



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

MONDAY

APRIL 1, 2013

7:00 P.M.

Attending:

*Deputy Mayor Tom Brann
Councilor David Ryder
Councilor Jean Lawlis
Councilor Bill Shakespeare
Councilor Carol Duprey
Councilor Shelby Wright*

*Town Manager Susan Lessard
Town Attorney Thomas Russell
Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon
State Representative Brian Duprey
Members of the Press
Citizens*

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Tom Brann at 7:00 p.m.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

a. March 18, 2013

3. COMMUNICATIONS

4. REPORTS

a. Planning & Development Committee Minutes – 3/6/2013

b. Finance & Administration Committee Minutes – 3/18/2013

The Consent Agenda was accepted by unanimous consent.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Jeremy Williams* of 1334 Carmel Road North spoke regarding the Governor's proposed revenue cuts and thought they were not out-of-line. He said we are facing some shortfalls coming up and we all need to tighten our belts. He asked that the Town Council take a common sense look at how we do things in the Town. He encouraged the Council to hold the line as much as possible, but also try to keep people employed as much as possible.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – *There were none.*

2. **NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS** – *There were none.*

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Resolution re Governor's Budget Proposal** – *At its meeting on March 18th, the Finance Committee requested that Manager Lessard draft a resolution opposing the Governor's proposed budget for the Council's consideration this evening. Similar resolutions have been adopted by numerous municipalities throughout the State. Manager Lessard noted that State Representative Brian Duprey sent an email to the Council today and requested an opportunity to address this issue this evening. Councilor Lawlis read the draft resolution into the record (copy attached).*

State Representative Brian Duprey said he dislikes the proposed budget, but he is opposed to the Council's adoption of the proposed resolution. He said he has seen dozens of these resolutions passed and it adds nothing to the debate and none of them have offered any common-sense solutions to fix the problem. He commented that the Governor's bill doesn't exist anymore; is now an Appropriations Committee bill. The 13-member committee has to create a compromise budget, which is estimated to be completed by May 30th. He informed the Council that, in talking with members of the committee, it is his opinion that it will probably be a combination of a little bit of revenue and a good portion of the revenue sharing will probably stay intact. He has advised Manager Lessard to prepare for 50-75% of the estimated losses to the Town to come to fruition. He asked the Council to reconsider politicizing and polarizing this issue and let him and Senator Cushing continue to have a good working relationship with the Council.

Councilor Shakespeare said he was taken aback and offended by portions of Representative Duprey's email to the Council and he read the email into the record. He asked that the email be included on the consent agenda for the next meeting.

Manager Lessard noted that she had submitted written information talking about the cliff approach to this, which is not just revenue sharing, but all the other things combined to make the huge number. She said if a community is given a chance to plan (say three years) or a phase-in of things you want to see on one side in terms of what the State's goals are and a phase-out of revenue for communities, that would allow us to manage that in a more responsible way than the cliff approach.

Kristen Hornbrook of Main Trail agreed with and supported Representative Duprey's comments. She commented that we have to share in the pain and we are all tightening our own budgets at home; the Town has to tighten the budget...everyone is going feel it. She said she believes this resolution is a waste of time and doesn't think the Town of Hampden needs to join in the chorus of whiners. She has a strong belief that the Council is perfectly capable to sit down and hammer this problem out without whining to the State.

Jeremy Williams of 1334 Carmel Road North commented that we are all going to lose, either at the state level or at the local level, and he

truly believes that we get more bang for our buck in managing our dollar in the smaller community setting than we do at the state level. He doesn't think it is appropriate to tell the Governor and Legislature that we don't like the budget and we're not going to stand for our fair share to be reduced. He thought that the Town Manager has a great idea to soften the blow and believes that the Appropriations Committee will be looking at that as well.

Each Councilor expressed their thoughts with Councilors Wright, Shakespeare, and Lawlis expressing support and Councilors Duprey and Ryder opposing signing the resolution. Deputy Mayor Brann asked Manager Lessard to discuss the impacts of the proposals in terms of dollars and cents.

Following further discussion, Councilor Lawlis felt that this would have been a good resolution if it was unanimous, but since it was obvious that it will not be, she was not going to make a motion at this time. Councilor Wright noted that this item has produced one of the best discussions the Council has had in a long time and even if it goes nowhere, it has opened up a line of communication with the Town and the citizens and represents a Council that can truly work together and discuss our differences, and then agree to disagree, and then to compromise.

No action was either proposed or taken at this time and the Council moved on to the next item on the agenda. However, after introduction of the next item, Representative Duprey asked for the Council's indulgence in going back to the resolution. He recommended and felt it would be much more effective if the Council wrote a letter to the Appropriations Committee incorporating the resolution with Manager Lessard's cliff suggestions and the impacts on the various citizen groups. He said he would personally hand-deliver copies to the Appropriations Committee.

Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to authorize the Town Manager to draft an executive summary of the effects of the budget cuts on the different population groups, to be signed by the Council and hand delivered to the Appropriations Committee. Unanimous vote in favor.

- b. Policy Regarding Purchase of Police Vehicles – Infrastructure Committee Recommendation** – *Councilor Wright reported that it was the recommendation of the Infrastructure Committee to limit annual police vehicle bidding to SUV style vehicles from here on. For the past several years, the Council has approved the purchase of 4-wheel drive SUV's, which offer more room for the officers and necessary equipment and these type vehicles can be utilized for more purposes. By limiting the bid specifications to SUV vehicles, it will save bidders time if they are not bidding on both sedans and SUV vehicles. Jeremy Williams felt it was a good idea but encouraged the Council to do a little research into what other municipalities are doing across the country. He feels that could help in establishing these guidelines. Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Lawlis that the*

C-3-a

TOWN OF HAMPDEN RESOLUTION

Whereas the Governor's biennial budget proposal places towns in an uncertain fiscal situation; and

Whereas, the proposal includes elimination of \$283 million in municipal revenue sharing and falls \$200 million short of funding local schools at the 55% level passed in referendum; would eliminate the Homestead Exemption for anyone under the age of 65; would eliminate the "circuit breaker" property tax and rent relief program for anyone under the age of 65; would take \$8 million in truck excise revenue from towns; and would create a corporate tax exemption for large amounts of currently taxable property; all resulting in significant losses of revenue for the Town of Hampden; and

Whereas, all the above would shift part of the costs to the Town of Hampden, approximately \$953,000, whose only major means of raising revenue is property taxes; be it

Resolved, the Hampden Town Council calls upon the Maine Legislature to reject these proposals, identify less harmful cost savings, and raise revenue in an equitable fashion to avoid this added revenue burden on the Town.

Signed this 1st Day of April 2013 by the Hampden Town Council.

Mayor Janet Hughes

Councilor Thomas Brann

Councilor Shelby Wright

Councilor William Shakespeare

Councilor David Ryder

Councilor Jean Lawlis

Councilor Carol Duprey

From: Rep. Brian Duprey <repduprey@me.com>

To: wrighttowncouncil@gmail.com; shakespearetowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov; hughestowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov; branntowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov; lawlistowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov; rydertowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov; dupreytowncouncil@hampdenmaine.gov

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2013 9:20 AM

Subject: Details on Governor's Proposed Budget

Dear Hampden Town Councilor,

I am attaching some information on Governor LePage's proposed budget highlights for your review. It gives you background on why there are budget problems.

I will be attending your Town Council meeting tonight and will be strongly opposing your proposed resolution which makes broad generalizations opposing a budget that I am quite confident no one on the Council has read with much detail.

Sending a partisan resolution will accomplish nothing at the state level, and can only further divide an already fragile council that should be spending their time on working on making Hampden a better place to live.

I will be happy to give an update on the budget if asked, I have been in constant contact with Sue Lessard and will continue to do so.

Senator Cushing and I are well aware of the consequences of the proposed budget on all towns in our districts. Please do not embarrass us by sending a partisan resolution that offers no solutions to fix the problem.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brian Duprey

Rep. Brian Duprey
P.O. Box 214
Hampden, ME 04444
Representing Maine's 39th District
<http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/hsebios/duprbm.htm>

Council adopt guidelines regarding the purchase of police vehicles to favor SUV's in the future. Unanimous vote in favor.

