

Selectmen's Meeting
2 February 1998
7:00pm

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

The first order of business was the discussion of the warrant articles and their presentation by the Selectmen. Michael Harvell, Town Meeting Moderator, addressed the Board concerning the new format of Town Meeting under Senate Bill 2 known as the first deliberative session. Mr. Harvell explained that warrant articles could be amended at the deliberative session with the exception of those articles whose wording is proscribed by law. For instance, petitioned articles may not be amended. Typically, all money articles may be amended up or down. The Selectmen reviewed the warrant and parceled out responsibility for presenting the individual articles among themselves.

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

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Manifest
- Veteran's Exemption - Thomas Gergen
- Dredge & Fill Application - Brian McNamara

Topics of Discussion

The TA briefed the Board about a scheduled meeting on February 4th between the Board and the Hampton Water Works to discuss legal issues. The TA also informed the Board that he had drafted and sent a letter to the Hampton Water Works requesting a breakout on the water bill by including the number of hydrants and the cost per hydrant with their invoice. An article in the Hampton Union pertinent to the Hampton Water Works was discussed. The article suggested that a bill in the legislature granting greater local control over private water would adversely impact the Town of Hampton's beach community should the Town of North Hampton exercise local control over the HWW wells located inside North Hampton. The TA explained to those present that North Hampton would not stop pumping water to Hampton Beach. That everyone recognized the importance of the tourist economy of Hampton Beach to the seacoast community. Further discussion ensued regarding the potential of Hampton Water Works to use their monopoly on the supply of water to the surrounding Town's as a divisive issue to pit area Town's against one another. It was pointed out that users of the water system are the ones who should determine where the water goes, not New Jersey shareholders of the Hampton Water Works.

Brian Page next briefed the Board about the hiring of a part-time police officer. He explained that Lt. Scott Qualls was presently a ten-year veteran with the Newington Police Department. Mr. Page commended Mr. Scott's background and training and recommended that Mr. Scott be approved for the position. It was further explained that money for the position was already in the budget and that the Board had previously reviewed the position. Further discussion ensued with the Board agreeing to approve the position.

Questions & Comments

A question was asked concerning the difference between SB-374 and SB-375. It was explained that SB-375 sought to expand local control of private water companies through increased oversight by local planning and zoning boards. SB-374 was legislation that would grant the Commissioner of DRED greater rule

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making and enforcement authority over water issues statewide. Another question was asked regarding the Town Clerks salary. It was explained that the auditor's had recommended that the Town Clerk be reimbursed for decal fees from the General Fund rather than from cash. Therefore, the increase in salary was more a reflection of the change in the method of accounting than any real increase in salary. Some discussion ensued around the potential impact of solid waste costs because of recent arrangements made between Waste management and Brian Ferris Industries, both of whom are solid waste haulers.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at 8:17pm. The Board then convened into executive session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Compensation of employees was reviewed. No votes or decisions were made. The non-public session adjourned at approximately 8:35pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator