

**Town of Hampstead
Board of Selectmen
MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2024**

Members Present: Selectman Eaton, Selectman Guthrie, Selectman Morse, Selectman Warnock, and Selectman Worthen.

Public Announcements:

- Waste Oil and other items are collected at the DPW garage on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 8 am to 1pm
- The public was asked to silence their cellphones during the meeting.
- The polls will be open tomorrow, Tuesday, March 12th from 8 am to 8 pm at the Middle School
- Toiletries are being accepted for Waypoint, a homeless shelter for children ages 14 to 24. There is a receptacle in the front foyer of the Town Office building and one at the Library.

Visitor's Comments:

Howie Steadman, Timberlane Road

Mr. Steadman introduced himself to the viewing audience. He was present tonight to thank the Board of Selectmen for the dedication of the 2023 Town Report to him. He noted that he was truly humbled by this selection and for joining other notables of the past such as Pat Bracken, Priscilla Lindquist, Maurie Randall, Harold Williams, Bob Nugent, and John Sedensky, and most recently retiring Police Chief Joe Beaudoin. He noted that these people were especially deserving due to the contributions to our town. He stated that around town, he does what he does as a way of giving back to the town that has been his home for the past 40 years, and where his 5 kids have grown up. The town has been very good to him and his family, and what he does is his way to repay and give back what was given to him.

He also noted that Hampstead is the best small town in New Hampshire, especially for what it offers for our kids and our seniors. He reported that his two daughters who moved out of Hampstead after they were married have both returned to raise their kids knowing what the town meant to them growing up.

He ended by urging everyone to get out there and get involved in our community, and let's keep Hampstead a great place to live.

Department Heads

DPW- J. Lavacchia, Director

J. Lavacchia asked the Board of Selectmen to approve using the amount of \$4,950.00 from the remaining ARPA funds. He explained that the Ford F550 that was purchased in 2022 has had some issues with the PTO unit and the hydraulic pump. He reported that in his research regarding the issues with the F550s he discovered that the design for the PTO was thought to have been a good idea, but with a 10-speed transmission, it was discovered that the design may not have been the best route. The engine mount clutch can be converted and that is the cost for \$4,950.00. The current PTO will be bought back by the vendor doing the new work, which reduced the cost of the work to \$4,950.00.

L. Eaton made a motion to approve the use of the funds in the amount of \$4,950.00 for the work needed on the truck to convert it as described. The motion was seconded by M. Worthen. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

2024 RFP for Paving-The Selectmen were previously sent the copy of the RFP for the 2024 paving. J. Lavacchia explained that the previous highway agent did a good job reclaiming, but

some roads were left with just a base coat for at least 2 years now. The preliminary numbers for the 2024 budget came in at \$325,000 but looks like it would be closer to \$328,000. He is proposing to do some pavement maintenance on Blueberry Circle and expects that to be about \$68,500 which will leave him some money at year end.

The liquid asphalt price should be set in March. He estimated the cost of that along with traffic control cost, joints etc. for the paving. He would like to send out the RFP tomorrow with a return date of the first meeting in April. He is going to do Blueberry along with some work on Clough Lane and Holiday Lane (which are all part of the RSMS study). If he takes care of the maintenance, it could give him 10-15 years on the road. He noted that he would like to use a rubber seal on West Road to protect it, but it would cost about \$100,000. If the State of NH gives more highway funding, he may look at these 85 feet of road.

J. Guthrie asked that Mr. Lavacchia come back to the Selectmen and talk to them about West Road and asked if there was an alternative to save it for more time. J. Lavacchia responded that he would. M. Worthen asked Mr. Lavacchia if he was giving himself enough time for the RFP and he responded that he did. If it goes out on 3/12/24 it will be due back 4/8/24. Most of the vendors are working on proposals this time of year and already know the costs.

New Business

7:15 PM, Public Hearing- Recycling and Waste Disposal Fee Increases

The public hearing was opened by Chairperson Warnock at 7:15p.m.

S. Morse explained the purpose of the public hearing is to increase a couple of the fees at the transfer station. This helps recoup some of the increases they see in the new contract. The committee is looking to increase the cost of the sticker to get into the transfer station from \$25 to \$35 along with an increase in tires and televisions. The tires will go to \$5.00 from \$4.00 and the electronics will go from \$25 to \$35. There were no public questions.

S. Morse made the motion to set the increases as listed effective March 12, 2024. The motion was seconded by L. Eaton. The motion passed 5-0-0.

The public hearing was closed at 7:17 pm on a motion from S. Morse with a second by M. Worthen. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

CART Update

M. Worthen reported that there was a resident that had an issue with the CART transportation going up their driveway. He noted that Laura Jones reached out to CART, and it turns out that CART came out and did a site assessment and determined that it wasn't safe for them to drive up Brooklyn Way whereas they would have to back down the hill. They suggested that the resident meet the bus at Heather Lane where it meets Brooklyn Way. The resident couldn't walk down the hill so that wasn't an option. It has been learned that the resident is now in the hospital so that transportation isn't an issue anymore. He wanted the other members of the Board to know that CART will come out and do an assessment and if approved, they would ask for a hold harmless to be approved. It won't help in this situation but it is good to know. L. Warnock noted that she was sorry the resident couldn't avail themselves of the services. She also suggested that someone from CART come in and give an update to the Selectmen.

Hampstead Hospital Update-

L. Warnock noted that there was a meeting today in Concord and they discussed the issues that are ongoing at the Hampstead Hospital. She noted that there was a presentation by the new director from HCA and he has experience working with mental health and behavioral issues and he has been on the job about 6 weeks. She noted that they have created a psychological emergency response team (PERT) that will be internally active and Safety Ambassadors. It will

provide additional safety in the units. The people on the team will be assigned a unit and will be familiar with the unit and residents.

In the last 6 weeks there have been 15 calls to the facility that have been for both police and fire. There are still periods of escalation and L. Warnock noted that some of it may be that the new policies or plans haven't been completely kicked in. The State of NH has now owned the facility for two years. Wellpath has the current contract for providing services there until 4/1/24. DHHS has put it out for bid and there should be an awarding of the contract sometime in May.

Both L. Warnock and Police Chief Kelley attended the meeting, and one concern is that last year there was a new company, so there was a learning curve. The facility is not at capacity and there was concern about the number of calls and the tying up of resources. Sen. Birdsall is working on the payment to the Town for the lost tax revenue, but that doesn't cover the additional costs of responding to the hospital. There have always been calls to the facility, but with the population of residents, the calls go through periods of increasing, which ties up our resources for calls to the rest of the residents. She noted that both Fire Chief Carrier and Police Chief Kelley are looking to having to add additional staffing to respond to the calls. She explained that the average EMS call is 15-20 minutes. The calls at Hampstead Hospital are running 28 to 30 minutes or longer, again tying up resources.

There has also been a change in the design of the new Youth Detention Center. They are looking to move the facility up the hill more. Based on the most recent design changes, it looks like the opening date would be July of 2026. R. Weimar is still working with the steering committee and the State of NH has stated that although they aren't required to, they will reach out to the Planning Board.

L. Warnock also noted that internal security won't be a significant issue for our community. They are looking to have an area with two sections to hold 5 or 4 residents depending on which. There will also be an isolation area that will hold 3 residents and temporary housing for residents up to 3. She reported that the Windham Police Chief recently reported that based on the new design, the facility is already too small, but that they can only build to the size they could with the funds that were allocated.

J. Forbes reported about being at the meeting today and noted that she had concerns with drones being able to drop things to the residents at the facility. L. Warnock responded that those concerns should be reflected in the new design.

L. Warnock went on to state that the facility is a done deal and is being built with the funds they have available. L. Warnock stated that it is not her job to be concerned with their staffing issues, but it is her concern when their staffing issues impact the community or neighbors. In the last 6 weeks there have been 3 interlopers, so the facility needs to find the weak spots and address them. She also stated that they will be watching the contract process closely and keep changes closely monitored. She noted that again, they have always served the facility, but what is new is the volume and time involved on the calls. S. Morse asked if they would have correctional officers on site when the Youth Detention Center (YDC) is open. He also noted that there are now employees internally that are starting to speak out about issues there. A question was asked if the new contractor will continue to hire state employees, but the company may also have their own employees. L. Warnock responded that when WellPath took over running the facility, they kept on the employees there and State of NH employees. It was noted that they are currently down about 24 employees at the facility, and they are trying to fill the open positions as fast as they can and yes with State of NH union employees. She emphasized that they are talking explicitly about the burden on the services. The NH State Police are not able to respond quickly, and sometimes arrive at the end of the call. There is an effective communication channel with

DHHS which also helps. She also said WMUR was there recently, so there may be more information on the TV about the facility.

J. Forbes- East Road

She asked to speak directly about security issues. She stated that the CEO can't predict what violence there will be and their ability to handle it. If it unravels, they will need Hampstead to assist. It was stated that some of the uptick in calls could be attributed to new residents at the facility that aren't in the program yet.

J. Forbes went on to state that being short of 24 staff members is a national issue in correctional work. She went on to speak about her concern with the ability of drones to be able to reach the residents of the facility and drop drugs or whatever to them. She noted her concern where she is so close to the facility that items could be dropped in her woods and there would be the chance of her dog finding something that could harm him. There are also commercial areas around the facility where someone could drive up and fly a drone over to drop things. She did note that the new design is in the most prominent place at the top of the driveway, that will now be more visible to everyone. This will have an impact on property values in the area and it was suggested that it could be as much as a 10% reduction. L. Warnock responded and said that only the exercise yard would be visible. J. Forbes stated that from May to October the building wouldn't be visible because of the trees, but it would be the rest of the year. She also noted that they underestimated the cost of the building, and the design is to meet the funding, instead of designing what is needed. There are still a lot of issues on the site such as stormwater and she doesn't believe an engineer has looked at it.

L. Warnock thanked her for the information and concerns and stated that she would bring those concerns forward. J. Forbes stated that when she spoke with Bob Weimar at the Meet and Greet held at the library, he stated that he hadn't been contacted by anyone from the State of NH.

Old Business

Recreation Commission- Dredge and Fill for the Town Beach

M. Denton, a member of the Recreation Commission stated that she has been working with Jim Lavacchia and contacted the State of NH to discuss the issue with the runoff and the sanding running into the lake. There are areas of a small impact that they are going to go forward and apply for a permit for. It is estimated that the cost would be about \$1,140.00. M. Denton stated that the Recreation Commission does not have the funds for this work and is asking for the funds to come from the DPW budget or the Buildings/Grounds budget. In the past, the commission replenished the sand, not a dredge and fill. It is expected that this is a one-time thing. S. Morse didn't want to use ARPA funds and noted that last year the beach utilities line was overspent. He suggested that it be taken from that line. It was also noted that there is other work that needs to be done at the beach. They need to fix the erosion that is coming down the road over the pavement for the boat launch to the lake. It was suggested that fixing the erosion would be a CIP item that could be brought to the committee. The dredging can't be done until the water is lowered so that it would be done in the fall. It was suggested this may be the time to do the erosion work. If they do the dredge and fill and not the erosion issue, there will still be sand running into the water.

J. Guthrie motioned to take the funds for the \$1140.00 from the town beach utility line and overspend it. The motion was seconded by S. Morse. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

H. Steadman spoke as a member of the Sunset Lake Association. He stated that the water runs down the ramp and forms a gully. He noted that when the beach is open, people will fall into the gully. He also noted that there are areas where rocks are coming through. He feels that these are safety issues. S. Morse suggested that they do as much work as possible and then dredge in

November. There may not be money in the budget, but it is work that needs to be done. Lavacchia said that there is a lot of water that runs off the hill and that water needs to be directed. He will work with the State of NH and will need time to address both issues but work it around the other lake road areas.

Liaison Reports

J. Guthrie

There was to be a meeting with Kate Thomas, Natalie Gallo, Jim Lavacchia and himself regarding the well water issue with the library. He wasn't able to make the meeting and asked J. Lavacchia if there was any progress. J. Lavacchia said that K. Thomas was reaching out to the property owner of the back lots to get the proper invoice. J. Lavacchia noted that the library was concerned that Mr. Barnes would just shut off the water, but J. Lavacchia told them he could not just shut it off. The well is a community well and must follow the standards of DES. It is still a work in progress and not an immediate issue right now. There is still no knowledge of what Mr. Barnes over all plans are with the well.

L. Eaton

The Master Plan committee met, and the focus was on communication. The library calendar for the community got going and it takes about ½ hour a week to update it. He also stated that he was recently talking with A. Davis and there was a suggestion about having a television in the lobby that scrolls through giving information instead of having all the bulletin boards around. The other Selectmen like the idea and J. Guthrie noted that he would talk to cable about one, and L. Warnock said she would contact the Communications Committee about being able to update the bulletin board.

The Planning Board met and approved an ADU and a one lot subdivision off Liberty Lane. The owner of the property is on Wash Pond and would need access from the cul de sac at Liberty Lane. This would then need to be dedicated to the town and changed to a hammerhead design.

B. Weimar submitted a letter regarding the two-house bills 1291 and 1399, with a written letter with some changes from Warnock and approval from the Planning Board before it went out. The workshop for March 18th is canceled due to the chair being unavailable and two new members coming on board. Tomorrow is election day and he wished good luck to all that were running. He also announced that there was a Fireside Chat explaining the CIP article.

L. Warnock

The Water Resource Committee met, and they are hosting a water testing week which will be April 8-12th. Kits can be picked up at the town office Monday through Thursday and returned to the town office before noon on Friday. The cost is discounted, and it is the responsibility of the resident to pay. Granite State Analytical is again doing the program. It is open to residents and nonresidents. There is a kickoff presentation at the library on Saturday, April 6th at 1:30 pm. The kits will be available there too.

On Wednesday there will be a swearing-in ceremony for the new Police Chief and Deputy Chief. There will also be some other department awards given out.

A member of the Communication Committee has been doing some research on what other towns have available and getting samples. Some towns have signs that they put out around town announcing things such as election day. The signs are like election signs. They would be reusable.

This will get information out around town, not just the Main Street area. She also will schedule a meeting of the committee to look at things such as having the meeting on You Tube channel. She then noted that she will not be at the next meeting.

S. Morse

At the previous meeting it was noted that the scouts were looking to hold a fundraiser at the transfer station while it was open. At that meeting the Selectmen wanted more information about the "eagle scout" fundraiser. It is for the cub scouts to go on field trips.

S. Morse motion to allow the scouts to hold a fundraiser in May at the transfer station. The motion was seconded by L. Eaton. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

M. Worthen

The Fire Chief will be coming forward within one of the next few meetings to discuss the ambulance contract.

Administrator Assistant's Report

The Town of Kingston was looking to do the town bounds and wanted to know if Hampstead had a member of the board that would be willing to meet with them. T. Harrington pointed out that some of the lines are a tri town line with Danville and Plaistow, so the possibility exists of doing more than one town. L. Eaton stated that he would be interested in doing it but also suggested that the Conservation Commission be asked if anyone was interested as well.

S. Morse motioned to appoint Lewis Eaton as the perambulator for the Town of Hampstead. The motion was seconded by M. Worthen. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

Minutes

S. Morse motioned to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by L. Eaton. The motion passed 4-0-1.

L. Eaton motioned to approve the minutes of February 12th, 2024. The motion was seconded by S. Morse. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Appointments

The list of open positions was read. T. Harrington announced that she is in the process of sending out notices to the members of boards and committees that are due for reappointment in 2024. Once the responses come in, the appointment paperwork will be brought to the board of approvals.

Correspondence

There were none

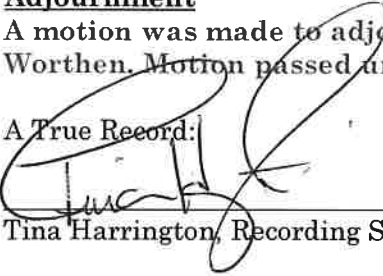
Visitor's Comments

There will be a rabies clinic at the DPW garage on March 23rd from 9 am to noon.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm by S. Morse and a second by M. Worthen. Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

A True Record:


Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:

BOS Meeting Minutes

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Selectman Guthrie:



Selectman Morse:



Selectman Warnock:



Selectman Worthen:

