

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 21, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Hampden Town Office

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a. April 6, 2015
2. Review & Sign Warrants
3. Old Business
 - a. Council Rules/Code of Ethics/Council Ethics and Professionalism
4. New Business
 - a. Public Safety Request to go out to Bid for New Ambulance
5. Public Comment
6. Committee Member Comments

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 6, 2015

Attending:

Mayor David Ryder	Town Manager Susan Lessard
Councilor William Shakespeare	Councilor Stephen Wilde
Councilor Terry McAvoy	Councilor Greg Sirois
Councilor Carol Duprey	Councilor Dennis Marble
Resident Tom Brann	

The meeting was opened at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Ryder.

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a. March 16, 2015 – Motion by Councilor McAvoy, seconded by Councilor Marble to approve the 3/16/15 minutes as presented. Unanimous vote in favor.
2. Review & Sign Warrants – Committee members reviewed the warrants. Councilor Shakespeare asked questions related to employer and employee paid benefits including health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance and income protections which were answered by the Town Manager. Former Councilor Tom Brann asked if all full time employees had a \$30,000 life insurance provided by the Town and the Manager responded that they do and it is part of the Town's personnel policy. Motion by Councilor Wilde, seconded by Councilor Marble to approve the warrants. Unanimous vote in favor.
3. Old Business
 - a. Draft Letter to School Board re 2015/16 Budget – The Town Manager presented a draft of a letter to the RSU #22 School Board that the Council had asked be written in regard to concerns over the upcoming budget and its impact on the mil rate. It was the consensus of the Committee that the letter was fine to send, although several Councilors indicated that they might have worded it in stronger language.
 - b. Continued Review of Council Rules – Following all other items of business, the Committee reviewed the following sections of the Rules:
Section 20. No change recommended
Section 21. Councilor Duprey suggested that this item be changed so that canceling a Council meeting did not take a unanimous vote of the Council to do so – that instead an affirmative vote would be sufficient. Some Councilors indicated concerns over changing this in case it allowed meetings to be cancelled to avoid contentious items or could allow meetings to be manipulated by groups of the Council. Others cited that Council meetings were part of the job of being a councilor and should only be cancelled if absolutely necessary. Former Councilor Brann indicated that meetings should always be held unless a cancellation is absolutely necessary because they should be held for the convenience of the public and not at the convenience of the

Council. It was the consensus of the Committee to leave this item as it is.

Section 22. No change recommended.

Section 23. Councilor Duprey indicated that meetings rarely ran until 10 p.m. and it might be better to set an earlier time for the Council to make a decision on whether or not to continue a meeting later. Other Councilors indicated that they were willing to stay as long as necessary to get the work done. Former Councilor Brann indicated that in the event a meeting was going to run late – any items which were related to resident concerns or for which staff was needed should be done early in the meeting for the convenience of those attending. It was the consensus of the Committee to leave this item as it is.

Section 24. No change recommended.

Concerns were expressed that the Council Rules had no real enforcement mechanism and that without that there were no consequences for not following them. The Committee will continue review of the rules at the next Finance Committee meeting including discussion of enforcement mechanisms and whether or not the items suggested for inclusion by Councilor Marble that had been adopted in Brewer were covered in the current Code of Ethics or Council Rules.

4. New Business

- a. Proposed Amendments to Sale of Town Owned Real Estate Ordinance – The Town Manager presented language that would allow the Town to utilize the ordinance for sewer lien foreclosures in addition to tax lien foreclosures and also would require the payment of all tax and sewer costs at the time a property was redeemed through this ordinance. Former Councilor Brann asked if this change would still allow the Council/Manager to work out payment arrangements to avoid loss of property and the Manager indicated that the Council had discretion in regard to any property acquired through the foreclosure process. Motion by Councilor Marble, seconded by Councilor Duprey to forward the proposed language to the Council for a public hearing. Unanimous vote in favor.
- b. Consideration of Adoption of “Ethical Principles for Excellence in Government” – Councilor Marble – Councilor Marble introduced these two items for consideration by the Committee as a means of articulating what the Council’s expectations were of their own behavior. Other Committee members discussed the fact that the Town has an Ethics Ordinance and that it should be reviewed to see if the items are already addressed as part of that or as part of the Council Rules. After considerable discussion related to how Councilors viewed the need for such items, Councilor Marble said that he would review them compared to the Council Rules and Ethics Ordinance and come back to the committee with recommendations if he feels any are needed after the review.

- c. Consideration of Adoption of “10 Habits of Highly Effective Town Councils” – Councilor Marble
- 5. Public Comment – None
- 6. Committee Member Comments – None

Motion by Councilor Sirois, seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard
Town Manager

HAMPDEN TOWN COUNCIL RULES

1. The Town Council shall only act by ordinance, order, or resolve. All ordinances, orders, and resolves shall be confined to one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title. All orders and resolves shall be dated, numbered, and signed by the Town Clerk and the Town Councilors will receive a copy.
2. In all motions of command, the form of expression shall be 'ordered' and in all motions concerning principles, facts, or purposes, the form shall be 'resolved'.
3. The name of the Council member or other person, persons, or group requesting an item on the agenda will be indicated on the agenda with the said item.
4. As a matter of courtesy, conduct for all Council and Committee meetings shall be as follows:
 - a. Cell phones shall be silenced during Council & Committee meetings by Town Councilors, staff, and the general public.
 - b. Councilors and staff shall refrain from texting or emailing during all Council or Committee meetings.
 - c. Cell phone use, texting, and email may be done during breaks in regular or special Council meetings or committee meetings.
5. Town Councilors shall participate in Freedom of Information Act training within 120 days of being sworn in as a Town Councilor and documentation of that training shall be filed with the Town Clerk.
6. Town Councilors shall participate in Elected Officials training offered by the Maine Municipal Association within the first year of office.
7. A New Councilor orientation packet shall be provided to all Councilors at the time they are sworn in.
8. Excused absences for Councilors for Council meetings may be granted as the result of illness, vacation, work commitments, or family illness.
9. The Mayor shall take the chair at the appointed time for the meeting, call the members to order, and proceed to the following order of business:

(Amended 1/21/2014; 4/7/2014; 5/19/14)

 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Consent Agenda
 1. Signatures – Treasurer's Warrants, etc
 2. Secretary's Report
 3. Communications
 4. Reports
 - C. Public Comments
 - D. Policy Agenda
 1. News, Presentations & Awards
 2. Public Hearings
 3. Nominations-Appointments – Elections
 4. Unfinished Business
 5. New Business

- E. Committee Reports
- F. Manager's Report
- G. Councilor Comments
- H. Adjournment

10. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor shall preside over the Town Council meeting. In the absence of the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor shall appoint, in advance, another Council to chair the meeting.
11. When a question is under debate, the Mayor shall receive no motion but to adjourn, or for the previous question, to lay on the table, or to postpone to a day certain, or to refer to a committee or some administrative official or to amend, or to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in order in which they stand arranged.
12. When a vote is passed, it shall be in order for any member who voted in the majority, or in the negative on a tie vote, to move a reconsideration thereof at the same, or the next stated meeting, but not afterwards; and when a motion or reconsideration is decided, that vote shall not be reconsidered.
13. When any member is about to speak, they shall respectfully address the Mayor, confine themselves to the question under debate, and avoid personalities. No member speaking shall be interrupted by another but by a call to order, or to correct a mistake.
14. Every member present, when a question is put, shall give their vote, unless the Council, for special reasons, shall excuse them. Application to be so excused must be made before debate on the issue and the decision on the application shall be made by a majority vote of the council without debate.
15. The rules cannot be dispensed with or suspended if one or more members of the council shall object. No rule or order shall be amended or repealed without notice, in writing, being given at the preceding meeting.
16. Any person wishing to address the Town Council will be given the opportunity to do so in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a. Persons wishing to address the Council on an item which appears on the agenda shall wait until the Mayor announces the consideration of such item, at which time they may address the Council on that particular item. There shall be a five minute limit on such comments per person, per item. In the event that a large number of persons wish to speak on an issue, this limit may be changed to insure that all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so. Once public comment on an item has closed and a motion and second has been made by members of the Town Council, further public comment is only allowed if approved by a unanimous vote of the Town Council.
 - b. Any person wishing to address the Council on an item not appearing on the agenda shall be allowed to do so only in

that section of the agenda referred to as “Public Comments”. There shall be a five minute limit on such comments per person per subject raised. Items heard during Public Comment may be agendaed for a subsequent meeting or referred to a Committee or staff member for discussion/action. No votes may be taken by the Council on a subject raised during Public Comment without a vote by the Council to set aside the rules and add it to the regular agenda for consideration.

- c. Any person wishing to address the Council shall signify their desire by raising their hand and, when recognized by the Mayor, such person shall thereupon request permission to address the Council, giving their name and address and then designating the subject matter on which they desire to address the Council.

17. At the commencement of the Calendar year, or as soon thereafter as possible, there shall be chosen the following Committees, each Committee to consist of three (3) members of the Council as the Mayor may designate, or, upon a motion, the Council may ballot.

- a. Finance & Administration – The purpose of this committee shall be to review all items related to their fiscal impact on the Town as well as all matters that pertain to items of administrative procedures. This committee will also have the responsibility for the review and signature of all payment warrants.
- b. Services Committee – The purpose of this committee shall be to review all matters related to services provided by the Town related to recreation, parks, trails, the library, the pool, and other items related to non-emergency or public works services provided in the community
- c. Infrastructure – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters pertaining to public infrastructure including buildings, roads, and all town capital equipment.
- d. Planning & Development – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters related to all ordinances of the Town and all proposals for economic & community development.
- e. Communications – The purpose of this Committee shall be to review all matters related to the Town Website, Town Newsletter, Town Cable Channel 7, and other town sponsored communication activities.

18. Committee procedure shall be governed as follows:

- a. All Committees will be required to post an agenda at least 48 hours prior to the meeting and no issue may be voted on unless it is agendaed.

- b. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee Chair to discuss the development of the meeting agenda with the assigned staff person at least 24 hours before the meeting is required to be posted.
 - c. The assigned staff member shall prepare and post the agenda.
 - d. Draft minutes of each meeting will be prepared by the staff member supporting the committee within three business days.
 - e. Committee meeting minutes shall be posted on the Town website following their voted approval by the Committee.
 - f. Non-committee Council members attending a Committee meeting will have voting rights if they have been present for the entire discussion of an issue, providing that at least two of the three appointed members of the committee are present.
 - g. Two appointed members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum
 - h. The Mayor shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of Finance & Administration, and shall serve as a member and Chairperson of that Committee. The Mayor, when serving as an ex-officio member, shall not count as an appointed member for the purpose of establishing a quorum at all other Committee meetings.
19. The Mayor of the Council may appoint members of the Council and/or citizens of the Town to special committees as authorized by the Council. No Committee shall have the power of executive action unless specifically authorized and shall report back to the Council for action on its recommendations or proposals.
20. In all cases where the parliamentary proceedings are not determined by the foregoing rules and orders, "Roberts Rules of Order" shall be taken as authority to decide the course of proceedings.
21. The first and third Mondays of each month are designated as 'regular' council meetings with the provision that a unanimous vote of the council would cancel a meeting. Whenever a regular meeting falls on a legal holiday, such meeting will take place the following day.
22. Special meetings of the Town Council may be scheduled for other dates for special purposes. The agendas for such meetings shall be posted at the Post Office, Town Office, Town Bulletin Board, on the Town website, no less than 72 hours in advance of the meeting (unless an emergency meeting is needed for the purpose of dealing with an unanticipated Town emergency, in which case posting shall be to all normal posting locations and via email to local print media as soon as it is identified that a meeting will be held). The agenda for a Special Meeting shall be prepared as follows;
- A. Call to order
 - B. Subject(s) for meeting
 - C. Adjourn

The general public shall be allowed to comment on subjects at Special meetings in the same manner as for Regular Council meetings. There

shall be no general Public Comment section for items not contained on the agenda for Special Council meetings.

23. Any item on the consent agenda can be set aside for discussion at the request of any Councilor, prior to a motion on the remainder of the consent agenda.
24. Council Meetings shall not extend beyond 10 p.m. without an affirmative vote of the Town Council.
25. The Councilor Comment section of the agenda is reserved for the purpose of enabling any Council member to discuss matters not previously mentioned on the agenda. No official Council action can be taken at this time.

This policy replaces the Council Rules last updated February 19, 2008

Adopted by Town Council: May 21, 2012

Amended: January 21, 2014
 April 17, 2014
 May 19, 2014

The Town of Hampden hereby ordains:

**TOWN OF HAMPDEN
Code of Ethics**

Section 1. Declaration of Policy.

The proper operation of democratic government requires that Town Councilors and their appointees be fair, impartial and responsive to the needs of the people and each other in the performance of their respective functions and duties; that decisions and policy be made in proper channels of the Town's governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and that such Councilors and their appointees maintain a standard of conduct that will inspire public confidence in the integrity of the Town's government. In recognition of these goals, a Code of Ethics is hereby established for all Town Councilors and all members and associate members of any Board or Committee appointed by the Town Council. This Code of Ethics is not intended to deny Council members, nor Board or Committee members, their constitutional rights nor violate their civil rights.

Section 2. Definitions.

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated.

Business: Any corporation, partnership, individual, sole proprietorship, joint venture, or any other legally recognized entity, organized for the purposes of making profit.

Censure: A judgment or resolution condemning a person for misconduct.

Confidential Information: Any information, whether oral, written, digital or electronic, which comes to the attention of, or is available to, a Town Official only because of his or her position with the Town and which is not a matter of public record. Information received or discussed during an executive session called pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 shall be considered confidential information, and shall not be disclosed to any third party unless permitted by affirmative vote of the body which held the executive session.

Council Appointee: Any sworn member or associate member of any board or committee appointed by the Town Council, including but not limited to appointed Board members, Committee members, and Commission members.

Financial Interest: a direct or indirect interest having monetary or pecuniary value, including but not limited to the ownership of stock.

Immediate Family – Spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters. This includes family members related by marriage and adoption.

Special Interest: A direct or indirect interest having value peculiar to a certain individual or group, whether economic or otherwise, which value may accrue to such individual or group as a result of the passage or denial of any order, ordinance or resolution, or the

approval, approval with conditions or denial of any application by the Town Council or Council Appointees, and which interest is not shared by the general public.

Town Councilor: Sworn member of the Hampden Town Council

Town Employee: Any individual working for, on a permanent or temporary basis, and drawing a salary, wages or stipend from the Town of Hampden. The term "Town Employee" shall not include consultants or professional personnel providing services to the Town as independent contractors under a written professional services contract or other similar engagement.

Town Official: A member of the Town Council or a member of any appointed committee, board or commission of the Town Council.

Sec 3. Standards of Conduct.

The purpose of this Code of Ethics is to establish standards of conduct for all Town Councilors and Council Appointees by setting forth those acts or actions deemed to be in conflict or incompatible, or to create the appearance of conflict or incompatibility, with the best interests of the Town of Hampden.

3.1 Statutory Standards: There are certain provisions of the general statutes of the State of Maine, which should, while not set forth herein, be considered an integral part of this Ordinance. Accordingly, the provisions of the following sections of the general statutes of the State of Maine, as may be amended, are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this Code of Ethics, and shall apply to all Town Councilors or Council Appointees whenever applicable, as if more fully set forth herein, to wit:

- 17 MRSA §3104 Conflicts of Interest; Purchases by the State
- 17-A MRSA §456 Tampering with Public Records or Information
- 17-A MRSA §602 Bribery in Office with Political Matters
- 17-A MRSA §603 Improper Influence
- 17-A MRSA §604 Improper Compensation for Past Action
- 17-A MRSA §605 Improper Gifts to Public Servants
- 17-A MRSA §606 Improper Compensation for Services
- 17-A MRSA §607 Purchase of Public Office
- 17-A MRSA §608 Official Oppression
- 17-A MRSA §609 Misuse of Information
- 17-A MRSA §903 Misuse of Entrusted Property
- 21-A MRSA §504 Persons Ineligible to Serve
- 30-A MRSA §2605 Conflicts of Interest
- 30-A MRSA §5122 Interest of Public Officials, Trustees of Employees

3.2 Disclosure of Confidential Information: No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall, without proper legal authorization, disclose confidential information concerning the property, employees or applicants for employment, government or affairs of the

Town, nor shall he or she use such information to advance the financial or private interest of him or herself or others. Information received and discussed during an executive session of the Hampden Town Council or any Town Board, Committee, or Commission pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 shall be considered within the constraints of this subsection, and shall not be disclosed to any third party unless permitted by affirmative vote of such body.

3.3 Gifts and Favors: No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall solicit or accept any gift, favor or thing of value, whether in the form of service, loan, thing or promise, from any person or business which to his or her knowledge is interested directly or indirectly in any manner whatsoever in business dealings with the Town; nor shall any Town Councilor or Council Appointee: 1) solicit or accept any gift, favor or thing of value that tends to influence that individual in the discharge of his or her official duties or 2) solicit or grant in the discharge of his or her official duties any improper favor, service or thing of value. The foregoing is not intended to prohibit normal social practices where gifts from friends, associates, and relatives are appropriate for certain occasions.

3.4 Use of Town Property: No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall use, or permit the use of, any Town-owned property including, but not limited to, motor vehicles, equipment and buildings, for any private purposes. Nothing herein shall prohibit the use of Town buildings and equipment at rates and/or on terms as may be established for the public at large.

3.5 Conflicts of Interest.

A. Deliberation and Vote Prohibited

1. No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall participate directly or indirectly by means of deliberation, voting, approval or disapproval, or recommendation, or otherwise take part in the decision making process, on any agenda item before the body of which he or she is a member if he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family, has a financial or special interest, other than that possessed by the public generally, in such purchase, award, or approval, held by:
 - a. The Town Councilor or Council Appointee, or a member of their immediate family; or
 - b. A business in which the Town Councilor or Council Appointee, or a member of their immediate family, serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner or employee in a supervisory or management position; or
 - c. Any other person or business with whom the Town Councilor, or Council Appointee, or a member of their immediate family, are in

business or are negotiating, or have an arrangement concerning future employment.

2. No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall participate directly or indirectly by means of deliberation, approval or disapproval, or recommendation of an application, purchase, contract, or other legal matter, or in the decision to hire, promote, discipline, lay off or to take any other personnel action in respect to any applicant for employment or employee, where said applicant or employee is:

a. A member of their immediate family; or

b. A person with whom either the Town Councilor or Council Appointee, or his or her immediate family, are in business.

B. Disclosure of Conflict. Any Town Councilor or Council Appointee who believes he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family, has a financial or special interest, other than an interest held by the public generally, in any agenda item before the body on which he or she serves shall disclose the nature and extent of such interest, and the Town Clerk or his or her designee shall make a record of such disclosure. Such disclosure shall be made no later than the date of the first meeting of the Town Council, Committee, Board, or Commission at which the agenda item concerned is to be taken up for consideration, recommendation, discussion or vote and at which the Town Councilor or Council Appointee is present. Additionally, any Town Councilor or Council Appointee who believes that any fellow Town Councilor or Council Appointee, or a member of such fellow Town Councilor's or Council Appointee's immediate family, has a financial or special interest, other than an interest held by the public generally, in any agenda item before his or her collective body shall disclose the nature and extent of such agenda item before his or her collective body shall disclose the nature and extent of such interest, and the Town Clerk or his or her designee shall make a record of such disclosure.

C. Determination of Conflict. In the event that a conflict has been raised relative to an individual Town Councilor or Council Appointee, and disclosure has been made as described above, such individual's fellow Town Councilors or Council Appointees shall review the facts as disclosed to them and shall vote on whether or not such individual has a financial or special interest with respect to the agenda item concerned. All conflict of interest questions relating to a particular agenda item shall be resolved prior to any consideration of the item concerned, and each Town Councilor or Council Appointee present shall be entitled to vote on all conflict of interest questions except those questions pertaining to that individual Councilor's or Appointee's alleged conflict of interest.

1. All votes of conflicts of interest questions shall be recorded. A majority vote shall determine the question; but a vote by Boards, Committees, and

Commissions may later be reviewed by Town Council upon the Town Council's consideration of the same agenda item.

2. Upon determination that a conflict of interest in fact exists, the Town Councilor or Council Appointee concerned shall be excused from participating in discussion, deliberation or vote on the relevant agenda item.
3. In lieu of the vote required by this subsection, the Town Council, upon motion and by majority vote may refer the conflict of interest question to the Town Attorney for a legal opinion, or may table its consideration of the relevant agenda item. In the event a majority of the Town Council, Board, or Commission concerned, or Committee thereof, shall require disclosure of further information not immediately available, or shall require confirmation of the information disclosed, consideration of the relevant agenda item shall be postponed to an appropriate time.

D. Avoidance of Appearance of Conflict: To avoid the appearance of a violation of this Section, once any individual Town Councilor, committee member, board member or commission member is determined to have a conflict of interest in respect to any agenda item and once all conflicts of interest questions relating to the agenda item concerned have been determined as provided in Subsection C above, said individual shall immediately remove him or herself from the meeting room or to the area of the room occupied by the general public. He or she shall not return to his or her regular seat as a member of the body until deliberation and action on the item is completed. Nothing herein shall require an individual councilor, committee member, board member or commission member to remove himself or herself for any item contained on a consent agenda on which there is no deliberation, the individual's conflict has been determined by other members and the right to abstain from voting on the item has been granted.

E. Personal Interest. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any Town Councilor or Council Appointee from representing his or her own personal interest by appearing before his or her collective body on any such agenda item, as long as the representation occurs in the area of the meeting room occupied by applicants or members of the general public.

F. Disclosure Statement. By no later than January 15th of each year, or within fifteen (15) days of being sworn in for a Town Councilor elected at a special election to fill a vacancy, every Town Councilor shall file a completed disclosure form with the Town Clerk. Within thirty (30) days after his or her appointment, every Council Appointee shall file a completed disclosure form with the Town Clerk. Such forms shall be under oath and shall contain the following information to the best of the disclosing party's knowledge and belief:

1. The name of each person or entity whether incorporated or not, doing business with the Town in an amount in excess of \$1000 during the preceding calendar year from which such disclosing party or member of his

immediate family has received money or other thing of value in an amount in excess of \$1000 during the preceding fiscal year, including, but not limited to campaign contributions, where applicable.

2. The name of each entity, whether incorporated or not, doing business with the Town in an amount in excess of \$1000 for the preceding calendar year in which such disclosing party or member of his/her immediate family has a financial interest in an amount in excess of \$1000 , including, but not limited to, the ownership of shares of stock.
3. The name of each nonprofit and/or for profit entity, whether incorporated or not, for which such disclosing party or member of his/her immediate family holds a position of officer or member of any board which does business or may potentially do business with the Town. For such entity, such disclosing party shall provide the following information:
 - a. A brief description of the purpose of each board and/or office;
 - b. A short summary of such disclosing party's or family member's duties relative to any such board and/or office;
 - c. The term of service on each such board and/or office; and
 - d. Whether or not such disclosing party or family member receives compensation for service on such board and/or office and the extent to which such compensation exceeds \$100 in the aggregate annually.

For purposes of this section "compensation" shall include, but not be limited to, monetary compensation, gifts, gratuities, perks, fringe benefits, services and any other thing of value.

4. Every Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall amend his or her annual disclosure statement as may be required from time to time to ensure the continued accuracy thereof. Each amendment shall be made within fifteen days following the occurrence which requires the amendment.
5. The Town Clerk shall deliver a copy of each completed disclosure statement to every fellow member of the Town Council/Board/Committee of each disclosing party within thirty days of filing.
6. For the purposes of this Ordinance, a list prepared by the Treasurer of those persons or entities doing business with the Town in an amount in excess of \$1000 for the preceding year shall be determinative for purposes of reporting under this section. Income from and financial investments in, policies of insurance, and deposits from accounts from commercial or savings banks, savings and loan associations, or credit unions and the ownership of less

than 5% of the outstanding shares of stock in a publicly held corporation shall not be considered a financial interest within the meaning of this section.

Sec 4. Political Activities.

No Town Employee, Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall participate in any political activity which would be in conflict or incompatible with the performance of his or her official functions and duties of the Town. In conjunction therewith, no Town Councilor or Council Appointee may use his or her official authority or position for the purposes of influencing or interfering with or affecting the results of any election for public office, nor shall he or she solicit funds or contributions or accept or receive funds or contributions from Town Employees for political purposes. No Town Councilor or Council Appointee may distribute handbills or pamphlets while he or she is performing official functions or duties on behalf of the Town, unless such distribution has been authorized by the body of which he or she is a member. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any Town Councilor or Council Appointee from participating in the political process in their private capacity as candidates for elected office or as private citizens.

Sec 5. Incompatible Employment or Office.

No Town Councilor or Council Appointee shall occupy any other office, elected or appointed, in another governmental entity when the duties of such office are incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties with the Town. For purposes of this section, the occupancy of any office, elected or appointed, with any other governmental entity by any Town Councilor or Council Appointee is hereby prohibited in the following circumstances:

- A. Where the duties of the other office make it a physical impossibility to discharge the duties of the Town position; or
- B. Where one office is subordinate to the other; or
- C. Where one office carries the power of removal of the other; or
- D. Where the occupancy of both offices is prohibited by the Town Charter or by other provisions of law.

Sec 6. Violations of Ethical Standards by Councilors.

When any Councilor believes there has been a breach of the ethical standards set forth herein by another Town Councilor, he or she may ask to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 for purposes of informal discussion of and resolution of an ethical issue. During such session, the Councilor shall specify which area(s) of this Ordinance he or she feels have been breached and by whom. After discussion among all Councilors, the Town Council shall leave executive session, and may proceed with

formal action only by majority vote of the Councilors not alleged to have breached the ethical standards.

- A. Based on information provided in said executive session, the Town Attorney shall provide the Council with an opinion on whether the cited matter(s) constitute a violation of this Ordinance.
- B. All procedures under this section shall be in accord with due process requirements, including, but not limited to, a right to notice and hearing.
- C. The Council may elect to give written warning in lieu of any other remedy or civil penalty available under this Ordinance or any other law or ordinance.

Sec 7. Ethics in Contracting.

The provisions of this Section shall apply to all persons doing business with the Town of Hampden as vendors, suppliers and contractors submitting bids or proposals in response to a Town solicitation or advertisement.

7.1 Gratuities and Kickbacks

- A. **Gratuities.** It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any person to offer, give, or agree to give any Town Councilor or Council Appointee a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, or award pertaining to a Town purchase order, contract, construction contract, or professional services contract, or with respect to any solicitation, advertisement, request for bids, request for proposals, or any bid, proposal, or other response thereto.
- B. **Kickbacks.** It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any person to solicit, offer, give, accept, or receive any undisclosed gratuity or offer of employment in connection with the award or potential award of any subcontract or contract modification or change order under a Town of Hampden contract for construction, procurement or professional services. To be valid, any disclosure under this paragraph must be made in writing to the Town of Hampden Town Manager prior to the date of opening of any proposals or bids on the prime contract concerned. Notwithstanding an otherwise valid written disclosure, it shall be a violation of this Ordinance to solicit, offer, give, accept, or receive any such gratuity or offer of employment in violation of applicable State or Federal Law.

7.2 Prohibition against Contingent Fees

It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure a Town contract upon an agreement or

understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business.

7.3 Recovery of Value Transferred or Received in Breach of Ethical Standards.

The value of anything transferred or received in breach of the ethical standards of this Ordinance by a Town Councilor or a Council Appointee or other person may be recovered from both the Town Councilor or Council Appointee concerned and from the other person concerned.

7.4 Recovery of Kickbacks by the Town

Upon a showing that a subcontractor made a kickback to a prime contractor or a higher tier subcontractor in connection with the award of a subcontract or modification or change order, it shall be conclusively presumed that the amount thereof was included in the price of the subcontract, modification or change order and ultimately borne by the Town and such amount shall be recoverable hereunder from the recipient. In addition, that amount may also be recovered from the subcontractor making such kickbacks. Recovery from one offending party shall not preclude recovery from other offending parties.

7.5 Penalties and Sanctions

- A. In addition to the recoveries provided in Subsections 7.3 and 7.4 above, any violation of Section 7 shall be a civil violation. Upon conviction, any person, firm or corporation found to be in violation of this Section 7 shall be fined not less than three times the value of any improper gift or kickback paid, solicited, or received, or \$500, whichever is greater. The penalties provided in this paragraph shall be in addition to any penalties imposed under State or Federal Law.
- B. Upon conviction of a violation of this Section 7 or upon finding a violation by the Town Council or any Council Appointee following written notice and hearing, the Town Council may impose one or more of the following sanctions on the person, firm, or corporation convicted or found to be in violation:
 - i. written warnings or reprimands
 - ii. termination of contracts
 - iii. debarment or suspension of Town purchasing
- C. Termination of a contract under this Section 7.5 shall also terminate the contractor's right to receive further payment thereunder.

- D. The provisions of this Section 7 shall be provided to all interested bidders or proposers and shall be incorporated by reference as agreed terms in any Town of Hampden construction, procurement, or professional services contract with a base bid in excess of \$10,000. In the case of a professional services contract, the 'base bid price' shall be the expected value of services to be billed during the contract term, or on an annual basis if the contract is of indefinite duration.

Sec 8. Penalties for Town Council or Town Council Appointees.

Any Town Councilor or Council Appointee who violates a provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00 for each offense, which civil penalty shall inure to the benefit of the Town. In addition, violation of this Ordinance shall constitute cause for censure by the Town Council after notice and hearing conducted by that body.

Sec 9. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Sec 10. Repeal of Prior Ordinance

The existing Code of Ethics Ordinance adopted on May 15, 2000 is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Sec 11. Effective Date

Pursuant to Section 213(c) of the Town Charter, the foregoing provisions shall be effective 30 days after the adoption of this Ordinance by the Town Council.

ADOPTED BY TOWN COUNCIL: May 7, 2012
Effective Date: June 6, 2012

Council Ethics and Professionalism

After having reviewed the existing Code of Ethics and the material adopted by the Brewer City Council, I offer the following as a suggested one-page introduction to the existing document. If adopted it might be referred to as the "Ethics Summary" or something like that:

Public service, even at the local level, can be challenging. As elected officials' sphere of influence and relationships with citizens ebbs and flows according to issues and policy topics, it is sometimes challenging for said officials to be even handed and broad minded in the sense of the whole community. This is why government service at all levels is guided by core values and ethical standards.

The Town of Hampden has been guided by a 10 page Code of Ethics that was most recently adopted and made effective (June 6, 2012). Nevertheless, the subject should be revisited frequently. The following is offered as an introduction purposefully brief and simple:

A Simple Three Way Test¹

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it be beneficial for the town?

And, from principles and "habits" as adopted by the Brewer City Council and many others,

The Hampden Councilor

Will not act out of spite, bias or favoritism

Will contribute to a climate of mutual trust and respect

Has the courage of her or his convictions

Never forgets that s/he is working for the people—*all* the people

Will understand and demonstrate the elements of teams and teamwork

Will clearly define roles and relationships

Will establish and abide by a Council-staff partnership

And will allocate Council time and energy appropriately

¹ The complete Rotary Four Way Test is: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?