- c. **Disposition of Fire Department Jeep Brush Truck – Manager Lessard** reported that the Jeep had been granted to the Town's Civil Defense department in 1978 or 1979 as government surplus from Brunswick Naval Air Station. Public Safety Director Rogers followed up through the Emergency Management Agency and was advised that we can sell the Jeep and keep the proceeds. Motion by Councilor Ryder, seconded by Councilor Duprey to put the Jeep out for bid. Vote was unanimously in favor.
- d. **Old Hampden Academy Property – Proposal*** - This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Alewives Fishing Rights – Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Shakespeare** that the Town of Hampden retain its fishing rights for alewives and authorize the Town Manager to take appropriate action. Unanimous vote in favor.
- b. **Request for Letter of Support for LD 877, an Act to Establish the Geospatial Data Reserve Fund – Manager Lessard** reported that the Finance Committee discussed this item earlier and recommended issuing a letter of support. Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Duprey to authorize the Town Manager to write a letter in support of LD 877 for the Council to sign. Vote on the motion was 5-1 (Ryder); motion carried.
- c. **Public Works Request for use of Recreation Enterprise Reserve Account Funds for Mower Purchase – This item was postponed until the next meeting.**
- d. **Personal Property Tax Abatements**
 - 1. **Blue Sky Enterprises 2012 \$ 71.61 – Vote to abate tax was 6-0.**
 - 2. **Robert & Linda Bryant 2006 \$ 93.52 – Vote to abate tax was 5-0-1 (Shakespeare recused himself)**
 - 3. **Robert & Linda Bryant 2007 \$ 94.20 – Vote to abate tax was 5-0-1 (Shakespeare recused himself)**
 - 4. **Robert & Linda Bryant 2008 \$ 97.34 – Vote to abate tax was 5-0-1 (Shakespeare recused himself)**
 - 5. **Dana's Grill at Dockside 2011 \$287.79 – Vote to abate tax was 6-0**
 - 6. **Dana's Grill at Dockside 2012 \$305.28 – Vote to abate tax was 6-0**
 - 7. **Qwik Stop Video 2011 \$325.95 – Vote to abate tax was 6-0**

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure Committee – Councilor Wright – the committee has not met since the last Council meeting. The next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 22nd.

Services Committee – Councilor Lawlis – the next meeting is at 6:00 pm on April 8th and agenda items will include the Papermill Road park, Dorothea Dix Park and other recreation activities.

Planning & Development – Councilor Brann – the committee will meet at 6:00 pm on April 3rd and will continue discussions relative to the reuse of the old Hampden Academy and modification of the sign ordinance.

Finance & Administration Committee – Manager Lessard – at its meeting earlier in the evening, the committee discussed support of the Geospatial reserve fund; authorized Public Works to solicit bids for paving and recommended abatements for personal property accounts.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT – *A copy of the Manager's Report is attached and made a part of the minutes.*

F. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS – *Councilor Shakespeare commented that he spoke with Representative Duprey during the break and they have apologized to each other for their exchange of words earlier in the meeting. He said he wanted to make it perfectly clear that the Council is not divided; we discuss items and sometimes we agree and sometimes we don't, but we all get along.*

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION - *Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Duprey to enter executive session, to include the Town Attorney and Town Manager, to discuss a real estate matter pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6)(C). Unanimous vote in favor.*

Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Wright to re-enter regular session at 9:35 pm. Unanimous vote in favor.

Motion by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to authorize the Town Attorney to send the real estate option to the developer. Unanimous vote in favor.

H. ADJOURNMENT – *The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.*



Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk

* Due to the nature of this item, portions of the discussion may be conducted in Executive Session pursuant to 1 MRSA §405 (6)(C) (Real Estate)

MANAGER'S REPORT

April 1, 2013

Tax Due Date – A reminder that the second half of property taxes are due by close of business on Wednesday, April 3rd in order to avoid interest. Staff will be providing refreshments in the lobby on Wednesday for those who come to pay in person.

Hampden Food Cupboard – The Hampden Neighborhood Food Cupboard, located at the Hampden Congregational Church, has been a 501(c)(3) since 1993. However, it has never been registered with the IRS as a sales-tax exempt organization. Some corporate donors are now requiring that such organizations have that designation in order to be considered for funding donations. The Food Cupboard serves as an important non-denominational resource for area residents who may be having difficulty making ends meet. I am assisting them by preparing the form 1023 that needs to be submitted to the IRS for this designation and am in hopes that it can be processed expeditiously so that they may get that designation in order not to lose out on funding opportunities.

Council Meeting Date – The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 15th, which is a holiday. It is also school vacation week. Mayor Hughes has indicated that she will not be available for a meeting that is either on the Tuesday or Wednesday of that week. It could be changed to Monday April 22nd, but that conflicts with Infrastructure, unless that meeting is held prior to Council instead of Finance & Administration for that date.