

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**Meeting Date: December 5, 2006**  
**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Muriel E. Kramer, Chairman; Mary C. Pratt, Vice-Chairman; Leonard A. Holden, Ronald M. Clark; Michael W. Shepard.

**Others Present:** Dr. John Duffy, Board of Assessors; Robert Bushway, Principal Assessor; Scott Richardson, Chamber of Commerce; Police Chief Irvin; Mr. Timothy Richmond, Max Performance; Michelle Paine, Youth Commission; Scott Adams; Craig Gormley; Peter Dittman; Katrina Glidden; Dorothy Ferriter, Chairman of the Marathon Committee; Richard Brault; Robert McDonald, EMC Corporation Chris Farrell; High School Students: PJ Burnham, Sam Cavedon, Sam Spivey, Megan Ferguson; Selectmen's Office, Theodore D. Kozak, Executive Secretary

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**Move into Executive Session:**

**6:30 pm. Vote:** Mrs. Kramer entertained a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss contract negotiations. **So moved Mr. Clark. Second Mr. Holden. The roll call votes follow: Mrs. Kramer: yes; Mrs. Pratt: yes; Mr. Holden: yes; Mr. Clark: yes. Unanimously voted. (It is noted that Mr. Shepard was not in attendance at this time.)**

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**Public Meeting Re-opened:**

**7:00 p.m.** Mrs. Kramer re-opened the public meeting and invited everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Board of Selectmen Minutes**

**November 14, 2006:** Mrs. Kramer entertained a motion to approve the amended November 14, 2006 minutes. **So moved Mr. Clark. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

**November 28, 2006:** Mrs. Kramer entertained a motion to approve the November 28, 2006 minutes. **So moved Mr. Clark. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

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**SRF Loan Program for Septic System Repair**

Mr. Kozak explained to the Board that the Town has received the application from the State Revolving Fund for \$200,000 to assist homeowners with failed septic systems apply for low interest loans through this program.

**Vote: Mrs. Pratt** made a motion to approve the borrowing of the funds. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted.**

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**Hearing: Tax Classification**

**7:10 p.m. Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to open the hearing. **Second Mr. Shepard. Unanimously voted.**

Mrs. Kramer read the public hearing notice. Dr. Duffy from the Board of Assessors gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the options the Board of Selectmen have for a single or dual tax rate (see attached

presentation). Following the presentation, Mrs. Kramer asked the audience if there are any questions or comments. A resident in the audience asked how her at-home business might be taxed if there is a dual rate. Mr. Bushway, Principal Assessor, explained that in a situation for a home occupation, the main residency is taxed as a residential unit, and the business assets would be personal property which could be taxed at the commercial rate. This individual felt that the dual rate was not fair to home businesses and suggested a single rate be kept in place. Mr. Richardson, represented the Chamber of Commerce, asked that the Board continue with the single rate which the Chamber believes is proper for industrial and commercial businesses in town. A resident, Mr. Brault, requested the Board put in place a dual rate. He stated that seniors are having a difficult time paying their property tax and that the dual rate would help seniors remain in Hopkinton. Mr. McDonald, representing EMC, said that EMC is requesting that the Board continue with the single tax rate option.

**Vote: Mrs. Pratt** made a motion to close the public hearing. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted.**

Mr. Shepard said he has empathy for Mr. Brault's issue of the increase cost for seniors. He noted the Town has continued using the single tax rate to encourage the industrial base and that this is not the right time to shift to a dual rate. Mr. Clark stated that the Town needs to encourage industrial growth. He also noted that a dual rate is not the only issue, but the Town needs to support Fruit Street development for infrastructure and the permitting process should be streamlined so that business such as E.L. Harvey's won't have to wait four years for a permit. Mr. Clark also expressed concern that the Community Preservation Act tax expenditures are not being properly used and that the Town should spend those funds correctly. Mrs. Pratt said that CPA funds have a 50 percent State match from the Registry of Deeds. Mrs. Kramer said she wished to clarify her position that was published in the Boston Globe. She believes a dual rate would not work now that it's important for the Town to attract businesses and she would support a single rate.

