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**Roll Call:** Richard P. McDermott, Chairman; Larry M. Smith, Vice-Chairman; Maryann Kasprzak, Selectwoman; Lori A. Ruest, Town Administrator; Susan Ayer, Secretary

**Call to Order:** 6:30 PM

- **OLD BUSINESS**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS – GENERAL FUND BALANCE: \$426,621**

**Comcast**

Jay Somers, a representative of Comcast, introduced himself and an associate, Jessie Callinan.

L. Ruest outlined some input the Town has received from residents that have had problems with internet services provided by Comcast that they could not resolve directly with the company.

Mr. Somers and Mr. Callinan presented information about the company, changing levels of router and modem technology, and reasons for various issues with connection or service. He said that he is aware there is some frustration with problems, but Comcast is committed to fixing them. The company is opening a new call center, and 90% of calls are handled locally; they are trying to get away from using the 3<sup>rd</sup> party call centers which are currently used for overflow. Responding to questions from the Board and the public, Mr. Somers and Mr. Callinan shared the following information:

- “Tiling” on the picture of a television is most likely due to problems with the wiring, and a new line to the home may be required.
- Problems with the wiring can occur because of age, water damage, or animal damage, among other things.
- The farther a building is from the road, the more likely there will be issues with cable and internet service.
- Boosters are available and sometimes will be needed for houses farther from the road.
- Internet speed concerns can be due to older routers or other outdated equipment
- Information and updates are provided in the paper billing, but for those who pay online, the same information can be found on the Comcast website.

Residents and Selectmen spoke of several bad experiences with trying to resolve problems, specifically:

- A routine change of email address from a business account to a home account took over 10 hours of phone calls.
- The first contact reached when calling the service desk is sales related, and it takes several transfers before reaching someone who can address a service problem.
- When picking up a replacement modem, a customer may be given a reconditioned one rather than new. One resident reported that he replaced the modem several times, and none would work properly.

Mr. Somers listened to the concerns and offered to be available to help when residents have exhausted the normal service avenues.

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**Comcast Cable Television Contract Renewal**

L. Ruest informed the Board that a letter has been received from Comcast about renewing the Town's contract with them for cable television service. After a brief discussion, it was noted that this is an early outreach letter, as the contract is not yet nearing its end. Authority was given to the Administrator to explore options.

**County Budget**

Kevin St. James, the Rockingham County Commissioner, introduced himself and addressed the Board on specifics of the County's Budget Proposal. During the discussion, Mr. St. James pointed out changes and improvements in budget areas, and identified several items of interest to the Town:

- All County employees will receive a 2% cost of living raise, but there will be no increase in staffing.
- The largest line item is long term care. The County runs a 300 + bed nursing home, but beyond that, any resident on Medicare is entitled to nursing home care at the County's expense
- The cost of housing prisoners at the County Jail is \$100 per day. Sending a prisoner out of the County saves roughly half of the expense, and the County has been transferring female prisoners.
- A cell block was able to be closed 3 months ago, and is undergoing renovations. If current levels of occupancy continue (going from overcrowding not too long ago), it will be possible to shift prisoners and update one building at a time.
- Inmates are still available to come to Towns and do work, either individually or in a work crew. One problem is that the van used for the purpose is broken, so the Town would need to transport the inmate or crew, and supervise them. Once the County has a van again, the crews would be transported and supervised by a corrections officer, and the Town would just need to provide meals.

Mr. St. James concluded by saying that he hopes to set aside a day to gather representatives from each Town in order to discuss regionalization and other ways the County can assist them.

**Parks and Recreation**

Peter Robart spoke for the Parks and Recreation Department on the subject of the Mowing Contract candidates. Following up on Board of Selectmen work sessions of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>, during which low bidders were identified and two interviewed, Mr. Robart had contacted references of two of the candidates. As both checked out well, Mr. Robart recommended that the Town hire the lowest bidder, Brian O'Neill of Going Green.

**MOTION:** To award the bid to Going Green for mowing of Town cemeteries for 2015, contingent upon both parties signing a contract.

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** R. McDermott

**UNANIMOUS**

There was a short discussion, clarifying that the Mowing Contract has been split into two sections, one covering cemeteries, the other covering the Town buildings, Governor Weare Park, and the Common.

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**MOTION:** To award the bid for mowing of the grounds of the Town Hall, Historical Society Museum, Public Safety Building, Governor Weare Park, and the Town Commons, to Jim Ziolkowski of E.L.M. Landscaping, contingent upon both parties signing a contract.

**MOTION:** M. Kasprzak

**SECOND:** L. Smith

**UNANIMOUS**

Mr. Robart will be the point of contact to ensure all work is being done to expectations. It was noted that the total of the two bids is slightly less than the 2015 budgeted amount for mowing.

### **Solid Waste**

Bids for the expiring Solid Waste and Recycling contract have been reviewed by the Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. Two members of the committee, Ken Nydam and Mike Hastings, were present to present their recommendation.

The Committee looked at two considerations, price and qualifications, for each bidder, and ranked them. From the data presented, they chose Pinard Waste Systems and recommended this company to the Board for the 5 year contract.

There was a discussion of extra services offered by E.L.M., disposal sites, and the number of trucks owned by each company. The contract is to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and it was decided to vote to award the contract now rather than taking more time to explore extra services.

**MOTION:** To award the Solid Waste and Recycling 5 year contract to Pinard Waste Systems, contingent upon successful signing of the contract by both parties.

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** M. Kasprzak

**UNANIMOUS**

L. Ruest informed the Board that the Town has received a bill for a withdrawal assessment fee from the Southeast Regional Refuse District 53B, in the amount of \$494.25. In discussion with K. Nydam and M. Hastings, the Board learned that the Town may be receiving a refund, and that all accounting should be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

### **Warrants**

**MOTION:** To approve for payment Payroll Warrants #300, for \$13,715.53 and #301 for \$14,343.44; and Accounts Payable Warrants #465 for \$33,723.79 and #466 for \$5,270.96

**MOTION:** M. Kasprzak

**SECOND:** L. Smith

**UNANIMOUS**

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**Town Moderator**

L. Ruest informed the Board that the Supervisors of the Checklist have narrowed their search for Hampton Falls' Moderator down to one candidate. Once their choice is finalized, it can be announced at the next meeting.

**Tax Collection**

The Tax Collector has identified a number of properties that have outstanding tax credits from prior years. She would like the authority to clear the records before going forward with the new tax year and new software system. While most of the amounts are under \$250, there is one overpayment of \$1600.56 and one balance due amount of \$209 from 2014, that results from the previous employee.

**MOTION:** To have the Tax Collector adjust any and all past credits under \$250 to \$0; to issue a refund to the property owner owed \$1600.56 for overpayment of taxes (for 27 Weare Rd, Map 01, Lot 25 for the year 2013), and to write off a \$209 balance due from 2014 because it was created by an error in correcting a credit.

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** M. Kasprzak

**UNANIMOUS**

**Historical Society**

All furniture identified for removal from the Historical Society Museum (45 Exeter Road) has been moved to storage at the Town Hall or otherwise disposed.

**Other**

Applecrest is preparing to open their new restaurant, and finalizing the liquor license. The Director of the State of New Hampshire Liquor Commission has asked for a letter from the Town specifying that the Town has no objection to food and drink being served on an outdoor patio area. The letter has been drafted by L. Ruest, and was approved by the Board for mailing.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

**Assessment**

The Board reviewed correspondence from the State Department of Revenue Administration regarding the Town's equalization rate. The overall equalization assessment for 2014 was 95.4%.

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**Audit**

The annual audit has been completed, and a letter dated April 28<sup>th</sup> was received from the auditors, Plodzik & Sanderson, confirming their findings. The Selectmen the representation letter to finalize the audit.

**Property tax exemptions**

An application for a tax exemption for alternative wood heating methods has been received by the Town. The applicant uses a wood burner for heat.

**MOTION:** To deny the exemption on the grounds that the Town of Hampton Falls has not approved an exemption for wood burning systems.

**MOTION:** M. Kasprzak

**SECOND:** L. Smith

**UNANIMOUS**

The Deputy Tax Collector has reviewed and updated the documentation for elderly exemptions granted. The Board signed the applications updating exemption values.

**Highway**

After a pedestrian called about a stone rolled forward and running water at the corner of Drinkwater and King Roads, D. Richardson came out to repair the area and noticed a large open area under the pavement, and that the galvanized metal culverts are rotting. He has filled in the hole, but the larger issue of deteriorating culverts remains. There was a discussion of how to address the problem.

R. McDermott received preliminary information from Axiomatic regarding its survey of Town roads; roads in Hampton Falls are generally in good shape.

**Other**

Karen Ayers, a local realtor, addressed the Board with a request to be granted a Selectmen's permit under RSA 31:102-a, Hawkers, Peddlers and Vendors. She would like to go door to door hanging printed material with seed samples, without actually engaging the homeowners. She would be walking the neighborhoods, not driving.

After discussion, considering that Ms. Ayers is a well-known and valued member of the community and also considering whether a problematic precedent might be set, the Board voted as follows:

**MOTION:** To deny the Hawkers and Vendors permit in this instance

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** M. Kasprzak

**UNANIMOUS**

• **MONTHLY REPORTS OF SELECTMEN REPRESENTATIVES**

R. McDermott reported that the Library has new furniture and shelving for a revamped reading area. They also are working on meeting room policy and internet user policy, as well as updating the bylaws.

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L. Smith reported that the School Board has a new member, John Bailly. Frank Stifter is now Vice Chairman. The School is working on an oil tank piping project, and need to replace an air compressor. Out of a \$10,000 building and repair budget, \$5,000 needed to be spent to remove snow from the roof during the past winter.

The School Board will be discussing space needs and reorganization of available space. A second work session will take place on May 30<sup>th</sup>, to include a tour of the boiler room.

M. Kasprzak reported on the Heritage Committee, which met on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. They welcomed a new alternate, Ann Haggart, to the committee. They spent time updating the property list of historic homes in Hampton Falls, of which there are about 100 dating back as far as the 1660's. The Committee plans to go through tax records for more information. They would like to have this information available on the website, and also in booklet form, in time for the tricentennial celebration.

The Planning Board meeting was a quiet one, during which committees were updated.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes of April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> as written.

**MOTION:** M. Kasprzak

**SECOND:** L. Smith

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION:** To enter into non-public session under RSA-91-A:3, at 8:58 PM, to discuss II(a), Personnel, and II (e), Pending Claims or Litigation.

**MOTION:** R. McDermott

**SECOND:** M. Kasprzak

**UNANIMOUS**

**MOTION:** To exit non-public session at 9:15 PM and resume in public session

**MOTION:** L. Smith

**SECOND:** M. Kasprzak

**UNANIMOUS**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting, at 9:16 PM

**MOTION:** M. Kasprzak

**SECOND:** L. Smith

**UNANIMOUS**

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