

# MEETING ATTENDANCE SIGN-IN

Meeting Date: January 17, 2019  
~~Committee~~ <sup>Town</sup> Board: Regular Town Board Monthly Meeting

Please **PRINT** your name and address clearly to assure the correct spelling in the minutes of this meeting.

1. Leonard Reed
2. Andrew Reed
3. Matthew Pratt
4. Jane Amberg
5. Jegan Petty
6. Savannah Jensen
7. Robert Reed
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## Planning Board Report – January 17, 2019

The Planning Board met on Wednesday January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Steve Fernett conducted the meeting; present were Ginny Kinsey, Renee Rountree, Matt Pratt, and Bonnie Hawley (by phone).

As the Draft Amended Site Plan had been reviewed by Town Attorney, Matt Fuller; the Planning Board reviewed all 25 pages of the Law, including the corrections and suggestions that he sent us. After discussion, we made our changes to the Draft Amended Site Plan Law.

A motion was made, and seconded, to approve these changes, and to send the completed draft on to the Town Board for review and approval. A roll call vote was taken, and approved unanimously.

A copy of the draft was emailed to all Town Board members including Supervisor O'Brien, and also to Becky Jones, Town Clerk.

A motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously to have Ginny Kinsey be the Secretary of the Board.

The Planning Board has begun reviewing the Washington County Agricultural Protection Plan that is being updated by the County. It has lots of statistics as to anything pertaining to agriculture in the towns of Washington County. It is a way for the Planning Board to become more familiar with the farms, soils, and the importance of maintaining a vibrant farming community.

The next meeting will be Wednesday February 13, 2019 at 7pm

Submitted by Chairman Bonnie Hawley

# Highway Superintendents Report

January 17, 2019

We've been busy with more ice storms and then a couple of small snow squalls, just enough to get out and plow the roads. After the ice storms and the ground froze back up we were able to go back out and grade the high spots of the ruts that were left. The 2012 Dodge went to Healds garage in Poultney and had the oxygen sensors changed. I received only 1 quote for the new plow for the 2012 Dodge, It was from Woodward Equipment for the sum of \$5,485. I requested a quote from DeJana Equipment and G Stones Ford and did not receive anything back from them. I am requesting the Boards permission to get the plow from Woodward Equipment. I am also requesting from the board permission to put a 2yard garbage dumpster at the garage. I received quotes from Casella in the sum of \$75 a month, CV Waiste in the sum of \$70 a month. I also requested a quote from Ace Carting and they did not return one. The garbage from the Town Hall and the garage accumulates and there is no place to store it till we can take care of it. The garbage rates to take the garbage runs from \$25-\$80 a month not counting gas and employees time of approximately 2 hours to take care of this. The dumpster will be picked up twice a month. The trucks are ready for tonights snowfall and we will be ready for this weekends storm. Nate gave his 2 week notice (verbal) on Jan. 9, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted



Herb Sady

Highway Superintendent

# TOWN OF HAMPTON

## TOWN CLERK

Rebecca S. Jones, RMC

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

PO Box 125  
Hampton, New York 12837  
(518) 282-9830

## TOWN COUNCIL

Tamme Taran  
Don Sady  
Roger Weeden  
Andrea Sweeney

## DAVID K. O'BRIEN, SUPERVISOR

DaveObrien@hamptonny.org

January 8, 2019

Jeff Nordhaus, EVP  
Jeff.Nordhaus@esd.ny.gov  
Broadband Office Program  
633 Third Avenue, 33<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
New York New York, 10017

Dear Mr. Nordhaus,

With the announcement of the Governor's "Broadband for All" program many rural communities were excited to see a solution providing for reliable, stable Broadband for rural communities. As the different phases were announced many voters started to ask more questions on what this \$500,000,000 program meant to them. The Broadband Office along with many state wide elected officials, including the Governor, vocally promoted that the program would make Broadband Available for All.

However, **In Hampton's case it led to disappointment for a majority of the residents and a solution to less than 15% of the community.** I base this reasoning on the following breakdown of the final phase awards.

1. SLIC was awarded **State Funds in the amount of \$613,757 with a total Investment of \$1,120,490 to provide broadband to 153 locations in Hampton which breaks down to a state investment of \$4,011 and a total investment of \$7,323 per location.**
2. Hughes Network was awarded **State Funds in the amount of \$39,848 with a total investment of \$61,408 to provide broadband to 232 locations in Hampton which breaks down to a state investment of \$172 per location and a total investment of \$265 per location.** Hughes Network has been tried by many of the residents in Hampton and found to be extremely unreliable and, in some cases, due to geographics, residents were unable to find a clear line of sight to be able to receive signal from satellite tv providers as well as satellite internet providers.

3. Over the course of the awards phases we were told that Charter who operates a cable system in three census blocks in the Town of Hampton would provide Broadband to all the locations in those census blocks. **Currently they serve less than 10% of the locations in those census block areas.** We have been told by Charter Officials that these census blocks are not in their build out plans. While we have provided a list of affected residents and been ensured that the Broadband Office and PSC are attempting to get these areas served under the current negotiations with Charter, there is no confidence this will happen.

Thus, Broadband for All Program has, in Hampton's case, proven to be a huge expenditure of funds which will not serve the needs of the majority of the residents of Hampton. In fact, the most dense locations of Hampton are not being served. Some feel that the implementation of this program has discriminated against them. They are being asked to accept unreliable internet connections with the use of Hughes Network who in their actual experience has proven to be unreliable and their confidence in even trying the "new" Hughes Network is extremely low. There is a larger block of residents who are left unserved.

In order to evaluate options, the Town has discussed with both SLIC and Charter the potential of providing reliable broadband services to our underserved and unserved residents. With caveats that the total investment to provide services would be determined by the completion of engineering plans the costs could range between \$400,000 to \$500,000. While no final numbers have been determined, the question of whether the Return on Investment would be adequate to undertake a project without participation of the town. They would consider a partnership where the town provided a significant amount of the project costs.

Where is a small community like Hampton going to be able to find \$250,000 or more to fill the gaps left with this badly designed "Broadband for All" Program? Even the areas where Hughes Network was provided as an option will require investment to resolve the residents' needs. Residents in Hampton were relying on the promises made by the Governor and his staff to provide businesses, farms, residents and their families with reliable internet. This would provide Hampton Residents and businesses equality with other New York State Residents in other communities with the same advantages in education, being able to work from home, attract new residents to the area with reliable broadband in order to tele-commute as well as serve home based businesses. Home values are suffering based on lack of reliable internet. Even our agriculture-based properties who need the ability to rely more and more on broadband to run their businesses are being short changed.

While I don't mean to be disrespectful, a program that was promoted to provide "Broadband For All" for communities in rural areas seems to be nothing but broken promises to Hampton and a majority of its residents.

The Hampton Town Board would appreciate an answer as to how the State of New York and the Broadband Office are going to keep its promises and rectify this situation. We look forward to discussing with you how the Broadband Office will commit to providing the needed funds.

Sincerely,



Dave O'Brien  
Town Supervisor  
(518) 866-1022

Copies: by email and mail

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Gov.Cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us

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5 Warren Street, Suite 3  
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January 15, 2019

To the Hampton Town Board and Town Supervisor:

I have reconsidered my resignation from my positions held at the Town of Hampton, while I am still planning to resign I would like to extend my resignation date to 3/31/2020. While trying to prepare for an easy transition for my replacement I find there are so many things that are involved with the job that some sort of "manual" would be helpful. There is also a transition starting for NYS Retirement that rolls out on 4/1/19 that I have been training on for a year and I think the transition may be hard for someone not familiar with the NYS Retirement System. The reporting to State and Federal Tax Authorities as well as the NYS Employee Retirement System is important to our employees and I would like to make sure there are no problems with the transition. Since I feel that for the last few years I have been giving the Town more time than my salary has warranted, I would ask that for 2019 and for my time in 2020 my salary be increased to \$10,000 a year. During the year I will keep track of the time spent on the tasks related to my positions to help the Town find a fair salary for the next person holding these positions.

I will be happy to keep my previous resignation date if the Town Board and Supervisor feel that is what is in the best interest of the Town. I appreciate the years I have served the Town and would like to leave them with confidence there will be no break in the services I have provided. Regardless of the Board and Supervisor's decision, I would still like to request a full State Comptroller's Audit of my books before I leave so the transition will be clean.

Thank You:

Kim Perry