SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

6:00 P.M.

HAMPDEN TOWN OFFICE

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES 7-8-2013
2. MINUTES 8-12-2013
3. OLD BUSINESS
    A. UPDATE – PARKS
    B. UPDATE – CHILDREN'S DAY
    C. UPDATE - SKEHAN CENTER OPERATION
4. NEW BUSINESS
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS
6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Services Committee
July 8, 2013

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:09p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2013 at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Jean Lawlis.

Attendance:

Councilor Jean Lawlis, Chair
Councilor Janet Hughes
Councilor William Shakespear
Councilor David Ryder
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Terry McAvoy

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from June 6, 2013 were approved without objection

Old Business

Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director gave an update on the state of the recreation department. He indicated that programs for the summer are going well with one exception of the summer teeball program which historically had small numbers to begin with and this year that number was too small to run the program effectively. He added though that programs like track and field had seen enormous growth. A question was asked about the impact of the proposed old HA site purchase from the town as it relates to recreation. It was discussed that there would be an impact to this year's plan but was mentioned by Director Mathies that the recreation department would make changes based on the space available to them. Further discussion followed as to whether the loss of the band room and locker room would have too much of an impact on the current recreation program. Kurt informed them that with the current proposed budget for the Skehan Center that the band room programs was about 30% of the proposed income and that if the roller derby rental was to be eliminated, that wa another 11% of the proposed income. He also admitted though that he had only been informed of the information recently and has not looked at what could be moved into different spaces.

It was reported that the clean up at Papermill Rd Park was well underway and that a new trail has been marked and work begun. The core group of workers have been small but has worked hard and seen results. There have been a few calls inquiring about the work to the recreation department and all comments have been positive.

At Dorothea Dix Park, the clean up there went well and the water project is moving forward. Director Mathies reported that the line for the water fountain had been run and the small slab the fountain will be attached to is set. Talking with the water district, they had planned on installing the fountain with the following week. Water should be running there by July 19.

Update on the youtube project. A message from Town Manager Susan Lessard was relayed by Recreation Director Mathies that the latest town council meeting was uploaded to youtube by Matt Thomas which took a considerable amount of time. Councilor Shakespeare searched youtube and found the file and watched the opening dialog of the meeting. All were pleased with the progress.

There was a re-appointment for James Feverston for the Pool Board of Trustees. Mayor Hughes indicated that Jim was a long time trustee and promptly nominated him for re-appointment. Seconded by William Shakespeare and unanimously accepted to be recommended for approval of the entire council

New Business

A short discussion about senior programming took place. Director Mathies indicated that he had a meeting with the Hampden Seniors in which he explained that the amount of money they would be receiving to hold trips for seniors would be cut back from $2500 to $1500. During the discussion with them, they seemed understanding and also excited about their move over to the Skehan Recreation Center and has talked about running a few events possibly along with the Recreation Department to help increase awareness of their group and help support activities for seniors.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes
Hampden Town Council
Services Committee
August 12, 2013

The meeting of the Hampden Town Council Services Committee was called to order at 6:00p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2013, at the Hampden Municipal Building by Chairperson Jean Lawlis.

Attendance:

Councilor Jean Lawlis, Chair
Councilor Janet Hughes
Joe Rodgers, Hampden Public Safety
Terry McAvoy - Resident
Councilor David Ryder
Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director
Councilor Tom Brann

Approval of Minutes

No minutes to be approved

Old Business

Kurt Mathies, Recreation Director gave an update on the state of programming for the recreation department. He stated that the summer programs were winding down and that programs have been hugely successful. He was asked about the council approving of the purchase of Old Hampden Academy site by Old Hampden Academy LLC and Kurt replied that the recreation department was excited about the approval and look forward to working with them. He added that Children's Day was coming up this weekend and it was his feeling it will be a fantastic event, however, volunteers for the event was down tremendously. Very few people have worked on the event this year.

Update on Papermill Rd Recreation Area – Recreation Director Kurt Mathies informed the committee that work has begun on a new trail loop at the park and that between recreation staff and volunteers the work will continue to approve the park.

Dorothea Dix Park update – Kurt mentioned that the clean ups went really well and that the water will be turned on shortly following a water test by the water district.

Update on Communications – Matt Thomas had an update regarding video streaming and Twitter. He was out on a call so no update was given at that time.

New Business

Ambulance Needs – Public Safety Director Joe Rodgers gave his opinion on whether the ambulance services needed to purchase a new power stretcher for the back up ambulance.

He suggested that it may be more of an immediate need to purchase new up to date defibulator/heart monitors for the ambulances. The cost for a new power stretcher is $15,000 and for a new defibulator/heart monitor is $25,000 each. Chief Rodgers did mention that there may be an opportunity for a grant that could pay for the monitors. Question was asked about how often the second ambulance was used and he stated that it was not very often due to his on call volunteers were few in numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm