

Selectmen's Meeting
09 March 1998
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 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
- Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral Application - Simon & Sally Tager
- Letter of Resignation - Officer Mathew Clark
- Pay per Call Firefighter - Brent Dalton
- Executive Council Newsletter - Ruth Griffin
- Rockingham County Commissioners - County Budget -4.39%
- Media One - Rep will attend March 23rd meeting.
- Federal Preemption of Cable Franchising - John Pestle & Patrick Miles
- Legal update - Turner Porter v. Town of NHHH
- Executive Council Newsletter - Ruth Griffin

Topics of Discussion

John Dowd & Jack Callahan, representing the Seacoast Business Alliance (SBA), addressed the Board concerning the formation of a regional development corporation. Mr. Dowd explained that the SBA was formed with the intention of creating a regional development corporation (RDC). The RDC service area would initially include North Hampton, Hampton and Hampton Falls. Initial participation by these three Towns was necessary for incorporation of the RDC. The criteria established by the Office of State Planning (OSP) for RDC formation includes; letters of commitment from three towns, a grant application by one of the municipalities, a minimum of \$500,000 in SBA and BFA loan activity within the last year in the proposed service area, letters of commitment from banks to establish a loan pool of at least \$500k, RDC business & marketing plans, a list of Directors including resumes, loan and review policies and articles of incorporation and bylaws. Mr. Dowd, who sits on the Board of Directors at the BFA, also explained that the purpose of the RDC revolving loan fund was to help create job opportunities for low to moderate-income groups. Municipalities are required to participate in the formation of the RDC because under HUD rules, only municipalities may apply for CDBG grants. It was also noted that North Hampton was best positioned to spearhead the grant portion of the effort because of its previous CDBG grant application with OSP. Mr. Lagassa asked if there had been any commitments for the loan pool from the banks. Mr. Dowd responded that they were in the process of doing so. Mr. Hines asked what exactly the SBA would need from the Board of Selectmen to assist in the effort. Mr. Dowd explained that a letter of commitment from the Town would be necessary as well as some assistance from the TA with preparing the application.

The TA briefed the Board on Fire Chief Lambert's request and recommendation to hire Brent Dalton as a call fire fighter. Mr. Hines mentioned that the Board had previously met proposed FD employees prior to hiring. Mr. Lagassa suggested that some management discretion be given in such circumstances. Mr. Wollmar explained that within the PD such discretion is granted given the nature of the job. The TA was asked to have Mr. Dalton visit with the Board prior to instatement.

Jerry & Ray Evans addressed the Board concerning their proposal to service the trash pick-up needs of the Town. Jerry Evans reported that he worked for Luck Enterprises and had verbal agreements for trash pickups in the three mobile home parks. The Evans' were interested in knowing whether the Town would still be willing to pay the tipping fee if they provided the trash collection service. They explained that they could buy three recycling trailers to do roadside collection of recyclable material. Mr. Wollmar explained that the Town was a member of solid waste district 53-B and that the Evans', if selected to provide collection services, would need a letter of approval from 53-B, to bring trash to the landfill. More discussion ensued regarding the reactivation of the solid waste committee to look into the recycling and landfill issues with an eye towards the bottom line.

Lt. Brian Page next addressed the Board on behalf of Chief Maloney regarding recommendation of James Giguere for promotion to the Sergeant's position as part of the PD restructuring plan. Mr. Page explained that Mr. Giguere was the top candidate for the position and that his contributions to the department were many. Mr. Page characterized Mr. Giguere as a utility man and jack-of-all-trades. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to accept the recommendation of Chief Maloney and Lt. Page and promote Mr. Giguere to the position of Sergeant. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so moved.

Mr. Page next asked the Board for permission to move forward with the hiring process of a full-time certified officer. It was explained that the department has a sworn strength of 9 officers, but the department had not been at full strength since 1991. Mr. Hines asked if there was money in the budget for the position. Mr. Page answered in the affirmative. Mr. Wollmar made the motion to proceed with the hiring process. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was so moved.

Mr. Hines next recognized Robin Leckner. Mr. Leckner addressed the Board of his concerns over the old Cumberland Farms property located on Atlantic Avenue. He mentioned that it was probably contaminated because of the odor of oil he smelled while at the property. He questioned why no one had bought the property and suggested that it may well be due to contamination issues. Mr. Leckner asked why the Town had not reviewed the status of the property sooner. Mr. Wollmar replied that there had been no reason to review the property. It was also explained that it was the Department of Environmental Services (DES) that would make any assessment of contamination at the site. The TA indicated that he would have the Building Inspector look into the issue and contact the appropriate officials at the DES.

The TA next handed out briefings on the issue of the Hampton Water Works to those present while Mr. Wollmar addressed the assembled. Mr. Wollmar explained that recent letters by the HWW indicating that the Town should beware of the consequences of the Grafton, Massachusetts case. However, a legal opinion regarding the issue had been sought previously which stated that the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are not applicable to the State of New Hampshire.

Selectmen's Concerns

Mr. Hines addressed the issue of allowing Lee Saunders and the Church of Living Waters to use the Bandstand that is Town owned property. There was some brief discussion concerning the separation of church and state doctrine. The request for use was to conduct an Easter service that would be open to the community. The service was characterized as a Christian Event. It was also noted that area business had donated food for the event. Because the Bandstand was also used for weddings, the Board determined that use by the Church of Living Waters of the Bandstand property for the service would be acceptable. All supported the event.

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Questions & Answers

Lucille Ellingwood commented that it was nice to see the recycling issue addressed by someone other than the big companies.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. A motion was made by Mr. Lagassa to convene into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) at approximately 9:16pm. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous. The Board, as required by the TA's employment contract, conducted the Town Administrator's performance evaluation.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator