</sup>.*

**Services Committee** – *Councilor Lawlis – the next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The primary agenda item will be the Skehan Center, its current use and potential future use.*

C-1-a

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN, MAINE**  
**ORDINANCE**  
**EXEMPTING ELIGIBLE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL**  
**FROM VEHICLE EXCISE TAX**

Section I. Authority.

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §1483-A, which expressly authorizes such ordinances.

Section 2. Excise Tax Exemption For One Vehicle: Qualifications.

One vehicle owned by a resident of this municipality who is on active duty serving in the United States Armed Forces and who is either permanently stationed at a military or naval post, station or base outside this State or deployed for military service for a period of more than 180 days and who desires to register that resident's vehicle in this State is hereby exempted from the annual excise tax imposed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §1482. If a qualifying resident owns more than one vehicle, the resident shall designate the one vehicle that is to be exempt from excise tax under this Ordinance.

To apply for this exemption, the resident must present to the municipal excise tax collector certification from the commander of the resident's post, station or base, or from the commander's designated agent, that the resident is permanently stationed at that post, station or base or is deployed for military service for a period of more than 180 days.

For the purposes of this section, "United States Armed Forces" does not include the National Guard and the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces.

For purposes of this section, "deployed for military service" has the same meaning as in 26 M.R.S. §814(1) (A).

For purposes of this section, "vehicle" has the same meaning as in 36 M.R.S. §1481(5) and does not include any snowmobiles as defined in 12 M.R.S. §13001.

Section 3. Effective Date: Duration.

Pursuant to Section 213(c) of the Town Charter, this Ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of 30 days after its adoption by the Town Council, and shall remain in effect unless and until it or 36 M.R.S. §1483-A is repealed.

2/4/2013 - Failed to pass following public hearing.

**Finance & Administration** – Mayor Hughes reported that the committee met earlier and had some discussion about the proposed charter school that had been interested in leasing the old Hampden Academy and the impact it may have on SAD #22. The committee has had difficulty getting to the review of the Town Charter and has proposed a special meeting for March 25<sup>th</sup> solely for that purpose.

**E. MANAGER’S REPORT** – A copy of the Manager’s Report is attached and made a part of the minutes. There is a possibility that there will not be a quorum for the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council felt it was important to attend the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with area legislators regarding implications of the current budget proposals. That meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm, therefore the Finance Committee will meet from 5:00 to 5:30pm and the Council will meet from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Manager Lessard will try to schedule the meeting with Water District Trustees for 6:30 pm on February 25<sup>th</sup> and the Infrastructure Committee will meet just prior to that from 6:00 to 6:30 pm.

**F. COUNCILORS’ COMMENTS**

**Councilor Lawlis** commented on the vote against the excise tax exemption ordinance. She noted that we are facing a difficult budget process with pressure to increase property taxes and it is important to do everything possible proactively to minimize any effect on property taxes.

**Councilor Shakespeare** commented that one thing that bothered him about the proposed excise tax exemption ordinance is that it would have excluded National Guard and Reserve personnel, who he feels make up the backbone of the military services today and they would not be given the same advantage as active duty soldiers. He noted that the Fire Department has decided not to keep the 1955 Jeep and he wanted to let those interested know that it will most likely be going out to bid in the near future. He requested that Public Safety Director Joe Rogers give a report at the next meeting regarding the results of the Department’s recent customer satisfaction survey. He said several citizens have commented about trash along the side of the road, in particular a bag of trash on Western Avenue across from the Canaan Road. He wondered if Public Works could stop and pick up the trash to help keep Hampden beautiful. Finally, he mentioned that some citizens have heard rumors about problems with the new Hampden Academy. Manager Lessard will request a statement from SAD #22 regarding the conditions at the school.

**Councilor Duprey** pointed out that if anyone is bothered by trash along the side of the road, they should take the time to stop and pick it up.

**Councilor Wright** echoed Councilor Duprey’s comments and noted that ultimately it is up to us to keep our community beautiful.

**G. ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.



Denise Hodsdon  
Town Clerk

MANAGER'S REPORT  
February 4, 2013

Thank you – A big thank you to the Hampden Police and Fire Department Unions. Recently our cleaning lady resigned. The Unions, on their own and with no request from either the Public Safety Director or myself, voted to handle the cleaning responsibilities for the entire police/fire portions of the Municipal Building. They did this in recognition of the fact that the upcoming budget is likely to be tight – and they wanted to help. This will save the Town nearly \$7,000 a year. I am so very proud of them all for coming forward and taking on these additional tasks.

*19<sup>th</sup>* Next Council Meeting – Do we have a quorum for the next Council meeting on Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>? It is school vacation and sometimes that is a problem. In addition, we are already down one council position that will not be filled until the election on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Uh oh.... Dog licenses were due by January 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid the \$25 late fee. Also – you now need a 2013 transfer station decal in order to use the transfer station. Vehicles will not be allowed to use the facility without one as of February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Water District Trustees – The Water District Trustees would like to set a time when the Council and Trustees can meet. We have an Infrastructure Committee meeting on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> with an open agenda at this point. Would you like to try and schedule it for that date.

March 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting – The Council and Manager have been invited to a meeting on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> with School Management personnel as well as Managers and Selectmen/Councilors from other communities to discuss with area legislators the implications of current budget proposals. That is a Council meeting night as well, but the Council has the option of having only one Council meeting in a month, depending on workload, it might be worthwhile to attend this session.

Meeting Date – Council Goals & Objectives – At the last meeting two dates were mentioned – March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>. What date works for most?