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to support the single rate tax for FY'07. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted.**

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### **Use of Town Roads Request**

In attendance were the Police Chief Thomas Irvin and Mr. Timothy Richmond from Max Performance. They came before the Board to discuss the Board allowing use of Town roads adjacent to the State Park for a profit based organization. Mr. Richmond explained that he would like to have use of the road for a Duathlon and Triathlon in the spring. His organization runs a quality event and he is willing to work with the Town in order to implement this event. Police Chief Irvin noted that he has no opinion as to whether the Board wishes to issue a permit for a profit organization. He would recommend that if the Board did entertain allowing this event that they consider asking Mr. Richmond to coordinate this with the Hopkinton Athletic Association (HAA) for planning purposes; and if the event is approved the Town should be compensated for both Police details and time for planning the route of the event. Mr. Shepard suggested that a for profit event may have additional fees to support the operation that a non-profit currently does not have to pay. Mr. Clark noted that the letter stated that this is a community based organization and asked what that meant. Mr. Richmond said they will be looking for community involvement and asking for volunteers to help with the event. Mr. Clark thought working with the HAA was a good idea. Mr. Holden asked if there would be enough parking for the event, and Mr. Richmond said that the State Park has 1,000 spaces which should be sufficient. Mr. Holden also thought working with the HAA was a good idea. Mrs. Kramer thanked Mr. Richmond for coming in and wished him luck on pursuing this event.

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### **Youth Commission: Michelle Paine**

Mrs. Michelle Paine from the Youth Commission asked the Board of Selectmen to support increasing the at-large membership of the Youth Commission from 8 to 15. She said there are a number of activities happening with the Youth Commission and additional help is necessary. Mr. Clark said that he would support the additional at-large members. Mr. Kozak noted that the Commission currently has 16 members

and that the Massachusetts General Law which the Youth Commission falls under only allows a maximum of 21 members. If the Board approves seven additional members it would be over the limit by two. Mrs. Kramer suggested to Mrs. Paine that she reviewed the membership regulations with the Executive Secretary and at this time would recommend approving five additional members.

**Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to approve five at large members. **Second Mr. Holden . Unanimously voted.**

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**Youth Commission Resignation: John Barclay**

**Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to accept Mr. Barclay's resignation from the Youth Commission with regret. **Second Mr. Shepard. Unanimously voted.**

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**Youth Commission Interview: Peter Dittman and (Ken Johnson tabled to 12/19) (1 year term to '07)**

Mr. Dittman came before the Board and said that he has been involved with the local Boy Scout organization and church activities. He has an interest in helping the youth in the community. He has attended meetings of the Youth Commission. Mrs. Kramer asked if he had time to help work with the Commission, and Mr. Dittman responded that he did have the time. Mr. Shepard said he would support Mr. Dittman and that he would be an asset to the Commission.

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to Mr. Dittman to the Youth Commission for a term to 2007. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted**

Mrs. Paine said that Mr. Johnson could not make tonight's meeting because of another engagement. Mrs. Kramer said she knows Mr. Johnson and would support his appointment. Mr. Shepard said he would also support his appointment tonight. Mr. Clark said the Board normally interviews the candidate prior to appointment and asked if this could wait for two weeks. The Board agreed to ask Mr. Johnson to come back on December 19, 2006.

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**Recycling Committee Interview: Katrina Glidden (3 year term to '09)**

Katrina Glidden said she has been a resident of Hopkinton for nine years and has attended several meeting. She said that she has volunteered to help the Recycling Committee, and would like to continue working with them.

**Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to accept her on the Recycling Committee for a three year term to 2009. **Second Mr. Shepard. Unanimously voted**

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**Marathon Committee Interview: Scott Adams and Craig Gormley, (1 year term to '07)**

Mr. Adams has lived in Town for a year. He was a former marathon runner and would like to help the Marathon Committee. Mr. Clark asked what skills he may have for the committee. Mr. Adams responded that he is a strategist and very organized. Mr. Shepard asked if he had the time to assist the committee and he responded that he would find the time. Ms. Ferriter said that she has spoke to Mr. Adams and he said he has the time to attend meetings.

Mr. Gormley said he has lived in town since April. He is an avid marathon runner. He had helped work on road races while in college. Mrs. Kramer asked if he had attended a Marathon meeting. He responded he had talked to Ms. Ferriter about the organization and that he might be able to help with the internet web site. Mr. Clark noted that he was a sales representative and asked if he had time for meetings. Mr. Gormley said he would make time in his schedule to attend the meetings. Mr. Clark asked what his strength might be fore the committee. Mr. Gormley responded his technology background could help with the committee. Mr.

Shepard asked if he had time to make both the meetings and the Marathon event and he said yes, he would make the time. Ms. Ferriter said she also spoke to him and he indicated that he could find time to make the meetings and attend the event. **Mr. Clark made a motion to nominate both individuals. Second Mr. Shepard.**

**Vote: Mr. Gormley:** Mrs. Kramer: yes; Mrs. Clark: yes; Mr. Holden: yes; Mr. Shepard: yes; Mr. Clark: no.

**Vote: Mr. Adams:** Mrs. Kramer: no; Mrs. Clark: no; Mr. Holden: no; Mr. Shepard: no; Mr. Clark: yes.

**Mr. Gormley is appointed to the Marathon Committee for a term to 2007.**

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### **Special Town Meeting (STM) Articles**

Mrs. Kramer indicated that there are six potential articles to be discussed at the Special Town Meeting. She gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the article for additional funds for the Executive Secretary severance pay and the Town Manager's salary (see attached presentation). Mr. Kozak gave an overview of the articles which included unpaid bills, current legal bills. Also a petition was submitted for a zone change and to appoint two members to the Trustees of the School Funds. Mr. Kozak gave an overview of the draft article for liability insurance premiums for the Lake Maspenock Dam. The Board had a general discussion on each of the proposed articles.

**Article 1:** Funding for the Town Manger and Executive Secretary Article

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to place this article on the STM warrant. **Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted**

**Article 2:** Petition submitted will automatically be placed on the warrant.

**Article 3:** Article for previous year bills.

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to place this article on the STM warrant. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted**

**Article 4:** Article for the Trustees for the School fund.

**Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to place this article on the STM warrant. **Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted**

**Article 5:** Additional fund for the Town's Legal Account.

**Vote: Mr. Clark** made a motion to place this article on the STM warrant. **Second Mr. Shepard. The roll call votes follow: Mrs. Kramer: yes; Mr. Clark: yes; Mr. Holden: yes; Mr. Shepard: yes; Mrs. Pratt abstained. So voted.**

**Article 6:** Additional funds for the Town's insurance premiums.

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to place this article on the STM warrant. **Second Mr. Holden. The roll call votes follow: Mr. Clark: yes; Mr. Holden: yes; Mr. Shepard: yes; Mrs. Kramer: no. Mrs. Pratt abstained. So voted.**

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant:**

**Vote: Mr. Shepard** made a motion to sign the December 21, 2006 Special Town Meeting Warrant to be held at the Middle School Auditorium. **Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

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### **Vote: Approve MIIA Property Liability and Workman's Compensation Agreement**

Mr. Kozak explained that our current insurance carrier is offering communities a five percent reduction in the insurance premium for two years if they approve an extension at this time. Mr. Kozak said he has reviewed this with Stuart Cowart and the Appropriation Committee has voted to support the extension of the insurance policy.

**Vote: Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the insurance extension. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted**

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**Personnel Committee Resignation: Kim Pulnik**

**Vote: Mr. Shepard made a motion to accept Ms. Pulnik's resignation with regret. Second Mr. Clark. Unanimously voted**

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Mrs. Kramer read a letter regarding the reduced funding for the Lift Bus by the Governor. She suggested a letter be sent to the Legislator and the Governor's office supporting the Lift Bus funding.

**Vote: Mr. Shepard made a motion for the Chairman to write the letter in support of the lift bus services. Second Mr. Clark. Unanimously voted**

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**Proclamations**

**Vote: Mr. Clark made a motion for the Board to sign a proclamation for three Hopkinton residents that will be honored by the Chamber of Commerce. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

**Letter of Appreciation to Marjorie Wright:**

Mrs. Kramer read the letter prepared for Mrs. Wright thanking her for her hard work in the Selectmen's office during Mrs. Holland's absence.

**Vote: Mr. Holden made a motion to sign the letter. Second Mrs. Pratt. Unanimously voted.**

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**Meeting Adjourned:**

**10:20 p.m. Mr. Clark made a motion to adjourn the public meeting. Second Mr. Holden. Unanimously voted.**

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Kozak  
Executive Secretary

Date approved: 12/19/06