

Selectmen's Meeting
1 December 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 with Mr. Lagassa requesting corrections to the record. Specific corrections included, **1.** Mr. Lagassa's 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, **2.** Inclusion of the specific wording of RSA Chapter 38, **3.** Mary Herbert dedication committee membership (Allen Hines, Byron Kirby and Bob Landman), **4.** Insertion of 'no time limit' on \$3,600 of FD training from the Brentwood training facility in exchange for the Town's old fire truck. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to accept the minutes with corrections. Mr. Hines seconded the motion and it was so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll / manifest
- RPC Winnicut Watershed study contract - \$6,000. (conservation funds)
- Abatement - Brian & Kathleen Batchelder
- Petition - \$100 for Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
- NHMBB - Interest PMT by 01/08/98 - \$13, 512.50
- Driveway permit - Brian Donovan
- NRRRA - Membership Dues Invoice & Annual Report
- Ruth Griffin - Executive Council Newsletter
- NH Land Surveyors 28th annual meeting booklet

Topics of Discussion

The Town Administrator briefed the Board on the status of the Little River Watershed study project offered by the USDA Forest Service. The project had not received the anticipated funding. Mr. McAllister suggested writing a letter to the FS Chief and Senators Smith and Greg requesting that funding be reinstated. Mr. Wollmar expressed his disappointment commenting that the project was a good idea. The Board agreed to have the TA draft a letter for their perusal.

A letter from the NH Office of State Planning concerning a planned meeting date for the Little River & Salt Marsh Study presentation was reviewed. Mr. Wollmar asked that the December 17th, 7:00pm meeting date in the PD conference room be posted by December 12th.

The TA next briefed the Board on the status of the Feasibility Grant submitted in October. Awards would be forthcoming. North Hampton's community facility grant was one of nine feasibility grants submitted and the only grant listed under the category of community facility.

The Board next reviewed a request from residents of Chapel Road concerning the replacement of a street light to its former location between the Mitchel and Schreck houses. Mr. Wollmar suggested that the pole number be identified and that the request be entered into the streetlight file for review.

The new cable rate schedule offered by Media One was reviewed by the Board. Mr. Lagassa inquired about the lease agreement and whether a committee hadn't at one time reviewed the franchise agreement. Mr. Hines mentioned his meeting with Bob Landman, who had in-depth knowledge and copies of the lease

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agreement with Media One. Mr. Hines mentioned that public ownership of cable facilities within the Town is also a possibility and that consulting firms offer their expertise to Town's who wish to operate their own cable facilities. Discussion continued regarding the issue of having a framework to review the lease agreement and its implications. Particular emphasis was placed on developing a monitoring process that would provide research and recommendations on the issue. The Board felt that establishing a communications sub-committee from the Planning Board membership entrusted to track the Media One cable contract process was prudent.

The Town Administrator again brought the issue of Mr. Wollmar, as Chair, signing the auditors' letter before the Board for action. It was explained that the signature was a necessary formality by which the Board officially acknowledged that all documents requested by the auditors were made available. Mr. Wollmar penned his name to the document. The TA further explained that he would draft language responding to the management letters and provide those responses to the Board prior to submission to the auditors. Mr. Lagassa asked if he had received copies of the management letters. Mr. McAllister thought the letters had been provided as part of Mr. Lagassa's introductory briefing package, but agreed to provide Mr. Lagassa copies.

Selectmen next reviewed issues of concern to them. Mr. Hines indicated that he would be absent during at least two meetings in January because of family obligations. Mr. Lagassa asked to be provided keys to the Town Office, PD Conference room, and the upstairs of the PD. The TA agreed to fulfill the request as soon as possible. Mr. Wollmar asked for an realistic appraisal on the status of the tax bills. Mr. McAllister explained that some of the tax bills did not include amounts for current use, and that some elderly exemption amounts had not been used in calculating the bills. Mr. Promer, the town's contract assessor, was currently reviewing the tax warrant for billing discrepancies. The first order of business was to compile a list of property owners who did not receive a tax bill, and those property owners who did not receive a billing for their land in current use. Second, prepare a supplemental warrant. Third, calculate amount of overpayment, if there is any, for qualifying elderly residents who did not receive the amount of exemption they are entitled to. Fourth, issue refunds to elderly residents. Fifth, clean up all data in the State's appraisal and assessment software and the tax billing software. Mr. McAllister relayed that Mr. Promer believed that the process could be completed before Christmas. Mr. Wollmar briefed those present on the status of the streetlight conversion informing the assembled that all but three lights had been concerted. The conversion will be completed prior to Christmas and the project should come in under budget.

The meeting was opened for questions and comments. Ms. Ellingwood asked about the quality of the revaluation work performed by the DRA. Mr. McAllister responded that it was his first experience with a revaluation and that the process is a difficult one.

Mr. Buzzell wondered about the status of the Town Clock. Mr. Wollmar indicated that the clock was maintained from funds established by the Hobbes Grant. He also suggested that Bob Strout would probably have more information.

A healthy discussion of public-safety service delivery costs and alternative delivery systems ensued. Points concerning the quality of services presently delivered were made alongside suggestions advocating a more regional approach to service delivery.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister

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