



VILLAGE OF HAMPTON, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF
HAMPTON, ILLINOIS
December 11, 2023; 6:30 PM

BE IT REMEMBERED, THAT THERE CAME AND WAS HELD A
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF HAMPTON, ILLINOIS at the HERITAGE CENTER:

Members present:

President Bornhoeft
Trustee Steffanie Adams
Trustee Mark White
Trustee Paula McKay
Trustee Rich Smice *via telephone*
Trustee Jeff Schneckloth
Trustee Ryan Gonzalez
Clerk Michelle Reyes
Police Chief Ryan Tone
Fire Chief David Johnson
Public Works Supervisor Eric Toalson

President Bornhoeft called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Clerk Reyes called the roll noting a quorum present and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Meeting was held at the Hampton Heritage.

Trustee Adams made a Motion to allow Trustee Smice to participate via telephone since he is out of State for work. Second by Trustee McKay, Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. "Aye".

Consideration and Approval of the minutes from the meeting of November 28, 2023. Motion by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Gonzalez to approve. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. "Aye".

Consideration and approval of payment of Bills. Motion by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Schneckloth to approve the bills. Roll call as follows: Adams, White, McKay, Smice, Schneckloth and Gonzalez and: "Aye". Motion approved.

Acknowledgement of Visitors who wish to address the board. Ben Wilson, "yes we would."

President Bornhoeft, "Before we do that I would like to make a brief statement that I feel in the deepest part of my heart the reason we are here is my fault. I thought when I took over, I was trustee for two years, I took over after the Rapid City contract was lost and I felt that we could make a go of it. Turn over every stone, try everything we could to facilitate us having our own police force as long as we

could. Despite the fact that ignoring the budgetary restrictions we had, I fought President Vershaw every step of the way where this was concerned and I take full responsibility for that. We are here because I wanted to try. So, I will accept that responsibility all on my own. So before we get started, on the podium there you will see our public rules comments. So when you come up, state your name, make your statement, you have three minutes. If you have questions, we will write them down and respond to them during our portion. We will not go back and forth with you. Say what you have to say. Ask your questions and we will respond when we have our portion to speak. You will have your opportunity and we will have ours. So, who would like to speak?"

Ben Wilson: So some background for those of you who have not been to a few of these meetings. This has been going on for quite a while. This seems to be a top agenda of Mr. Bornhoeft. We have discussions where we have had the police before. We had to stand behind the police force. Going back quite recently, on September 25 we had a lady come in and ask the citizens of Hampton what is it that they wanted to see here in Hampton. We all went around the room and the top one was to keep our police and to increase taxes for police or find other revenue sources to keep our police here in Hampton. Our third one was to provide more coverage here in Hampton. That is what the people of Hampton wanted to see. The next board meeting was on October 9th and the Village Board got to sit down and decide what they thought was most important, add to that list and vote on the list that we came up with and theirs. Not a single board member voted on what was most important to the citizens of Hampton. They have had closed door meetings. This somehow ended up on an agenda without any notice to any of us. All the way to Sunday this was not on the public website. They tried to quiet this down and shove it down everyone's throat hoping nobody would find out. So my number one question is why is it that the seven people on that board think you are more important than the citizens of Hampton?

I am Richard Vershaw of 612 1st Avenue Hampton and I have lived here since 1965. We lost Rapid City in April 1, 2021. I do not accept it was your fault President Bornhoeft. I asked you to try to get with Chief Tone and see what force we could gather with the funds we had after losing \$105,000. I asked someone to get with County. I believe it was Steffanie but I am not sure and I actually talked to East Moline to see what they could do. Losing \$105,000 was like taking 25-30% out of our budget. Chief Tone came back to the board with a recommendation that he would cut his budget by \$101,700. It is right here. It was given to the board on January 25, 2021 so my question is, did that happen? Did it even get close to \$101,700? That is what he needed to keep our police department.

Stacy Jones: I was worried actually about it being reduced down to two minutes so I prepared a two-minute statement. I have lived here from 2004-2009 and I decided to come back here to Hampton because it is Hampton and I love it. I call attention of a violation of the required process procedure and exposure that has occurred related to this agenda item. Submitted for the record are facts that are related to the OMA. You should be familiar, as you are required to be trained on and have on file with the Attorney General. The OMA requires open meetings to provide the public with adequate notice of public meetings times and keep records of public meetings. Under limited circumstances, closed meetings are permitted to discuss specific issues and this is not one of them. A discussion, deliberation and/or contract negotiations of this nature would be required to be in an open meeting for disclosure and comment to the public. Based on this agenda and in light of the evidence, you have failed to inform

the public. That you secretly negotiated a contract that would make the County effective tonight at 7:00 pm to notify the public of closed meetings of past meetings and secret meetings as well as informing Chief prior to the official vote or public meeting of the disbanding of our Hampton Police Department. You have failed in your duties to this Village and have violated the OMA procedural requirements to make this business a viable and legitimate item. You each have an ethical responsibility to our community that includes acting out your duties in accordance to the law. Specifically through fiduciary duties, care, obedience and loyalty you have failed to uphold your duty by handling business with care of an ordinary and prudent person. You have failed in the duty of obedience by not working to insure the following applicable laws OMA complies with all the recording requirements and all the Village ordinances and State laws. You have failed in your duty to remain loyal and you are putting your personal interests of our Village by putting your intent, actions and personal desires over your constituents as evidenced by the September 25 meeting. In ordinance approved and posted to the Village of Hampton Ordinance 1.4.1 addressing you, Mr. Board President. You have a duty to insure that the process is dutifully executed. You did not comply and have failed to execute your duties. Ordinance 1.4.2 addressing you Board of Trustees. You have failed to carry out the oath of your office and have not performed your duties in accordance with the law of OMA. In Ordinance 1.4.3., addressing you Village Clerk, you have failed to accurately reflect proceedings. I state that the requested vote be abstained, for failure to be in compliance with proper and standard procedures as mentioned in our Village Ordinance, posted on our website for everyone to be viewing. I state for the record that the public should have the power to vote in matters of the public safety at this magnitude and infrastructure changes to our Village. A full statement has been submitted for your record. Thank you.

My name is Sharon Debo. I have lived here for 57 years and I have been to a lot of meetings down here and I have just one question for the Board. Why didn't you have any open meetings for the residents to come and voice their opinion to help make the decision?

My name is Nate Armstrong 1102 4th St A. I have lived here for 25 years of my life. I have a few questions and I know that you will entertain them in the end and I appreciate your doing this. First off, I have two children at the school. I grew up at that school. The school is left to feel unprotected. Everyone felt it today. You are ok with knowing that 11.3 minute delay is ok? I'm not. I'm not at all. Reactive measures will not support our growth as a safe community. My grandmother who lives in this town would not survive 11 minutes if she was attacked. I will pay higher taxes and everyone here supports that. Transparency, this clearly isn't the first time we have spoken of this. We want that as a community. That is all we are asking for. Taxes raised last year. We all voted and approved in vast numbers taxes to be raised to support our fire and police dept. I am not trying to split hairs but my police department is more important than our fire coverage and so be it that is how I feel. You are taking action we don't support. It is clear that supporting community opinion is not happening. Nothing has gotten better since any of you took office. Right? Clearly easy to see. So if this goes through when will you all submit your resignations? Thank you.

My name is Pam Goff. I think it is wrong that you guys go behind everybody's back and you are trying to get rid of the police tonight. Everybody votes yes to get rid of our Police Department. I think the public, the residents of Hampton need to know what is going on here. Half of these people didn't even know

except for when you called the news, all the local news, and the newspaper. That's the only way everybody here knew about it. Because it was not put where anyone saw it. We need our officers here whether you guys want them here or not. We need our officers here.

Hi my name is Tara Polek and I am here on behalf of my mother Judy. She moved to this town in 1972. I was raised here and still have a wholehearted feeling of belonging here. But I have full faith with our county services as far as police but what you guys don't realize about things. My mom lives on a dead-end street and I can attest to the fact that half of the Hampton Police don't even know it's there. I ran into a situation where I had to call 911 as there was a person in my mother's yard. If I was not a conceal and carry person, what would have happened? This 11.3 minutes is unacceptable when it comes to domestic violence or when it comes to an actual violent crime. Our fire department is there in no time but they cannot provide the services needed when it comes to a police and safety matter like that. You are allowing residents in this town who are older and that might not have a website or might not have an email address to not even know about these meeting. I found out on Facebook. Facebook! This is ridiculous. It is unacceptable. The fact that you prey upon older generations to not know about these public meetings. They might not know the dates that you guys might have them. Where are the meeting notes? Where are the agendas that are publicized? Whether it is in the water bills or post them at the Post Office. Do something for these community member that don't have access to the internet. In addition to that, what about the older member of this community. Falls or anything like that, 11.3 minutes is someone's life. That's it. Thank you.

Kim Roesner 72 Barrington Circle. One thing I would like to know is why our budget is not posted on your Facebook page or why it is not posted on the website page. Everyone should have access to this budget and annual report every year. A statement I have to make is, defund our police is not an option, it is zero option.

Elliott Stone. I am a 16-year Hampton resident. I'm mostly up here to convey that I feel upset and deceived at the actions of the Village Board and President on behalf of this issue. This was unbeknownst to anyone in town as far as I know until two days ago. I do support my police department but I for one do not want to see taxes go up either. We never got to have those discussions. That's why I am here. I feel deceived by the actions of this Board.

Brad Harker 627 14th Avenue. I recommend we table this vote and wait until you can get with all the people and find out what the solution can be. If it is raising taxes, I don't care but I want the Police Department with me because I don't want to wait. I got an elderly mother and I don't want that. The Police Department is the first one to show up when my mom calls. She has the life alert. It's the Police Department not the Fire Departments. It's the police who are the first ones there and they are there within minutes, like two minutes, three minutes. If you go that way, it's 11 minutes in Hampton. What if she has a real emergency? That's just ridiculous. This vote should be tabled until you can find a different solution.

Pam Goff, I have another thing that I want to comment on. Okay you guys, you spent how much money training our officers and upgrading equipment. Was it like \$50,000 and then they are training people

and you are letting them go and the County cannot do anything with the upgrade? Why spend that money when it could have went for our police officers to keep here on our streets in Hampton?

Kevin Irby: Those of you who don't know me, I served as our Mayor here in town. Alright, so we are talking about this 11.3 minute response time. First of all this is always a concern and is all based on hypothetical because what you don't understand is if the town council votes to remove our Police Department, you are already getting a 11.3 minute response time 2/3rds of the time to begin with. Mr. Ben Wilson had a fire. When he had the fire it was in the overnight hours. At some point he calls 911. We have a volunteer fire department. Not a big department like I was on, so they take longer to get there. The first people on the scene was who?" Ben Wilson replies, "Rock Island County Sheriff Department". Kevin Irby, "First vehicle on the scene. They beat our Fire Department in town. Now what you have to understand is that they are not coming from Andalusia, they are not coming from Rock Island County and Cordova. There will be a contract that we have. This is the highest budget for a Police Department that we have ever had in the history of Hampton and what the Administration wants to do is what General Patton and General Rommel wanted to do back in World War II. There's a battle just keep throwing guys at it and keep throwing guys at it and it will fix itself. Wrong. At what point is enough taxes. At what point is enough coverage to where you are going to say enough is enough raising taxes. We can't get them to respond now with the covered shifts. These guys back here have come in and been sworn in as Hampton Police Officers but correct me if I'm wrong. The only real Hampton Police Officer that we have is Chief Tone. That's the only real police officer that we have in this town. Everybody else works for another entity as a police dept. If Hampton folds they go back to their job and he goes back to his State pension. No one gets hurt. If this would have been several years ago, we would have been putting police officers in a bread line out in the street somewhere. I am not saying there is a right time to do it. That is not what I'm getting at. I have no disrespect for these guys. My son is a County Deputy Sheriff in Henry County. Something to think of is when we bring in part-time people which you have to understand is that when a county officer is working for a county, this entity and he is involved in a OIS, an officer-involved shooting, he is put on administrative leave while the investigation goes on. My son was on a SWAT team involved in an OIS. Three months he was off. Officers with real jobs are in jeopardy because if they get involved in an OIS because they are only part-time they don't have a regular schedule and we can't put them on administrative leave. They won't get paid and they won't be able to go back to their other job and Sheriff correct me if I wrong, they won't be able to go back to their other jobs.

President Bornhoeft, "Everyone has been respectful up to this point. Let's keep it that way. Thank you. Go ahead."

My name is Courtney Hamilton and I have been here 16-17 years now. My question is that decision to have full time officer now brought about by the Board. Is that a decision that the Board made?

TJ Francis, I am going to try to speak briefly keep it under three minutes. Those of you who don't know me, I apologize. I am not from here. I was born here and my father Bill Francis was Police Chief at one time. I know all of these guys here Chief Tone, great guy, Lloyd great guy, all the officers sitting back I have the most respect. For those of you who aren't aware or don't know I am the Mayor of Hillsdale and boy did we have our problems with our police department. In fact my order of business when I took

over 5 ½ years ago was to disband our police department. A police department that I grew up around. My mother was a police officer on that police department. It's a hard decision to come by. I get for the residents it is an emotional decision. I understand that. I don't know many of you personally but I can tell you that it was not a decision that was entered into lightly. I can also tell you that the Sheriff's Department has been better in my Village than the police coverage I had. We are the farthest, it's a toss-up between us and Cordova in Rock Island County. I get a set amount of hours every week from the Sheriff's department and most of the time I have cars that are there when it is not their hours. When I call for service when I have issues that is outside of my hours, I tell you they are really quick. Now is it the 11.25 minutes that you are used to with a full-time police department? Is it quick enough, I don't know. I haven't put it on a stop watch. I can tell you that because of our volunteer fire department. Our sheriff department usually beats our volunteer fire department anywhere they go. It is not a decision that is entered into lightly. I understand it is not an easy issue. Sometimes you have to take the emotion out of it and think if it is best for the city, financially, liability wise. You potentially had a lawsuit that you had to clear. That all falls on the sheriff department. Whatever happens, good, bad or different falls back on the sheriff department. Again that is why I am here. If you have questions I will answer them right now. Otherwise I am going home to my 3-month old baby."

Ben Wilson, You are mayor of another town. Whose decision do you think it should be? Those seven people or the residents of this town? TJ Francis, "You want my honest opinion? I have 486 people in my village. Are you familiar with my Village and are you aware of the bad things that were happening before I took over? The inappropriateness of the Police Department. The hundreds of thousands of dollars that were stolen by the Police Chief and the Mayor. Were any of you aware of that? Okay, we put all of our stuff out there all of our minutes. You are right. You have to post certain things. When I got elected Mayor out of 486 people 77 people showed up to vote. You know how many people showed up when we had board meetings and we had issues about getting rid of it? Zero. Unfortunately, you can have your opinion now I'm going to push back on this and this is what I told people in my little Village and the decision I made. Until you are ready to step up and be responsible, unfortunately that's a decision you are not going to be able to make.

Stacy Jones, with all due respect Sir you are talking about Hillsdale. We are talking about Hampton. Hillsdale does not have hi-speed chases that are coming through State Street all the way up to the bridge and our officers have to respond to that. That is not happening in Hillsdale. While I appreciate your opinion and your input can we please stick to Hampton business?

President Bornhoeft, "That's exactly what we are doing."

Unknown person, "You know why crime has gone rampant in all these other towns and not Hampton? It's because of all these officers standing behind me."

Paul Garcia 91 Kennelworth Circle, Talking about response times, I actually used you guys a couple of summers ago. I passed out and I think the response time was under two minutes. You can have time that is longer or shorter. You can get up to two minutes with Hampton Fire and Police Departments. You are not going to get those times with County. The other thing I want to say is this is a drastic measure. I know what you guys are faced with. Tall budgets and limited supply. It's everywhere like

that. Are you considering other drastic measures like this nice center? How many years will we get out of your police department if we sell this property? We should sell this property all the way down and have someone develop and make some income.

Courtney Elliott, I don't think it is right for board members to make decisions behind residents back but I do think there is some misconception about response time. I want to give an example of response time when I had five armed men enter my home in Hampton. I called 911 and it took about 20 minutes for the Hampton officer that was dispatched to respond. He was waiting until RI County showed up to back him up. There has been some issues with a person who lives by me and Rock Island County responds on an average of five minutes. Rock Island County is responding faster in my personal experience but if you guys get rid of the Police Department, you guys can invest the money in our infrastructures in Hampton.

My name is Mary Bulen, my main problem is the lack of transparency in the minutes and agenda. I was told Friday that this was on the Agenda and from Friday on it was never posted until 5:00 this afternoon. As was being said, there are elderly people and people who don't use Facebook. I don't go down to the Post Office or Village Hall. I'm concerned about secrecy that has apparently been going on.

Unknown resident, I feel there is a problem. I thought we voted to raise our taxes to keep our police department and safety equipment. I'd like to give a big shout out to our police who are here to protect us every day. I had an incident with someone waiting to get into my home when the garage door was open and the Hampton Police were right there. I don't believe I will get that kind of protection anywhere except my home town.

Eric Porter I cannot speak too much except for response times. When I reach out to Hampton, they are there within a matter of minutes. Now my personal experience when me and my family were forced to call 911 about six months ago. I live in Rapid City. Rock Island County responded in a little over 20 minutes. As a business owner we cannot wait that long.

Ryan Tone gave award to Sergeant Patterson recognizing for achievement of technology and innovation officer.

Judy Sansale, Most of you know who I am, President Bornhoeft stated I do not. Judy Sansale, there is a hidden agenda and this is not going to work. How much revenue does this tree house bring in? Do we need this? We don't need this. There is your solution. Get rid of this thing. Scott Newberg was the father of this invention. He said no one of Hampton would be responsible for a penny. We don't want this we want that.

Shad McKay, Being a leader is hard. People should have come to all the board meetings proceeding this and all the budget meetings to find out how it works and how it is paid out. They are not hiding it. It is in writing. Request it and you will get it. It takes dedication and time to be in that chair and your will to make things right and better. This is Hampton's history and heritage. That tree. If we get rid of this, we might as well close Hampton. Their decisions are built on facts. Fact is Hampton Police officers ticked off Rapid City and we lost the bid. If you have not come to meetings you have no say.

Pam Goff, I would like to say some have not been to any of the meetings down here. You are only getting your information because your wife works here.

President Bornhoeft, "Does anyone have anything to say?"

I just purchased Yoshi's in Hampton. This is my first meeting. I have had interactions with Hampton Police and they did respond and were very courteous. We will be open next year.

Shelly Swanson, I grew up here. It is a safe place to live and raise children. I think everyone's concern is to have a safe environment for our children to live in. We are going to lose young families without the police.

Cliff Perry, the first I heard of this was a bi-line on the news and that is troubling. Table this vote until more people can express their opinion on it.

Dan Garcia, 16 years in Hampton. Both my kids went to the school in Hampton. I appreciate the Police presence at school. I appreciate the Board members. I run the unofficial Village of Hampton page. I accept you by where you live. It should be for people that live in Hampton.

Pam Goff, The kids love the police at Halloween time.

I am Damien Bautista, I live right by the school. I am also a PE teacher at Hampton school. When you see a police officer's car you know that they want to be there. They are not forced to be there. They are there watching them cross the street. Kids love them. Being a teacher, I know we have to advocate for things that are not transparent. Give people a voice. What I am just asking is that I am in favor of tabling the vote and let people express opinions. I appreciate your time.

Theresa McCannon, I have never been to a meeting ever. I am the bus driver of Hampton. Hampton Police follow me on my route. They are amazing. They are there every time I need them. They are needed in this town. It is kind of scary to have kids leaving the school and not having the police there to protect them. Thank you.

Adam Medina, I am new to Hampton Police Department, I am a street cop. I know there are limited resources and Chief Tone has dealt with that same problem. I know you guys would like to hire full time law enforcement for your community and I believe the Sheriff's Department would do a phenomenal job. I haven't heard why we can't have a full-time officer. I know many would jump at the chance. If it's a matter of money it sounds like the citizens are willing to pay the bill.

Police Chief Tone stated Officer Medina is on duty tonight. The other officers showed up because they care. I ask would you be willing to work your last day and lay your life on the line knowing today was your last day? We were told that when the gavel drops we are fired. Officer Medina is working, the rest of the officers put on their uniform and came down here because they care! God Bless you.

President Bornhoeft speaking of the goal-setting meeting. Our number one priority was to provide more coverage. As far as back-door dealing and secret meetings. Every single time there was a conversation or concern, Chief Tone was the first to know. Especially in the case regarding the budget, I always told

him every time I was talking to Sheriff. As far as telling him that this was done and that was it, I always respected Chief Tone. On Friday before the agenda was posted, I sought to meet with him and he was out of town. Trustee Schneckloth and I called Chief Tone because I did not want him to read it alone and to hear it on the street. If we go back a few years to get to where this started the meeting in Rapid City when they decided they were not going to go with us. I did ride along with these guys to find out what goes on out there. As a trustee, I tried to see what goes in to it so that I could make the best decisions possible. As far as the notion that this is new, is illogical. It has been talking about this for years. President Vershaw dealt with this. Every budget year that we ever had, we had to talk about this. This is nothing new at all. The notion that Hampton's response time is very fast, it is when they are here. When they are not here it is zero minutes. If any of you had fallen on any weekend at any time in September it would have been County. Your third-shift coverage every night for years has been County. If you look on the tables at the shifts covered for months, it has been a problem that has been talked about, not in an open meeting, with Chief Tone. We budget money for this, several scenarios were discussed between him and I. We can't build anything new on top of debt. The notion that Referendum was never for police only for fire. I wanted to add police. We could not put police and fire in one. It was talked to death at many times through many meetings. I don't think that I recognize most of you. The police schedule cannot be put on Facebook, newsletter or the public village page. The protection of the school is top priority and we have fought for this for many years. A resident stated "you could have put this on Facebook or in the newsletter!" President Bornhoeft stated "So, the newsletter in September would have read we have 31 shifts between first and second shifts uncovered by the Hampton Police Department. If we didn't have County protection during those times we might as well not have any. There is a lot that goes into policing. What we are talking about is spending your dollars to have an officer in a car, which is not how it is right now. There is a lot of administrative duties, such as code enforcement we talk about that a lot, I hear it all the time. Code enforcement, the Hampton police is your code enforcement and I have been told many times, I am not going to do it, I don't have time for that. I've got the Building Inspector of Silvis' assistant doing it now because we can't get it done. These schedules that I have, always felt unsafe giving you, are on your tables now. The highlighted areas are uncovered time. In the Police Chief's own report, there was 87 calls for service. Rock Island Sheriff's Department did 43 of them. This is not new people. It has already happening. It has been happening. Hoping that nothing happens is not a strategy. I believe to have the best move forward is to have for the money for the best possible services we can get. We cannot run on deficits. We have to have a balanced budget. We have to put money away. There is a lot that goes into running a Village more than the police department. We have fire, roads. At one point it was suggested to me to get rid of Public Works. That was a dead-serious suggestion. Get rid of everything and only have a police department. That is illogical. Someone stated "spending \$15,000 on a police station for no new police officers" President Bornhoeft addressed, I am glad you brought that up, there is no renovation to the Police Station. The Central Square System. Yes we voted to enact a system which allows them to communicate better with other agencies and keep them safe. As we went through the process, I thought that if it was inevitable that we have a contract going in to the next budget year with the Sheriff's Department, why would we spend \$30,000 plus? My answer inside was very simple. If it would have given one of these ladies and gentleman one slight shred of information that would have saved their lives, going into a call, that \$30,000 was worth it that moment even if it was used only one time.

Trustee Adams, First of all I would like to address your comment about \$50,000 going in to the Police Department. The only improvements we have done *per se* a year or two ago was to update the evidence room to make it secure and give it the filtering that you said was needed. The other was related to that program that the officers needed to have in their car to come with County. Understand that we have to pipe through Hampton Police Department to County for dispatch. We have Q-Comm and all these agencies. Everyone has to go to the same place. So, in order for our officers to be able to talk to County or Dispatch we had to upgrade all of the systems. That wasn't our choice. We didn't just say let's go spend this money on nothing. It had to happen. We were given an ultimatum, you have to do this. So this was not just the board saying let's throw \$30,000 away for nothing.

President Bornhoeft, In relation to taxes, I've heard a lot of people say I will pay any price but there is not 1,700 people in this room and I have to look out for all the other ones who are not here. I know you would say if they believe it that hard they would be here. Those same people are the elderly ones. There is a lot of people that will say, I want the fires put out, I want the streets plowed, I want the water to flow and if I call for help I will get it. Now, whatever we do tonight, the notion is we will have help. To put this into perspective, in 2022 my own personal taxes were \$5,402.72. Of that \$5,402.72, \$715 comes to this Village. This is what we are dealing with. At one point, half of our budget went to the Police Department. Like I hear at other meetings, we have a lot of other problems we need to solve.

Trustee Adams, the other issue, we have not violated the OMA. We are required to post the agenda 48 hours in advance of the meeting. It was posted more than 48 hours. It was posted on Friday.

Attorney Riggs, there are no requirements posting to a website that is not run by full-time staff in house.

President Bornhoeft, the agenda is posted on the door 48-hours before the meeting of the meeting place as it has for years.

Attorney Riggs, that is in accordance to the OMA.

Stacy Jones, of this dialog that you mentioned earlier Mr. President. You had several conversations about the Police Department dissolving. I read through four years of minutes and not one line says you want to dissolve the Police Department and I would say that is a false representation of what is happening.

President Bornhoeft, A legal public meeting consists of three officials. I have talked with Chief Tone with another Trustee and any of us have the right to talk to any employee, Chief, Sheriff Hart or any other officer any time we need to. Business is not conducted outside of any meeting. There is no illegal meetings.

Trustee Adams, We have discussed the budget concerns with Police Department for years. I am the longest-serving member up here. It has been a topic from the very first day I landed here. The fact-of-the-matter is running a Police Department has gotten more difficult for small municipalities. The regulations that we are expected to abide by are the same regulations that Chicago PD are to abide by as far as the State is concerned. When County makes changes to radios or dispatching were are expected to buy into that regardless of what our budget can afford. That \$30,000 program we did not

have in the budget. At the time that came up, we did not have room in the budget. We did it anyway and we cut corners somewhere else. Every single budget since I came on this board up until the last two years we were operating in the red. Which means any money we have saved in escrow or in the capital account we were having to borrow from to keep this Village running and we were very seriously looking at not being able to be solvent within another couple years if we had to keep doing that. This board worked very hard. We cut budgets everywhere. It's not just the PD and when we cut that we made sure we could still get a new plow truck to make sure that the streets were safe in bad weather. We still made sure that we had salt for the roads. We still made sure we could cut down dangerous trees. We still made sure we could fix roads. I can say with 100% certainty that 99% of the people here in this room have never come to a budget meeting and it is public. We hold it down here.

President Bornhoeft, if it were not for Covid money we would have no choice a couple of years ago.

Tony Columbia, if we sell this place, we have to pay back a \$150,000. They got a grant to do this.

Trustee Adams, Another issue that was raised was selling Quinn's and all the buildings that aren't doing anything. We do not own those commercial properties. The property taxes have been paid and they have not been condemned by our inspector. If there are properties that are vacant, talk to the owners and ask them to sell or improve them.

President Bornhoeft, in our goal-setting meeting when I brought up the abandoned building ordinance that Mt. Carmel has there was another attorney sitting next to me. That is why this lady is sitting here. Now we can move on to those things. All I was ever told by the previous attorney was "I will look into it." Looking in to it is not enough. That is why she is here.

Trustee Adams, I realize that everyone is emotional. I realize that this is an important issue. I can tell you I have not slept in a couple of days and have been stressed out. I take this job extraordinarily seriously. Because I have, as you said, I have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest in the Village as a whole. I want you to hear that. As a whole. I can't just do what you want or what you want. I am Finance Chair. The numbers all come down to me. Tax revenues have gone down. We don't have the infrastructure that LeClaire, Port Byron or Colona have. The property taxes are not enough to sustain the Police Department. You say raise property taxes. Not all of the residents can afford to have their taxes doubled. Our responsibility is to the entire Village and that comes with some really hard choices. I fought to get a Treasurer that would be professional and do the job because we had so many that were not. I fought to get the attorney that we have sitting right here. I have fought to get a new Auditor because it is my fiduciary responsibility to make sure that the public funds are managed well. This police department is important to us too but right now we have so many part-time officers and how many our working? Half of our schedules are empty of Hampton PD. We have multiple days when there is no Hampton PD on the schedule anywhere. Our website is public. We are never going to give you that kind of transparency because that puts your safety at risk.

Ryan Gonzalez, I have been here over 20 years. I also serve on the school board in Hampton. Safety is important to me. I also have two children who went to Hampton School and I t was very important for me to have a Police Officer there as well. I also care about Hampton to be able to be strong and grow

and not have to constantly run a deficit budget. Before I was on the Board I was frustrated and figured there has to be a way to figure this out and once I got on the Board I learned that there is a lot of things we don't know about running a municipality. I had to learn. I wanted to keep the Police as long as we could be we also had a full-time police force with the funds to support it. We lost the funds from Rapid City. I did not want to become East Moline. We have a great school here in Hampton. I will keep working on doing that. We need to think about the future. When we are escrowing and preparing and getting ready for big purchases we shouldn't have to do a million dollar referendum to get our fire station up to where it needs to be. We should have been able to budget that money but it wasn't there. We were living on borrowed money. I love our police officers. I have a lot of respect for them. I have dealt with them and seen them at school events and personally it makes it that much more difficult to make that decision. I would not enter into this decision if I was not confident that we can get what we need elsewhere. Also having our Sheriff living in Hampton is personal for him. I believe it is something we just have to do.

Trustee Schneckloth, I moved here in 2018. A good friend recruited me to come to this board. I got 85 votes and I only needed 1 as nobody ran against me. I love this town. Blame only smuggles are problems into the future so blaming one person for their opinion, that gets us nowhere. Me and my wife have a vested interest in this town. We have three wonderful boys. This is a big decision for me. Police presence at the school is very important to me. Chief Tone, if I was a police officer, I would want you for my Chief, the way you defend them. I have the utmost respect for you. Tyler Patterson, you are a legend to my boys and I consider you family. You can call me anytime you need anything. I feel the Board and this town has expressed a lot of great things tonight. Because I'm on this board, I get to vote this night and when I'm done I will.

Trustee White, I have been here for 27 years. What this comes down to is that this is a business decision. I worked part-time here and Port Byron as a police officer. I've worked with some of these guys. It's a hard decision. It comes down to it's all about coverage. Response time will be different after that first call. They would be calling East Moline just like before. We have continued to hire part-time hours. We have tried to send someone to the Academy. That didn't work out. We hired a full-time officer and that didn't work out. This is a profession that we cannot get many people to come in to. We have to look at all options. We have tried to do our homework.

Ben Wilson, What is the cost saving, where will that savings be going? Can you speak to the differences?

President Bornhoeft, Well that would be something we will discuss at the budgetary time. If we were to go with county tomorrow, the police budget that is remaining would go toward county. If we are to enter into a contract next fiscal year, some calculations, we are looking at \$60 – \$70,000 in savings compared to Chief Tone's budget this year and with more coverage.

Stacy Jones spoke "so if I understand what you are saying is the reason we need to get rid of the police is for fiscal reasons, but you have not evaluated the fiscal reasons."

Trustee Adams, No, we actually have.

Trustee McKay, I was on the board in Carbon Cliff when they went with County, it made a huge savings. They will be here, they will have a substation. They are just as good as all these officers. There will be the same officers and they will get to know all of you and the kids.

Trustee Adams to Stacy Jones, Ma'am you need to stop interrupting this is the board's time.

President Bornhoeft invited the Mayors of Port Byron, Hillsdale and Cordova to share their successes with County. This is personal to me as well. We are all in agreement on one thing, that we want the safest town.

Mayor Barb Cray, we contracted with county approximately 12 years ago. It has been great service, we have a substation. A lot of the deputies live around the area and are involved in the community. The cost savings is a lot. It is probably over half. They have seven days a week 2 shift, we share with Cordova. The cost savings of maintaining vehicles, keeping software updated is a lot. We have excellent coverage. It is not a personal thing. The board has to look at what is the best decision for the community.

Mayor Boone agreed. They have excellent service in Cordova.

Sheriff Hart, this is a tough discussion, I come from a very unique position I live here. I started my law enforcement career here in Hampton. I have been with Rock Island County 27 years. Rock Island County has a 188 employees and 15,000,000 budget. I am wearing 2 hats tonight as the Sheriff and resident. I love this community. To all of you that are here tonight showing your support for law enforcement is important to all of us. This is reassuring to all of us in law enforcement. I am here to tell you tonight, we have had these discussions. I love law enforcement and this community. I am here tonight to offer a service to the Village. If the Village wants us here, we will be here to protect you. I will retire and continue to live in Hampton. Our proposal to the village is a flat rate hourly charge until we can work into a contract. We have done this with many communities in Rock Island County. This is a difficult decision. I understand the response times. Understand, it is an extremely difficult to compare response times between a deputy who is responsible for a 100 sq. mi. and a Hampton Police officer who is in charge of 1.6 miles. If we are contracted to be here, we will be here if we are needed. We are here now. Regardless of the decision tonight we will be here to support this Village. That is from me as an officer and as a resident. I walked every street in this Village. We are here to help, this is not us pitting against them. It is a difficult, all this is an offer to maintain stability. I know your fiscal year begins May 1, we can offer a contract. That is the conversation that has been had. We are here to help you. I want you to know that.

Moving forward it would be a discussion between the board and sheriff department. Not a zone 3 car, a dedicated officer to this village. We do this in 6 municipalities. This is just a conversation.

We are always working. I love my agency that is why I work there. We have trusting relationships with Port Byron and Cordova.

*** Many residents talking, inaudible*** what I am saying is we are out there working 24/7. The hours of desired coverage is between the board and sheriff department.

All vehicles, uniforms, training and upkeep as well as liability of insurance.

Ben Wilson, has Rapid City asked for us back?

President Bornhoeft, I have pleaded with the Mayor of Rapid City to enter into a contract with us, asking him what it would take to get us back, answer was nothing.

Missy Housenga, Clerk of the Village of Rapid City: Mayor Mire is out of town or he would be here tonight and that is not an option. We are completely happy with Rock Island County.

President Bornhoeft, There will always be a presence in Hampton, just a different name on the car and more coverage than what we have now without the responsibility of any bad actions. The notion that we all just woke up three days ago and decided not to do this, it has been a long slow burn. There has been things that has happened in conduct and lawsuits going back years. We cannot build on debt. We need a foundation to build upon. We cannot keep building on our debt.

Trustee White made a motion to go ahead close business with the Hampton Police Department and we go ahead with Rock Island County as our primary law enforcement, seconded by Trustee Smice. Roll call as follows: White, Smice, Adams, McKay, Schneckloth and Gonzalez: "Aye" Motion passes.

Discussion, Consideration and Approval of the Special Use Permit – Nettles. Motion by Trustee McKay, second by Trustee Gonzalez to table until Attorney can draft ordinance regarding short term rentals. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion, Consideration and Approval of the Variance – VanDieren. Motion by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee McKay to approve splitting the parcel into two lots. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2023-14 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HAMPTON, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS LEVYING TAXES FOR ALL CORPORATE PURPOSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2023 AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2024. Motion to approve the Levy by Trustee McKay, second by Trustee Adams. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2023 – 13 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HAMPTON, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS ABATING THE TAX HERETOFORE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO PAY THE DEBT SERVICE ON \$145,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2018. Motion to approve by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Gonzalez. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2023 – 15 AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF HAMPTON, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS ABATING THE TAX HERETOFORE LEVIED FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO PAY THE DEBT SERVICE ON \$1,230,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2022. Motion to approve by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Gonzalez. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of Ordinance 2023-09 Paid Leave for all Workers Act. Motion to approve by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Smice. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of the quote from Civic Plus for Republication. Motion by Trustee White to approve the quote for a complete recodification from Civic Plus, second by Trustee McKay. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of McClintock trucking and excavating. Motion by Trustee Adams to approve the quote from McClintock, second by Trustee Gonzalez. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of the tree quote from Bieniek Tree Service. Motion by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee Smice to approve the quote from Bieniek for the tree located at 917 6th Street. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of the contract with 3D Sound. Motion by Trustee Gonzalez, second by Trustee Smice to approve the contract with 3D for the 2024 Hampton Day car show. Roll call: Adams, Gonzalez, Schneckloth, Smice, McKay and White: "Aye". Motion approved.

Consideration and Approval of detail on Friday and Saturday nights. Motion to table by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee White. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Consideration and Approval of replacing in-car computer. Motion to table by Trustee Adams, second by Trustee White. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS and Committee Reports.

Streets and Alleys: Trustee McKay nothing to report

Public Safety: Trustee White nothing to report

Police Chief Report: nothing to report

Fire Chief Report: Chief Johnson nothing to report

Finance: Trustee Adams stated again, make sure when you're looking at your budgets, if you've submitted a receipt and it looks like it went to the wrong line item. Please make sure you get that corrected right away. So that when it comes budget time, we're not trying to figure out why is this line so over budget, but this one's under budget? Oh, well, that's because that receipt for that sidewalk got put under something else. Please be conscientious with that. Please be sure you're turning in your receipts on time to Michelle. It looks like next year's going to be tight by everything that I've been reading, IML and others. So, keep that in mind. I'm not saying don't get the things that you need.

Administration, Insurance and Code Enforcement: Trustee Smice, nothing to report

Public Works: Trustee Schneckloth nothing to report

Supervisor Report: Supervisor Toalson stated nothing other than, we had our first water main break on Friday. Could have gone better, but everybody has water again, so no more boiling.

Parks and Heritage Center: Trustee Gonzalez nothing to report

Clerk: Clerk Reyes nothing to report

President's Report and Comments: President Bornhoeft stated that tonight is a tough one. Needless to say, I would say this is probably the, if it wasn't for cancer, this would be the worst night of my year. But, as I've come to realize in the last year, our jobs here are all very temporary. They might be a little more temporary than what we thought, but we've done the best that we can. We've done the best that we can with what we have. And we always will. I, thank everybody, every Chief and officer that we ever had. Tonight, gave us no pleasure. I mean, we, we all, I recognize the enormity of what's happened here, but I believe in time that people will see the results of what we've done, and it might not be us that benefits from those results, but at some point, somebody will. At some point, other boards, other mayors will have. A balanced budget, fire protection, reliable public works, good water, patrols, and uh, hopefully nobody 50 years from now will ever have to remember our names and say they should have done more. We can all walk out of here, I mean everybody made their case and everybody did everything they could do. So, I would ask that we move forward amicably. I got nothing else to say other than that.

Dan Guise addressed the board: I'd like to say thank you for every member of the board that sat through tonight's meeting. It wasn't exactly easy for all of you, I appreciate everything all of you do. Applause I'd like to say I think you're doing a great job.

Being no further business, motion by Trustee Adams to adjourn, second by Trustee McKay. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Motion carried. The Board adjourned at 9:07 PM.

VILLAGE OF HAMPTON



Michelle Reyes, Clerk