



HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL
HAMPDEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MINUTES

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Note: These minutes are action minutes only recording motions and votes. Video tapes of all meetings are available for review at the Town Office.

Attending:

Deputy Mayor David Ryder
Councilor Tom Brann
Councilor Greg Sirois
Town Manager Susan Lessard
Town Attorney Tom Russell

Councilor William Shakespeare
Councilor Jean Lawlis
Councilor Ivan McPike
Town Clerk Denise Hodsdon
Residents

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Ryder at 7 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Deputy Mayor Ryder requested that all rise and state the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. CONSENT AGENDA – Councilor Shakespeare requested that items A-3-a and A-4-d be set aside for discussion. Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Sirois to approve the balance of the consent agenda. Unanimous vote in favor.

1. SIGNATURES

2. SECRETARY'S REPORTS

a. October 7, 2013

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club – Thank You – **Councilor Shakespeare questioned the terms of the lease for the Snowmobile Club and whether they received any funding from the Town. The Manager responded that the lease is for \$1 per year and that the Town gave the Club \$1000 per year from snowmobile registration fees to assist with the cost of trail grooming.**
- b. Stephanie Shayne – New Applicant for Recreation Committee – Referral to Services Committee
- c. Jaric Fontaine - New Applicant for Recreation Committee – Referral to Services Committee

4. REPORTS

a. Bangor Humane Society Stray Animal Report – January 2014

- b. Draft Redistricting Committee Minutes – 2/4/2014
- c. Department Reports – January 2014
- d. Pool Board Minutes – 1/14/2014 – **Councilor Shakespeare questioned pool board expenditures related to their annual giving campaign. The Manager explained that the printing expenses were incurred up front but were covered by the donations received.**

Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Brann to approve items C-3-a and C-4-d of the consent agenda. Unanimous vote in favor.

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Scott Carter, 1088 Western Avenue provided public comments a copy of which is attached and is hereby part of the minutes.

C. POLICY AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. NOMINATIONS – APPOINTMENTS – ELECTIONS

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Public Works Director Department Report – **This report will be rescheduled to a future meeting.**
- b. Reapportionment of Council Districts - Redistricting Committee Recommendation – **Two proposals were discussed by the Committee and it was the consensus of the Committee to move forward with the plan that retains four districts. Motion by Councilor Sirois, seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to accept the redistricting proposal recommended by the Committee. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- c. Penobscot Valley Refuse Disposal District – Consent Ballot and District Dissolution – Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation – **Motion by Councilor McPike, seconded by Councilor Lawlis to accept Hampden's share of the funds remaining in treasury of the Penobscot Valley Refuse Disposal District and authorize the Manager to sign the consent ballot and dissolution document for that entity. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- d. Video Streaming/Taping of Committee Meetings – Services Committee Recommendation – **Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor Brann to make an effort to improve sound quality for the hearing impaired at both Council and Committee meetings and leave recordkeeping as it is. Vote 2-4. (Councilors Shakespeare & Brann in favor and Councilors Ryder, Sirois, Lawlis, and McPike opposed.) Motion failed. Motion by Councilor Lawlis, seconded by Councilor McPike for all Committee meetings to be audiotaped by the Town with audiotape recordings to be**

available to the public. Vote 4-2. (Councilors Lawlis, Ryder, McPike and Sirois in favor and Councilors Shakespeare and Brann opposed.) Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request to Use Computer Reserve Funds for Upgrade to Network Equipment – Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation – **Motion by Councilor McPike, seconded by Councilor Sirois to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to expend \$1200 from Computer Reserve for items to update the networking equipment. Unanimous vote in favor.**
 - b. Sewer Commitment – 10/1/13 to 12/31/13 – **Motion by Councilor McPike, seconded by Councilor Sirois to approve the fourth quarter sewer billing of 2013. Unanimous vote in favor.**
 - c. Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Policy – Finance & Administration Committee Recommendation **Motion by Councilor McPike, seconded by Councilor Sirois to approve the Arbitrage & Use of Proceeds Policy recommended by the Finance Committee to meet the requirements of the Maine Bond Bank. Unanimous vote in favor.**
- D. COMMITTEE REPORTS – **Infrastructure Committee will meet next Monday. Planning & Development Committee's last meeting was cancelled and the Services Committee had nothing to report.**
- E. MANAGER'S REPORT – **The Manager's report is attached hereto and made part of the minutes.**
- F. COUNCILORS' COMMENTS – **Councilor Shakespeare noted that the flags were positioned incorrectly before the meeting and discussed negative comments made by people regarding the Pledge of Allegiance matter.**
- G. ADJOURNMENT – **The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.**


Denise Hodsdon
Town Clerk

Scott Carter 1088 Western Ave Hampden

I want to talk about something that I see happening in these meetings. Most people don't recognize it for what it really is, they see it as just bickering and fighting between people that have opposing views. I recognize it for what it really is as do others who are from what I like to call the "Political Generation". We are fully immersed in politics, have been to numerous political meetings and maybe even held public office in the past or currently.

What is going on in these committee meetings and council meetings is a strategy called "Shock Politics". You have probably seen this tactic used before. For example, a protest where violence breaks out or more recently we all witnessed the "Occupy Wall Street" incidents. This strategy is usually used when a small group finds themselves out of power. The strategy is used to shock and intimidate people into silence or inaction. Let me give you some examples of "Shock Politics" being used recently in committee and council meetings here in Hampden.

As I'm sure people watching this at home have witnessed, in the past two council meetings it is almost impossible for the new Mayor to even finish a sentence without being rudely interrupted, berated and bullied. This is meant to disrupt, confuse and intimidate. Something that you can't see at home are the "Shock Politics" tactics that are being used in the committee meetings because they are not televised. In one meeting, a former Mayor, who was having nothing short of a "meltdown" was escorted out of the building by another councilor while she screamed profanities and slammed doors.

Sadly, in the committee meeting on February 4th their tactics turned violent. One of the council members who is part of this disgruntled small group brought his wife to the meeting and she tried to physically attack a citizen who was on the committee. Luckily she did not reach the citizen before being restrained.

The desired effect of these "Shock Politics" tactics is to stop good people from attending meetings and speaking up. It works for an initial period of time until people see it for what it really is and then the tide turns against those employing the strategy, especially in such a politically savvy town like Hampden.

Having seen this "Shock Politics" strategy tried many, many times I can tell you that the end result is always the same. The perpetrators are exposed for what they really are and, clearer heads prevail, the system we have in place works and the bullies are voted out. Remember, nobody likes a bully.

In closing I would encourage the good men and women on this council to not be afraid and intimidated, don't be distracted by all the huffing and puffing and roaring, because, it is just that. Stay focused on the task at hand, the job you've been called to do, to make the Town of Hampden a great place to live for all. You might have noticed I didn't

mention the councilors specifically who are engaging in these shocking tactics, I think we all know who they are and if you don't know just watch the beginning of the council meetings and notice who does not honor our flag with the pledge of allegiance.

MANAGER'S REPORT
February 18, 2014

Tax Foreclosures – The foreclosure date for unpaid 2011-12 property taxes is Monday, February 24th. At this point we expect no new foreclosures to occur. We have two properties in repayment agreements that are making the required payments to redeem their properties.

Sewer Bills – Sewer Bills were mailed out last week. Their due date is March 12th.

Tax Bills – A little over a month until the second half of property taxes are due. The second half is due by April 2nd to avoid interest.