

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2012**

PRESENT: SEAN P. MURPHY, CHAIRMAN; RICHARD H. HARTUNG, SELECTMAN; PRISCILLA R. LINDQUIST, SELECTMAN; SALLY THERIAULT, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Selectmen met in non public session at 6:15 with Joe Lessard of Municipal Resources. The public session began at 7:03 pm

Guests: P. Williams, (Tri Town News), C. Hogan (Eagle Tribune), J. Beaudoin, J. Stewart, G. Emerson, H. Williams, R. Davis

Public Announcements

- Winter parking ban is in effect until April 1st. This includes items such as portable basketball hoops left in the roadway.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th in recognition of President's Day
- Waste Oil, fluorescent light bulbs, car batteries and thermostats are collected at the Town Garage on the first and third Saturdays of the month 8 am to 1 pm. Books may be dropped off at anytime.
- Police Department will host an open house on Saturday, March 3rd from 12 pm to 3 pm at the police station. The HFD ladder truck (Quint) will be there along with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Mobile Command Post Trailer and The Bearcat, Rockingham County Sp. Ops Unit armored personnel carrier. Food will be generously donated by Toss & Sauce and J & B Butcher Shop.

Visitors Comment

There were none

Department Heads

Harold Williams, Treasurer – Fund Balance Policy

Mr. Williams presented the draft Fund Balance policy to the Selectmen per GASB 54. He noted that in the policy he defined the classifications, the policy and a fund balance policy. The Selectmen now need to review the policy and set the values that they as a board want to see. He explained that GASB (Government Accounting and Standards Board) over the last 10-12 years has taken the view that in looking at financial statements, they should be apples to apples. He believes that the changes are being driven by the credit market and affects the interest rates that a municipality is eligible for. Mr. Williams recently spoke with the Director of the Bond Bank and asked if they would be looking at fund balance policies to determine a rate. Selectman Hartung stated that he thought that when the bonds are sold they are sold at the state level and at a fixed rate. He noted that there is no policy now and one needs to be in place. He explained that the fund balance is the unrestricted/unassigned balance available when they go to set the tax rate. He explained that the general history for Hampstead is that the Selectmen do not like to keep a surplus at the recommended levels, but would rather return the money to the taxpayers. Selectman Lindquist was concerned with the wording in section F about the percentage that they would keep. Mrs. Harrington noted that the key word was that the Selectmen would "strive" to keep that balance. The Selectmen can tweak the policy and review it annually to see if any changes need to be made.

It was agreed that the Selectmen would review the draft policy and it would be on the agenda under old business on February 27th.

New Business

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing - HMPG grant for Town Office Building Generator, Public hearing FEMA grant.

Pursuant to RSA 31:95 (b) the Hampstead Board of Selectmen will be holding a public hearing on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Office Building, 11 Main Street for the purpose of hearing testimony and to gather information regarding an EMPG/FEMA grant in the amount of \$13,857.00

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:15 pm with the reading of the public notice. The EMPG (Emergency Management Program Grant) is requested in the amount of \$25,214.00. Of this the amount of \$12,607.00 would be the Town's responsibility to pay (50% grant). They are looking to have Hampstead accept that they are applying for the grant, and, if approved, that the money would be found in the budget to pay the Town's 50%. The grant is for a generator for the town office building. Chairman Murphy also noted that the town was in receipt of two grants from FEMA for costs incurred during the October snowstorm in the amounts of \$7,366.91 and \$2,613.00.

The meeting minutes along with the signed paperwork needs to be submitted and it would be forwarded as a complete package to the Governor's Executive Council for them to vote on the grant request.

The public was invited to comment. There was none.

Selectman Lindquist motioned for the Chairman to sign the required paperwork.

Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Telecommunications Tax Supplement and equalization data -

Joe Lessard, Municipal Resources, Inc. explained that he was present to suggest that the Selectmen approve a supplemental assessment of Fairpoint Communications. In the past the telephone companies were exempt from taxation on the poles and conduits they owned, while other utilities had to pay. The exemption lapsed in 2011 and therefore they are taxable for the assessed value of their property. The Town hired a utility appraiser to set the assessments. The assessments were not available when the tax bills went out in November, but are ready to go forward now. The assessed value is around \$1,721,900 which would be about \$38,364 in taxes. There is currently a bill in the State Legislature for 2012 that will exempt them again, but should not affect the ability to bill them now for 2011. Mr. Lessard stated that he was not aware of any payments made to any communities, but is aware of abatements filed by Fairpoint. Mr. Lessard also noted that Fairpoint has asked the PUC to consider a rate increase if they are to pay for these bills. Selectman Hartung noted that was unfair for Fairpoint to pass the cost onto the consumers, but that Fairpoint should be like all the other utilities and pay their fair share.

Old Business

Liaisons Reports

Selectman Lindquist

Cable- Regina Birdsall has requested to be a member of the Cable Committee. The Cable Committee met last week and are in agreement with having Ms. Birdsall becoming a member.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to appoint Regina Birdsall to the Cable Committee with a term to expire in 2015. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Historic Commission- the Commission met last week and had two Boston Post Cane applications. One was for a 93 year old and one for a 95 year old. The Commission would like to set a deadline to receive applications so that they can make their recommendation to the Selectmen. It was agreed that March 1, 2012 would be the deadline for receiving applications.

It is known that there is at least one resident in town older than the 95 year old, but that the family was not interested in having the an application submitted.

RAWD (Recycling and Waste Disposal) - The RAWD committee met last week and would like to recommend that the allowed amounts for curbside trash be reduced. The current allowed amounts are 4 barrels (35 gallon size) or 8 bags (around 30 gallon bags). The recommendation is to reduce it to 3 barrels or 6 bags and the other alternative would be 2 barrels or 4 bags. The Selectmen felt that reducing it in half would be drastic, but asked for input from the public. The purpose of the change would be to increase recycling on a voluntary basis and reduce the tipping fees.

Mr. Davis asked what evidence there was that people put recycling in the trash. Selectman Hartung noted that there are people that don't recycle at all. Mr. Davis asked what size bag, he noted that he uses kitchen bags. He could put a couple of kitchen bags into a 30 gallon green bag. The Board will ask for clarification. This will be put on the agenda later allowing for residents to give their input. The Committee would like to see this implemented July 1st.

Selectman Murphy

There were no updates

Chairman Hartung

CART- Selectman Hartung attended the launching of the new scheduled service offered by CART to Londonderry. Towards the fall, Hampstead should be included in a shuttle. There will still be front door pickup as well.

Selectman Hartung noted that things went well at the deliberative session on Friday evening. Selectman Lindquist stated that she received calls stating that it was one of the best people had attended.

Administrative Assistant Report

Town Report

Over the last couple of weeks Mrs. Theriault has been preparing for the Deliberative Session and compiling the Town Report. The Town Report has been sent to the printing company. She expects that she will get a draft copy back from the printer within a week. It will be available to the public on or before March 6th, which is the deadline as required by law. Selectman Hartung asked if the dedication was all set and was told yes. Selectman Lindquist asked about the cover of the annual report. She stated that the Selectmen had not seen anything yet. Mrs. Theriault explained what she was using and offered to show them.

Re- Appointments/Appointments

Re-appointment Mike Carrier – Joint Loss Management Committee, 3-year term

Selectman Hartung motioned to re appoint Michael Carrier to the Joint Loss Management Committee for a term of three years. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. She did ask if a non resident could be appointed to the committee. She was reminded that the committee was for employees not residents and that non residents could be on it.

The motion passed unanimously.

- Call for candidates :
 - Ordway Park, full members and alternates – monthly meetings
 - Cable Committee volunteers – monthly meetings
 - Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee – monthly meetings
 - Capital Improvements
 - Scenic Byways project

Correspondence

Granite Rose correspondence requesting that the Road Agent consider Garland Drive in road work for 2012. Selectman Hartung noted that the function hall was a nice addition in town and whereas it is the only part people might see of Hampstead, it should have a nice entrance. There are a couple of other businesses there as well as the back entrance to Hampstead Hospital. The letter will be forwarded to the Road Agent and asked for his input.

Visitors Comment

There were no comments.

Future Agenda Item

Energy Committee
Hampstead Senior Committee
Town Administrator

#2

Non Public Session RSA 91A:3 II (c) reputation

Selectman Lindquist motioned to go into non public session under RSA 91A 3:2 (c), reputation at 7:40 pm. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. On a roll call vote; Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes;

Chief Beaudoin was present.

Selectman Lindquist motioned to come out of non public session at 8:15 pm. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. Roll call vote;

Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes;

Selectman Hartung motioned to seal the minutes of the non public session under RSA 91A 3:2 (c) reputation. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#3

Selectman Lindquist motioned to go into non public session under RSA 91A 3:2 (a), employee matters at 8:16 pm. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. On a roll call vote;

Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes;

A resident asked to speak with the Board of Selectmen regarding issues with plowing in Town. The Selectmen agreed to look into the concerns and thanked the resident for bringing it to their attention.

Selectman Hartung motioned to come out of non public session at 8:37 pm. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. Roll call vote;

Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes;

91A 3:2 (a) employee matters. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#4

Selectman Lindquist motioned to go into non public session under RSA 91A 3:2 (e), litigation at 8:37 pm. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. On a roll call vote;

Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes;

The Selectmen reviewed the recommendations from Mr. Lessard of Municipal Resources. The Board agreed that they would like for one of the abatements be renegotiated and if there was agreement with the applicant, they would then approve the other abatements that were negotiated even though it wasn't palatable for them. Mrs. Theriault will contact Mr. Lessard and give the value the Selectmen are looking for.

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Selectman Hartung motioned to come out of non public session at 9:01 pm. Selectman Lindquist seconded the motion. Roll call vote; Selectman Lindquist: yes, Selectman Murphy; yes, Selectman Hartung; yes; *Selectman Lindquist made a motion to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. Selectman Hartung seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

A True Record.

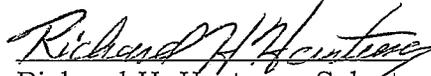


Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

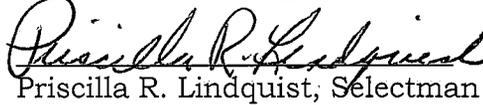
Approved By:



Sean P. Murphy, Chairman



Richard H. Hartung, Selectman



Priscilla R. Lindquist, Selectman