



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING– 15 AUGUST 2014 –8:15A.M.
MARY HERBERT CONFERENCE ROOM
233 ATLANTIC AVENUE

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12 The meeting was called to order by Cynthia Swankat approximately 8:20 a.m. David O’Heir, Rick Stanton, and Nancy
13 Monaghan were also present on the Committee. James Sununu and Dickie Garnett were absent. Dennis Cote, the Fire Chief
14 and Paul Apple, the Town Administrator were also present.

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16 Mr. Apple indicated that the Economic Development Committee was meeting at 8:30 and that he would have to leave the
17 meeting in order to get them started. Ms. Monaghan agreed to take the minutes until Mr. Apple returned. Mr. Apple left the
18 meeting at approximately 8:25 a.m.

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20 The Committee reviewed minutes of the 08 August 2014 meeting. Spelling corrections to the names “Kollmorgen” and
21 “Maddocks” were made. A typographical error at line 99 was changed from “head” to “heat.”

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23 MOTION: Mr. Stanton moved to approve the minutes of the 08 August 2014 meeting as corrected. Ms. Monaghan seconded
24 the motion. There was no additional discussion. Ms. Monaghan, Mr. Stanton and Mr. O’Heir voted in favor. There were no
25 votes against. Ms. Swank abstained because of her absence from the 08 August 2014 meeting.

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27 The Committee considered points of old business. The Chair raised the Police Chief’s request to increase the amount of his
28 capital request regarding ballistic shields. The consensus on the Committee was to discuss all the police department issues
29 together when Chief Page can be available.

30
31 The Committee reviewed the ladder truck run sheets provided by Chief Cote. The ladder truck has responded to 183 calls
32 over the last 5 years. Mr. Stanton asked for examples of “other” in the heading regarding types of calls. Chief Cote said
33 “other” would be water evacuation issues, major storms, and checking pumps for example. Mr. Stanton asked if other
34 equipment can do the same tasks and Chief Cote responded “yes,” citing the pumper truck. Mr. Stanton asked how many
35 chimney fires have there been in North Hampton, compared with other communities. Chief Cote replied that he didn’t know.
36 He did say there was a spike in chimney prices when fuel prices went up and more people began heating with wood.

37
38 Chief Cote also said the ladder truck has been used to help with snow removal at Harley-Davidson and Marshall’s. Ms.
39 Monaghan asked if the companies pay for such service, and Chief Cote responded that they did not. The Fire Department
40 does not remove roof snow *per se* but does an inspection where there is concern that the snow load is too heavy. If it is an
41 emergency situation, Chief Cote said department personnel will do some initial snow removal just to relieve the immediate
42 risk.

43
44 Mr. Apple returned to the meeting at approximately 8:40 a.m.

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46 Chief Cote also said that the average age of individuals who receive medical assistance on rescue calls is hovering at 58-59.

47
48 One of the primary issues for consideration of equipment is access. Chief Cote said many driveways are too narrow and there
49 are trees in the way. Mr. O’Heir asked for an example, and the Chief responded with Dancers’ Image. Ms. Monaghan said

50 most people don't think about access issues. Mr. Stanton asked for a list of problem driveways so that the Select Board can
51 make recommendations to the Planning Board for new land-use recommendations.

52

53 The Chair asked if there were any additional information requests.

54

55 Mr. Stanton asked if the price for the fire department heating system has changed. Chief Cote didn't think so, and reiterated
56 \$80,000 for the whole system, including the circulating pump, the boiler and the necessary pipe-work. Mr. O'Heir opined
57 that it would be less expensive to use a hot-air system. Mr. Stanton suggested that a hot-air system would not be as portable.
58 Mr. O'Heir asked about the distribution of the existing system. Chief Cote responded that it is spotty.

59

60 Mr. Stanton asked for 5 years of repair expenses for the forestry vehicle. Chief Cote responded that there had not been many
61 repairs. The tires were replaced in 2007. Rust is prevalent through-out the vehicle.

62

63 Chief Cote noted that the portables are one of his capital expenditures for this year.

64

65 Mr. Stanton asked for a more descriptive narrative for the tanker truck, and some additional information about engine
66 capacity and other "specifications" of the vehicle. Chief Cote confirmed that this request has been pushed out to 2020. He
67 said that some changes were made to it, including LED lights that lower the electrical draw. He said it is a 2003 model.

68

69 The Chair asked if the ladder truck could be moved out as well. Chief Cote responded that it is 30 years old. Parts have to be
70 specially made, and there are some minor repairs that are immediately necessary. For example, the seals have to be replaced.
71 Major repairs were done 2010. Chief Cote said that older vehicles necessarily have higher repair costs.

72

73 Mr. Stanton asked for the same improvement on the ambulance replacement narrative. Chief Cote said that replacing Engine
74 3 has thrown off the schedule for ambulance replacement.

75

76 Mr. Stanton asked how often the utility vehicle is used and for what. He asked if an older police department vehicle could be
77 used after its service cycle as a utility vehicle. Chief Cote responded that the utility vehicle is a pick-up truck. It hauls hose
78 and is also used to plow the parking lot. A police vehicle is probably not adequate for the jobs the utility vehicle does.

79

80 The Committee began discussion of the quint. Mr. Apple explained his telephone memorandum of his discussion with Chief
81 Duggan, one of the authors of the 2008 MRI study that recommended that the Town purchase a quint. The MRI study
82 essentially concluded that height and reach was available in Portsmouth and Hampton and that the Town could leverage its
83 mutual aid relationships to get sufficient height and reach. Chief Duggan said that water supply was not studied and was a
84 local concern. He also indicated that he did not want to enter into any dispute with the local chief.

85

86 Mr. Stanton indicated that there are quints in Seabrook, Rye and Newmarket. Ms. Monaghan replied that Seabrook and
87 Newmarket are getting rid of their quints.

88

89 Mr. O'Heir asked for some additional clarification of Hampton's response to mutual aid requests and Chief Cote said that
90 Hampton is on our run cards and responds automatically.

91

92 Mr. Stanton updated the Committee in part on the Select Board's discussion about the town campus. He believes that
93 resolving the quint issue would go a long way to demonstrating to voters that money is being handled responsibly because of
94 the possible savings.

95

96 The Committee discussed the schedule briefly and directed the Town Administrator to release Mr. Hubbard and ask him to
97 come back for the meeting on August 22nd.

98

99 Mr. Stanton asked if the Committee would have a straw vote on the quint issue. He said his primary reason for putting the
100 matter forward is savings. Mr. O'Heir said he would normally rely on the Chief's advice, although he understood that
101 elements of public safety culture would suggest acquiring a new ladder truck. He said the quint makes a lot of sense but we
102 need personnel and equipment to handle all contingencies.

103

104 Mr. Stanton replied that the quint is often of comparable size to the existing engine and asked if it would pose the same
105 access issues. Chief Cote responded that any quint would have to be low-built to fit into our facility, which would make the
106 turning radius higher and more difficult to access narrow driveways. Mr. O'Heir confirmed that turning radius would not be
107 a problem if the new building were constructed.

108

109 Chief Cote offered his experience in Newington, which had a quint. The demographics there were different: 300 residents
110 and mostly all businesses on Woodbury Avenue. Here, North Hampton's situation is almost the reverse. He said he'd be very
111 cautious on a 75 foot ladder for the quint because of reach issues required by existing houses.

112

113 Ms. Monaghan said she had been persuaded that the ladder truck is the right course. The quint can only do one of its five
114 functions at a time. The MRI study did not study the issue and she doesn't believe additional study is necessary. She
115 suggested we look for economies of scale elsewhere.

116

117 The Chair indicated her support for a ladder truck, based on the issue of water supply and the fact that the ladder affords
118 equitable service to hydrant zone and nonhydrant zone residents. She said a multi-functional vehicle does not appeal to her
119 because it is good in a pinch but a dedicated vehicle would be better.

120

121 Mr. Stanton said he supports the quint and he lives in a nonhydrant zone.

122

123 Ms. Monaghan asked what the real price for the proposed ladder truck purchase in 2017 would be. Chief Cote said that it can
124 be purchased for under \$500,000. She replied that it is important to get a real number and then give it the Chief and tell him
125 this is how much he has to spend.

126

127 Discussion ensued about how to present the straw poll to the Select Board. Everyone felt it important to document the
128 discussion in a report. The Chair said she would attempt a draft.

129

130 Mr. Stanton suggested Mr. Hubbard compare the cost of buying his proposed roller to renting it. He also asked that Mr.
131 Hubbard estimate the cost of repaving the library parking lot.

132

133 The Committee agreed to have a brief discussion with Chief Cote next week and then move forward with Public Works.

134

135 The Town Administrator reported that Sue Hills had declined to serve and asked the Committee if Anne Ambrogi would be
136 an acceptable community member. The Committee unanimously agreed to request the nomination if Ms. Ambrogi were
137 willing to serve.

138

139 The Chair called for any additional business, and hearing none, she adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

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141

Capital Improvement Plan Committee
Regular Meeting
15 August 2014

142 Respectfully submitted,

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144

145 Paul L. Apple, Town Administrator

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147 Date prepared: 19 August 2014

148 Date approved: 22 August 2014