

State of Rhode Island

County of Washington

In Hopkinton on the seventh day of January 2008 A.D. the said meeting was called to order by Town Council President Vincenzo Cordone at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

PRESENT: Vincenzo Cordone, Beverly Kenney, Sylvia Thompson, Thomas Buck, Barbara Capalbo; Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley; Town Manager William DiLibero; Town Clerk Elizabeth Cook-Martin.

The meeting opened with a moment of silent meditation and a salute to the Flag.

### **HEARINGS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO SIT AS A LICENSING BOARD.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

### **CAMPGROUND LICENSE RENEWALS**

The Council opened a hearing on the renewal of the following campground licenses:

Frontier Camper Park – Scott Thompson, 180A Maxson Hill Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 225 Campsites and Safari Sites. Mrs. Thompson was present. Filing fees had been paid and notice posted. A list of their trailers had been submitted.

The Ashaway Fire District inspection was satisfactory. The Building and Zoning Official recommended they be approved subject to an electrical inspection. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO GRANT RENEWAL TO THE FRONTIER FAMILY CAMPGROUND FOR 225 CAMPSITES AND SAFARI SITES SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET INCLUDING AN ELECTRICAL INSPECTION AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Greenwood Hill Campground Association – James Swett, President, 13 Newberry Lane, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 50 Campsites & Safari Sites. A representative was present. Filing fees had been paid and notice posted. A list of their trailers had been submitted. The Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District report indicated they would not be able to complete inspections until the Spring. The Building and Zoning Official recommended they be approved subject to the issuance of a building permit. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO GRANT RENEWAL TO THE GREENWOOD HILL CAMPGROUND FOR 50 CAMPSITES AND SAFARI SITES SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET INCLUDING APPLYING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT, A SATISFACTORY FIRE INSPECTION AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Holly Tree Campgrounds, Inc. – Marie Patrizzo, 109 Ashaway Road, Ashaway, RI licensed for 158 Campsites & Safari Sites. Marie Patrizzo was present. Filing fees had been paid and notice posted. A list of their trailers had been submitted. The Ashaway Fire District inspection was satisfactory. The Building and Zoning Official recommended they be approved subject to an electrical inspection. There were no objectors present.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO GRANT RENEWAL TO THE HOLLY TREE CAMPGROUND INC. FOR 158 CAMPSITES AND SAFARI SITES SUBJECT TO ALL STATE AND TOWN REGULATIONS BEING MET INCLUDING AN

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION AND ALL TOWN TAXES CURRENT PRIOR TO ISSUE.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Whispering Pines Campground – Clint Ramsden, 41 Saw Mill Road, Hope Valley, RI licensed for 213 Campsites & Safari Sites. There were no representatives present. A list of their trailers had not been submitted. The Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District report indicated they would not be able to complete inspections until the Spring. The inspection by the Building and Zoning Official was scheduled for January 9, 2008. There were no objectors present. This matter was continued to the January 22, 2007 Town Council Meeting.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN AS LICENSING BOARD AND RECONVENE AS COUNCIL

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The December 4, 2007 Special Tri Town Council Report, December 17, 2007 Executive Session Minutes and the December 4, 2007 Court Transcript were removed from the Consent Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR KENNEY TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA AS

FOLLOWS: Approve Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2007; Set February 19, 2008 as the second Council Meeting in February due to President's Day Holiday.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

Councilor Kenney stated the December 4, 2007 Special Tri Town Council Report incorrectly stated that Richmond Town Council Eric Davis was absent, but he was present and that Richmond Town Councilor Tuthill's first name was Doug, not Gregory. Councilor Capalbo stated she removed the December 17, 2007 Executive Session Minutes for revisions. They will be placed on the next Town Council Agenda for approval. Councilor Thompson stated she had removed the December 4, 2007 Court Transcript from the Consent Agenda as the exhibits referenced in the transcript had not been attached to the transcript and she wanted to make sure the exhibits would be part of the record. The Town Clerk will contact the stenographer to request a hard copy of the transcript and exhibits and when received she will forward them to the Town Council for approval.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR THOMPSON TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 4, 2007 SPECIAL TRI-TOWN COUNCIL MEETING REPORT AS AMENDED.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Patricia Fontes of Lawton Foster Road reported the sign had been installed near the entrance to the Cemetery on Chase Hill Road and looked nice. She asked if it were true that there were not any programs for seniors with the exception of the meal site as there was in the Town's of Richmond and Charlestown. She commented that the municipal meetings for Hopkinton had not been listed in the Wood River Press. The Town Manager will follow up on these concerns.

#### **TOWN SOLICITOR REPORT**

Town Solicitor Patricia Buckley reported she had been doing some number crunching for the past year. She noted about 110 hours per month had been spent on Hopkinton-related business with 35% of the work related to general, day-to-day matters; 24% related to Planning and Zoning matters, 28% of the work related to prosecutions and 13% for miscellaneous work dealing with such issues as the Manfredi matter. She indicated she had enjoyed working on the Town's behalf.

Councilor Capalbo noted the Solicitor's Office had been cleaning up some pending issues and Council President Cordone commended the law firm for work done the past year for this Council which included three new Councilors.

### **COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT**

Council President Cordone reported the Town had received an award from Noreen Shawcross, Chief of the Office of Housing and Community Development recognizing Hopkinton's efforts to develop affordable housing, increasing the affordable units from 5.23% to 6.7% during the past year. He felt this was something to be proud of and that all parties involved deserved a lot of credit; he reported the next Town Council Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 as Town Offices would be closed in recognition of the Martin Luther King Day Holiday on Monday, January 21, 2008; He reported the Town Manager had received a response from Nomvar Mogadam from the RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) regarding the property damage to mail boxes during the December snow storm and that Mr. Mogadam indicated he would be directing snow plow operators to reduce their speed. He noted that Mr. Mogadam had been before the Town Council in the past in regards to a reduction in road salt use. Council President Cordone reported he had seen a recent news article where the Town of Stonington, CT was using a different brand of salt that was more environmentally sensitive and requested the Manager contact the Town of Stonington, CT to find out more about it.

Councilor Thompson noted that Hopkinton's affordable housing efforts started in the late 1980's, early 1990's and that there was a good deal of existing affordable housing located at Canonchet Cliffs I, II and III and that many groups had been involved at that time, before the State began realizing we were losing people. She stated many groups deserved a vote of thanks. Council President Cordone noted that Hopkinton was a welcoming community.

### **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

Town Manager William DiLibero reported work was continuing negotiations for the Dispatchers contract; and finalizing the Department of Public Works contract; In regards to the Municipal Court, he stated computer software was necessary for

ticketing purposes, but the Town could begin to process other infractions; reported four to five tax sale parcels were being prepared for transfer with the titles being cleared by an Attorney Dumas; he referred to the letter from the RIDOT that directed persons to contact Arlene Nelson at 734-4842 regarding the mail box damage claims.

Councilor Capalbo questioned the status regarding illegal apartments and how they would be handled in municipal court. Mr. DiLibero responded Town departments were presently comparing assessor records against multi-family units to determine what had been approved and what had not; that those with basement apartments would be encouraged to proceed to the Building Official and that there would be an amnesty time period to allow people to come up to code. He anticipated a three to six month time frame before they would be going through a court process. Councilor Buck questioned the status of the list of illegal apartments. Mr. DiLibero responded that a list dating back to 1970 was currently under review to determine what had been permitted. Councilor Capalbo stated even the grandfathered units had to be safe. Solicitor Buckley stated owners of grandfathered units could not be forced into compliance. Councilor Thompson questioned the time frame for the software bids for the municipal court. Mr. DiLibero estimated up to six weeks time. He explained that after receiving the bids, he would be reviewing proposals, selecting a vendor, preparing the paperwork, arranging for training to commence once the software was installed, then the issuing of tickets could commence.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TOWN BILLS**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT TO PAY THE TOWN BILLS WITH NO ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**INCLUSIONARY ZONING ORDINANCE**

The Council did not set a date for hearing on Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance draft introduced and sponsored by Councilor Kenney during this meeting and would hold a workshop instead. Councilor Kenney noted the draft inclusionary zoning ordinance and mixed use village ordinance would be discussed as they related to each other. She stated she had provided the Town Clerk with a spreadsheet from the Washington County Regional Planning Council with the status of the ordinance by the Washington County communities that would be distributed. Councilor Thompson stated she had spoken with the Chairman of the Affordable Housing Partnership who stated they would be reviewing the draft section by section during their next meeting; that the Planning Board had reviewed the draft ordinances and would be revising their subdivision regulations. She noted Planning Board Chairman Al DiOrio had mentioned the importance of water resources during dry spells, recommending regulations or policies being put in place during those times of drought. She suggested the workshop include all these issues. Mr. DiLibero recommended segmenting out the inclusionary zoning and mixed use village ordinances as a lot of work had been done on those ordinances to date. The Council will hold a workshop on January 28, 2007 inviting the Town Planner, members of the Planning Board and Affordable Housing Partnership to attend to discuss the draft of the inclusionary zoning ordinance and draft of the mixed use village ordinance.

Patricia Fontes of Lawton Foster Road indicated she had some questions regarding the specifics of the ordinances, but the Council could not discuss them because they were not in a workshop setting or a hearing process.

Karen Ellsworth, Esq., the consultant who had been involved with the Washington County Regional Planning Council's efforts regarding Affordable Housing will be asked to attend the workshop.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **INTERVIEWS – APPOINTMENTS – RESIGNATIONS**

Interviews for Boards and Commissions were conducted at 6:30 P.M. No appointments or resignations were made.

**ACCEPT ELAINE DRIVE AND NADIA COURT INTO INVENTORY OF STREETS AND ROADS**

A request from United Builders Supply Co., Inc. had been received asking the Town Council to accept Elaine Drive and Nadia Court in the Laurel Woods Subdivision identified as Assessor's Plat 14, Lot 77 into the Town's inventory of streets and roads. Council President Cordone stated Department of Public Works Director Doug Reese had provided a report indicating the streets had been inspected and met the Town of Hopkinton's specifications.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR CAPALBO TO ACCEPT ELAINE DRIVE AND NADIA COURT IN THE LAUREL WOODS SUBDIVISION IDENTIFIED AS ASSESSOR'S PLAT 14, LOT 77 INTO THE TOWN'S INVENTORY OF STREETS AND ROADS.

IN FAVOR: Cordone, Kenney, Thompson, Buck, Capalbo

OPPOSED: None

SO VOTED

**TOWN COUNCIL POLICY RE:**

Council President Cordone read from the 1994 Town Council policy regarding the close of Town business due to facilities failure or Acts of God. He stated back in 1994 there was no Manager. He stated he had been made aware that some employees chose to go home without there being a state of emergency declared, which was when he became aware of the policy. He felt the policy needed revision and that employees should use personal time unless it was a state of emergency. A motion was made and seconded to immediately include union and non-union employees and emergency and non-emergency personnel into the policy, but the motion and second were both withdrawn. Mr. DiLibero requested clarification in the new policy dealing with employees being sent home or in the event of a facility failure, whether they would be paid for their time. Solicitor Buckley stated there were fiscal implications with the contract with the Department of Public of Public Works relating to compensation at time and a half. She stated she would prepare a revised policy for Council consideration for the January 22, 2008 Town Council Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Councilor Thompson noted receipt of correspondence from the Town of Charlestown to Senator Algieri, Senator Breene, Representative Walsh, Representative Kennedy and Representative Scott requesting that they introduce special legislation to direct legislative counsel to assemble and print a copy of the Chariho Act with all amendments for delivery to the School Committee. She asked that this be an item on the January 22, 2008 Town Council Agenda.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No one spoke during this public forum.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILOR KENNEY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR BUCK TO ADJOURN.

SO VOTED

Elizabeth J. Cook-Martin

Town Clerk