

Selectmen's Meeting
24 November 1997
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dick Wollmar, at 7:00pm. Those present included Allen Hines, George Lagassa (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the previous meeting minutes and Mr. Lagassa voted to accept the minutes as published. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Photocopier contract
- Recycling center insurance renewal
- Media One Letter of Rate Increase
- Public Sector Labor Bulletin
- Draft copy of the Town's Audited Financial Statements
- SB-2 Timeline
- Little River Watershed Sustainable Development Plan

Topics of Discussion

Mr. McAllister addressed the Board concerning the necessity of procuring a radio for the new Fire Truck at a cost of \$2,840.95. Mr. Wollmar asked whether the radio was included in the specifications prior to ordering the vehicle. Mr. LeClaire (Deputy Fire Chief) responded that it was an oversight on his part. Mr. LeClaire then provided a briefing to the Board regarding the new radio purchase. Mr. Hines made the motion to approve the purchase of the radio for the amount of \$2,840.95 with Mr. Lagassa seconding said motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

A brief discussion of the Media One letter of rate increase ensued. Mr. Wollmar explained that the Town had previously entered into a 15 year franchise agreement with the cable company. Mr. Lagassa asked to review the agreement at a later date. The Town Administrator agreed to locate the document for the perusal of the Board members.

The Town Administrator briefed the Board concerning the Chair of the Board's signature required for the Auditor's report. It was explained that the Auditor's require the signature as part of the normal audit process whereby the Selectmen acknowledge that all relevant materials required by the auditor's are made available during their audit process. Mr. Wollmar expressed some trepidation in supplying his signature. No action was taken.

The next order of business taken up by the Board concerned the transfer of \$3,700 in funds from the account for Selectmen's wages (4240.10-110) to the wage account (4240.10-110) for the code enforcement/building inspector. Mr. Wollmar explained that the transfer was to cover the increase in the hourly wage for the Building Inspector that was discussed last summer by the Board members. All present agreed the work performance of the Building Inspector warranted the increase. Mr. Wollmar made the motion to transfer \$3,700 from account 4240.10-110 to account 4240.10-110. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Chair, Mr. Wollmar, took up the issue of placing RSA Chapter 38 on the Town Warrant. Mr. Hines made the motion to place RSA Chapter 38 on the Town Warrant. Mr. Wollmar seconded the motion.

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Discussion of the topic ensued with Mr. Wollmar pointing out that the combined assessed valuation of the Hampton Water Works in the Towns of Rye, Hampton & North Hampton represented approximately 11.5 million dollars. It was further noted that Hampton is largely self sufficient in terms of water supply with the exception of the summer months. Time lines required under RSA Chapter 38 for the Town's acquisition of assets from the Hampton Water Works were discussed and debated. Mr. Lagassa expressed reservation about the strict timetable for action in RSA Chapter 38 and about the need to gather additional information before moving forward with any condemnation proceedings. Further discussion ensued resulting in a unanimous vote to place RSA Chapter 38 on the Town Warrant as outlined below.

“Shall the Town of North Hampton authorize the Board of Selectmen pursuant to RSA Chapter 38 to acquire that portion of Hampton Water Works Company's plant and property which the Selectmen judge to be suitable for establishing a municipal Water utility, with the further understanding that any agreement to acquire or determination of acquisition price shall be presented to a future North Hampton Town Meeting for approval and ratification prior to final acquisition of such Water Company property?”

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen

Mr. Hines introduced the discussion of a memorial for the late Mary Hebert. It was noted that the use of public money for the memorial was prohibited. However, the establishment of a dedication committee was something the Board could do while the raising of donations could be left to outside participants interested in the memorial. Committee membership would include Allen Hines, Byron Kirby and Bob Landman. Mr. Hines reported that Byron Kirby had suggested the memorial consist of a flowering tree and small granite monument with plaque to be placed on the Bandstand Green. Byron Kirby, it was agreed, would be well suited to coordinate donations and giving. The Board expressed their support for the memorial noting that Ms. Hebert's participation had enriched the North Hampton community and their personal lives as well.

The next issue addressed by the Board concerned the donation of the out of service fire engine to the Brentwood Training grounds in exchange for \$3,600 worth of fire department personnel training at the Brentwood facility. Mr. LeClaire explained typical costs associated with attaining the minimum department standards of Firefighter Level I are \$600 and require 140 hours training. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to donate the fire engine to the Brentwood Training facility in exchange for \$3,600 worth of training programs without any time restrictions upon the training credits. Mr. Hines seconded the motion and said motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lagassa wondered whether planning board documents, now located above the Police Department, provided the necessary public access. Mr. McAllister explained that he would search for a suitable alternative location, but that the Town Office was running out of usable space in which to store documents. It was further explained that the document management system currently in place was inadequate from an efficiency and space perspective, but planning was underway to address these issues.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator

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