

**Town of Hampstead
Board of Selectmen
MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 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.

Visitor's Comments:

Senator Regina Birdsall- She noted that she represented District 19, which covers Hampstead, Windham and Derry.

She reported to the Selectmen that she was a sponsor of Senate Bill 311 (SB311) which addresses a Pilot Program with the State of NH. They have allocated \$154k in the budget and there was an additional \$37,166 recently allocated to bring the total to \$191,366. This will be released in the 2024-2025 appropriation (after 7/1/24). SB311 unanimously in finance. It goes before the full session then to the House. L. Warnock noted to J. Guthrie that it is up to him and the other State Representatives to carry this through. J. Guthrie responded that he would look for the bill. Sen. Birdsall also noted that the Senate has not had as many bills in the past as they do this year for Health and Human Services. There are currently 45 bills and they each will take time to go through. L. Warnock noted that concern that the fire department was responding to calls at the Hampstead Hospital and there were no credentialed employees to meet them and bring them to the patient and finding that the other patients are not secure. It was noted that a new director has started and that the contract with the agency providing the services is up on April 1st. The proposal for services has gone out and Senator Birdsall asked if the committee (the one with Hampstead/Atkinson representatives on it), be part of the review of the bids and the answer was no due to the nature of information that is not public. However, she is going to ask if she could be part of the process. Senator Birdsall also noted that she is trying to get the payment to the town into the budget and have an increase allowance built into it.

Senator Birdsall also announced that she had a resolution for the town in honor of its 275th Anniversary. She then read the resolution. The resolution will be given to the 275th Committee at their next meeting and then kept at the museum.

Department Heads

Conservation Commission -Tim Lovell, Chair

T. Lovell noted that Article 12 on the 2024 warrant has some parcels of land that the conservation commission was looking to deed from the town to the commission. One of the properties known as map 10 lot 8 abuts the Kent Farm Transfer Station. There was a request made to them to put this parcel on hold. He noted that the conservation commission met last week and voted to allow this parcel to be removed from the article. They also noted that they feel this is not a suitable place to potentially move the DPW department to, that it wasn't the best land for it. S. Morse thanked them

for considering the request and if it is determined that the land can't be used, then they will let them know so they can move ahead with their plan.

Budget Committee- B. Weimar, Chair

B. Weimar stated that the budget committee finalized their report on the budget at their last meeting and they voted to make it available. There are some minor adjustments he must make after final review from the departments but wanted to get the process started on how to make it available to the public. B. Weimar also noted that the recommendations of the committee were also completed and submitted to S. Theriault, and that they recommended all items that they were allowed to vote on. J. Guthrie asked why he hadn't been given the report. L. Warnock responded that she received it on Friday and made some quick edits and returned it to B. Weimar. She will make sure that the other members have it before it goes out to the public. B. Weimar also noted that the Budget Committee isn't able to take a stand on the petition article looking to move to a municipal budget committee but that he would like to have information on the website that explains the difference between the two types of committees. L. Warnock said that there is a power point presentation done by the NH Municipal Association that she will send out that explains the differences.

Police Department- Chief Beaudoin

Chief Beaudoin announced that he will be stepping down after 54 years with 24 of them as the Chief on 2/12/24. At that point the Selectmen need to appoint the next Chief. L. Warnock responded that they have Deputy Chief Kelley in line to be appointed at that time. Chief Beaudoin stated that he will submit his letter of resignation and that there is a tentative open house scheduled on 2/15 for a goodbye/hello time.

New Business

2024 Warrant Articles

The Selectmen need to move the draft warrant articles to the warrant and to vote on their recommendations. L. Warnock read the Warrant regarding the first session and the second session.

Article 1- To choose all necessary town offices-

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Article 2- Planning Board article regarding Flood Damage Prevention

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 3- Planning Board article on deleting multiple unit and elderly and combining into one section

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Article 4- Town operating budget at \$10,274,080.00 and the default at \$10,004,478.00

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 5- Union Agreement with NEPBA Local 37 first year costs \$80,902.00

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Article 6- Authorization to hold a special meeting if Article 5 is defeated.

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend M. Worthen Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 7- To raise \$10,000 for the Buildings Repair and Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund

Motion to move forward M. Worthen Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Article 8- To raise the sum of \$6,000 for the Vic Geary Center

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Article 9- To raise the sum of \$8,657.00 for SoRock NH.

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 10- To raise the sum of \$5,000 for Isaiah 58

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 4-1-0

Article 11- To raise the sum of \$1,200 for Waypoint

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend M. Worthen Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 12- To withdraw map 10 lot 8, but move the rest of the parcels to be deeded to Conservation:

Map 2, lot 59, Map 10, lot 1, Map 13, lot 87, Map 13, lot 118, Map 6 lot 27 and Map 19 lot 40

Motion to move forward as amended L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 13- Raise the sum of \$12,000 for the Library Building Maintenance NCRF.

Motion to move forward M. Worthen Second: J. Guthrie Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 14- To change the purpose of the Building Capital Improvement CRF created in 2022.

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend M. Worthen Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Article 15- To create a new Capital Improvement Fund, if article 14 fails and raise the sum of \$1.00

Motion to move forward L. Eaton Second: S. Morse Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Article 16- To modify the Elderly Exemptions qualification for income, assets, and limits,

Motion to move forward J. Guthrie Second: S. Morse Vote: 4-0-1

Motion to recommend L. Eaton Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Article 17- To modify the exemption for the disable and/or blind qualifications for assets.

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: L. Eaton Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend S. Morse Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Article 18- By Petition: To discontinue a portion of Whitcher Road near Map 12 lot 119.

Motion to move forward S. Morse Second: M. Worthen Vote: 5-0-0

Motion to recommend No recommendation taken due to lack of information

Article 19: By Petition: To create a Municipal Budget Committee

Motion to move forward J. Guthrie Second: M. Worthen Vote: 4-1-0

J. Guthrie motioned to not recommend Article 19 was made and then withdrawn

Motion to recommend M. Worthen Second: S. Morse Vote: 0-5-0

Old Business

There was no old business

Liaison Reports

J. Guthrie- He noted that he was also at the "Meet and Greet" and that it was nice to see an Ordway Park table set up and he would like to see volunteers so that they could be active and work with the DPW department to protect and maintain the park. He also announced that the library trustees will be meeting tomorrow 1/23 at 2 pm at the library.

L. Eaton- There was a Planning Board workshop cancelled on 1/16. The next Planning Board meeting will be on 2/5/24 at 7:00 pm. The Master Plan Committee will be meeting on 1/29/24 at 7:00 pm and the CIP committee is meeting on 1/25 at 5:00 pm at the Fire Station.

L. Warnock- The Water Resource Committee is selling rain barrels and the information is on the website under the Water Resource Committee's page.

The Communications Committee has new members so L. Warnock will look into getting a meeting set up to work on the voters' guide. She also reported that she was at the "Meet and Greet" held at the library on Saturday and that she and Joe Guthrie had a lot of new people stop by. She also thanked Beantown for providing the refreshments that day.

S. Morse- He noted that Proc Wentworth has submitted his resignation from the Recycling and Waste Disposal Committee. He thanked him for his years of service to the committee and noted that this will create an opening for the committee.

M. Worthen- He had no update

Administrator Assistant's Report

Legal at deliberative

The Selectmen were asked if they wanted legal representation at the Deliberative Session. They agreed that they thought it was a good idea to have one present.

MS-636 budget and MS – default

The necessary forms have been completed, which need to be posted along with the Warrant. The Department of Revenue Administration requires these signed forms. The signed documents will be posted at the Middle School (place of voting), the library and the East Hampstead Post Office, along with the website.

Agreement to occupy dwelling.

An agreement has been drafted and viewed by the Town Counsel between the Town and a private Ambulance Contractor (Pridestar). The agreement extends for a period of up to three years. It was noted that the Selectmen need to sign the agreement. They all signed the agreement during the meeting.

Inside dedication

The Selectmen were asked if they have any recommendations concerning the dedication of the Town Report for 2023. They have time to think about it. S. Theriault also reported that most of the boards/committees/departments have been getting their reports in to her for the Annual Report.

ARPA

The updated information on the spending on the ARPA funds was presented to the Selectmen. There is about \$28k currently not appropriated. It was suggested to confirm with the departments if they are done with their projects or if they are not moving forward with them so that they know where the funds stand. All funds need to be appropriated by the end of 2024. The balance can be appropriated under "lost revenue".

Appointments

There was a request from Donna Capern to be appointed to the Communications Committee.

A motion was made by S. Morse and seconded by L. Eaton to appoint Donna Capern to the Energy Committee. The motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.

There was also a request from Lauren Muise to be on the Ethics Commission and the Stormwater Commission. She noted in her request that she has experience that she felt would help in the Ethics Commission, but none in stormwater, but can see that there are issues around town. T. Harrington pointed out that you can't serve on the Ethics Commission if on another board so L. Muise will be asked if she has a preference she wanted to join.

L. Warnock thanked Selectman Worthen for the idea of putting out the open committees on the new Facebook page.

Correspondence

There was none

Visitor's Comments

Al Davis-Rockingham Planning Commission- He noted that the RPC started a conversation last year about ways to get young people involved and to communicate with them. L. Warnock stated that she recently saw an article on a Civics Group that is looking to get involved in communities. There is also an organization in the State of NH called "Stay, Work, Play" as a way to engage young professionals to stay in the area. A. Davis stated that RPC will continue talking about this issue and see what the Seacoast area is doing. He noted that he would keep the Selectmen updated with what RPC discovers.

Non-Public Session #1

A motion was made to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A-3: II (c) reputation at 8:07 pm by S. Morse and a second by L. Eaton. Roll Call vote:

L. Eaton: Yes; J. Guthrie: Yes; S. Morse: Yes; L. Warnock: Yes, M. Worthen: Yes.

A motion was made to come out of nonpublic session under RSA 91-A3: II (c) at 8:43 pm

L. Eaton: Yes; J. Guthrie: Yes; S. Morse: Yes; L. Warnock: Yes, M. Worthen: Yes.

The minutes were sealed on a motion from L. Warnock and a second by L. Eaton

The motion to seal passed unanimously.

Non-Public Session #2

A motion was made to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A-3: II (a) employee matters at 8:44 pm by M. Worthen and a second by J. Guthrie. Roll Call vote:

L. Eaton: Yes; J. Guthrie: Yes; S. Morse: Yes; L. Warnock: Yes, M. Worthen: Yes.

A motion was made by S. Morse and seconded by L. Eaton made to come out of nonpublic session under RSA 91-A3: II (a) at 9:24 pm

L. Eaton: Yes; J. Guthrie: Yes; S. Morse: Yes; L. Warnock: Yes, M. Worthen: Yes.

The minutes were not sealed

Non-Public Session #3

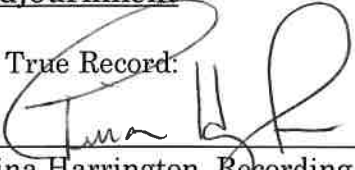
A motion was made to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A-3: II (e) litigation at 9:25 pm by S. Morse and a second by L. Eaton. Roll Call vote:

L. Eaton: Yes; J. Guthrie: Yes; S. Morse: Yes; L. Warnock: Yes, M. Worthen: Yes.

The Administrative Assistant and the recording secretary were both dismissed for the evening. They left at 9:26 pm.

Adjournment

A True Record:



Tina Harrington, Recording Secretary

Approved By:

Selectman Eaton:

Selectman Guthrie:

Selectman Morse:

Selectman Warnock:

Selectman Worthen:









