

1. Convene the meeting.

Chairman Lionel Ingram convened the Board at 7:00PM in the Nowak Room on the above date and introduced the other members present: Joseph Pace, William Campbell, Robert Eastman, Paul Binette and Town Manager Russell Dean.

2. Minutes.

Mr. Binette moved to accept the minutes of the Board's March 28, 2005 meeting as submitted; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Bid Openings:

Chairman Ingram opened bids for the following items (copy of bid sheet attached): Asphalt hauler reclaimer, LineLazer IV 5900, Portable Air Compressor, Recreation mower. ***Mr. Campbell moved to turn the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate managers and return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.***

Mr. Pace withdrew from the opening and discussion of the Recreation building roof replacement due to his business conversations with one of the bidders. ***Mr. Campbell moved to turn the bids to the Town Manager and appropriate manager and return with a recommendation; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: 4-0.***

Recreation fencing for sale: The ad reported 525' of 4' fencing, including 2 backstops and associated gates. Director Mike Favreau reported this fencing was dismantled from Gilman Park and the fabric was not recycled. The fence is presently in storage. It is not usable at any of our ball fields and he believes the Town of Hampton (with a bid of \$27.51) was planning to fence in a parking lot. Mr. Dean suggested the Board, if contemplating a re-bid, consider an auction and believes 'gifting' is not on the table. A member of the audience (John Donnell) suggested e-bay.

Mr. Binette moved to reject the two bids received; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. Binette moved the 525' of fencing and associated items be placed on e-bay, through the Town Manager; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Review Composition of Water & Sewer Advisory Committee.

The Committee last met on March 16th and discussed and recommended an increase in the membership from 5 to 7 in order to further public education and work associated with water and sewer issues. To date, the Town has received three applications for appointment and one resignation.

Robert Kelly, Chairman of the Committee, noted with two very close votes for the new water treatment plant, it shows a majority want it but a very large portion of voters have issues with either the size or costs. However, quality of water, safety of personnel and water flows are still an issue.

The Committee is preparing a survey for rate payers to be distributed with quarterly bills. Mr. Eastman suggested the Committee review RSA 38, referring to the assessment on properties rather than water fees, allowing a tax break/write-off at the end of the year. He also suggested establishing a Capital Reserve Fund and transfer funds at the end of each year to save for a plant.

Mr. Pace asked if a water district is being considered. Mr. Kelly stated no but it has been discussed in the past with the former Town Manager. He believes there were legal and administrative issues related to that decision. The recent change may be an impetus to institute that.

Discussion followed concerning additional members and 'new blood', as well as term limits. **Mr. Campbell moved to enlarge the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee from 5 to 7 members on term rotations of 3 year adjusted appointments; second by Mr. Eastman. VOTE: Unanimous.**

5. Authorize expenditures from Ambulance Trust Fund.

The Ambulance Fund Charter requires the Selectmen vote to authorize expenditures out of the Ambulance Trust Fund. The bid was recently approved for a new ambulance and the funds must be released. **Mr. Eastman moved to approve spending the amount of \$145,560 from the Ambulance Fund for the purpose of purchasing a new ambulance for the Fire Department; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous.**

6. Meetings with Board:

Friends of Swasey Parkway Pavilion: Grace Rogers, Parkway Trustee and Chairman of the Parkway Pavilion Committee, was present to update the Board on the fund drive to replace the stage. She noted the final blueprints are due by this weekend and the Committee anticipates many 'in-kind' services to come forward once final blueprints are available for review. She thanked Frank Manter, the sponsor of the recent \$45,000 warrant article, for his support of the pavilion and noted the defeat of the article has not deterred the group. To date, \$28,800 has been raised in funding, not including in-kind services. Donations of services include: Rob Corson (JSA Architects) for design; Frank Manter, electrical design; Bell & Flynn, site work; Bob Swasey, sponsoring part of the roof and Larry Pond, electrician. (Time line of actions attached).

Ms. Rogers noted the Committee still meets every 3 weeks and SST representatives recently came and hope to include the Pavilion as their 2006 school year project, which includes free labor. The Committee's schedule continues with the 'Wet Art Auction' on May 21st, noting postcards will be left at various locations in town to advertise the event. They are still looking for volunteer "auctioneers". Mr. Pace noted he will check his schedule but would like to volunteer, as did Mr. Dean. It is estimated another \$40,000 is needed to complete the project.

As a side note, Ms. Rogers stated the Parkway roadway will be closed Wednesday, April 13th from 8AM to 3PM for the Phillips Exeter Academy 'clean-up day'.

7. Board Discussion:

Town Warrant Petition Articles: #49: Mr. Dean has met with Sam Bruno (our Cable guru), who hires people to tape and broadcast the meetings for both town and school. Mr. Bruno, Mr. Pace and

the Town Manager, along with a new-comer, Jay Childs, have agreed to form a working group to study the recommendations of the warrant article and return with acceptable suggestions. Mr. Dean noted we are attempting to contact the petitioner. The consensus of the Board is the petition serves as ‘advisory’ vs. ‘binding’.

Mr. Binette moved to refer the matter to the Cable Committee to review the warrant article for advice to the Board of Selectmen on how to proceed; second by Mr. Campbell. VOTE: Unanimous.

In a related matter, the matter of televising more Boards and Committee meetings was discussed with Mr. Dean and Mr. Bruno. At the present time, Mr. Bruno could provide staffing for one additional Tuesday per month.

#44: Mr. Dean noted a recent change in State legislation calls for municipalities conducting annual evaluation adjustments to property to contact residents via mailing or report in local media. He is reviewing how the State law mirrors the request of Mr. Bailey’s petition article, along with the proposed costs to carry this out, and he will report to the Board.

Mr. Eastman noted #47 (“...reaffirming unconditional support of the U.S. Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution..”) was passed and the Board should decide how to handle this, i.e. is a letter needed to a Congressman? Mr. Pace stated he spoke with Mr. Moyer (petitioner) and Mr. Moyer stated the vote of the Town was sufficient and no other form of communication was necessary, but Mr. Pace suggested Mr. Dean contact him for finality.

8. Permits:

- Richie McFarland requested a banner across Water Street from 6/3 – 13 to advertise their 6/11 event;
- Seacoast Criterion, through Maureen Barrows, requested a banner from 6/17-28 for their 6/28 bike race;
- Seacoast Criterion requested permission for their annual bike race on 6/28 from 4-8PM. The route has been approved by the Chief.
- “Mud in Your Eye” requested a banner from 9/30 through 10/10/05 to advertise their annual event.
- “Girls in Action”, junior league of the GFWC Women’s Club requested permission for a candlelight vigil on April 14th from 6-7:30PM. The route has been approved.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the permits as presented; second by Mr. Pace. VOTED: Unanimous.

9. Town Manager’s Report:

- The Board will meet next Monday, April 18th at 7PM with the Hampton Selectmen to discuss District Court issues.
- He has been in contact with the Open Space Committee Chairman to explore the ‘right of first refusal’ to subsequent owners of conservation easement land.
- He is in the process of discussions regarding the 2 Epping Road properties (1 to buy; 1 to sell).

Mr. Eastman noted Mr. Brabant was before the Board on February 28th for banking issues and the bond. He was to return to the Board with recommendations. Status?

Mr. Binette asked the status of Hope Godino's (Library Director) request for signage in the Town's rights-of-way on poles. Mr. Olson was to check with Unitil. Mr. Dean will follow up on the request and status of signs on poles.

10. Selectmen's Committee reports:

- Mr. Eastman: None.
- Mr. Binette: Park Advisory meets this Tuesday. He noted they have a tough time meeting a quorum so if the Board requested these meetings to be televised it would be hard to schedule.
- Mr. Campbell: EDC meeting tomorrow morning; Conservation meets in the evening and W/S Advisory meetings Wednesday.
- Mr. Pace: Wednesday the Arts Committee met and they have concerns over the Town Hall's use, which he will be discussing with the Town Manager. The News-Letter conducted a panel discussion last week on how they are doing in the community. They heard many criticisms as well as praise and they hope to generate more of this in the paper.
- Mr. Ingram: River Committee meets Thursday, April 21st with State representatives to be present, along with Rock. Planning Commission and their proposed project and D.E.S. regarding dam operations.

11. Public Comments:

John Donnell, 25 High Street, dropped off letters to the Board, Town Manager, Health Department and Code Enforcement this morning and presented copies to the Board this evening regarding the health and safety at properties on High Street – namely 11, 13-15 and 17 High Street. Several have been unoccupied for many years and represent both safety and fire hazards to the properties and abutters. There are 5 unregistered vehicles at 13-15 and some are dripping oil. There is junk in the back yard, including a refrigerator (with doors on) and other appliances. The property cannot, by law, be occupied.

Mr. Ingram noted the Fire Chief and Building Inspector should report to the Town Manager their findings to see where, by law, the Town could go with improving these parcels. Mr. Donnell stated the various Departments are aware of the situation but have requested support of the Board.

Mr. Dean noted State law allows some action and he is seeking the particulars. Mr. Binette reminded the Board of problems with the owner over the past two years and agreements were made. The Board could have taken action then. Mr. Dean has spoken briefly with the Building Inspector, Doug Eastman, but more details are required. He will report back to the Board.

Mr. Campbell moved to adjourn; second by Mr. Pace. VOTE: Unanimous. Time: 8:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Blenk, AA/HR Dir.

Attachments.