

Selectmen's Meeting
16 March 1998
7:00pm

The Selectmen's meeting began with Mr. Hines addressing those in attendance and explaining that the evening's meeting was primarily to induct new members into the Board of Selectmen. The Town Clerk, Delores Chase, administered the oath of office for George Lagassa (3 year term) and Jack Steiner (1 year term). The newly reconstituted Board came to order at 7:15pm. Those present included Allen Hines, George Lagassa and Jack Steiner (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

A brief discussion among the Board members ensued regarding the Chairmanship of the Board. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to appoint Mr. Hines as the Board's Chair for the coming year. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

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

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Manifest
- Executive Council Newsletter - Ruth Griffin
- ICMA / CFO Handouts
- Coastal Corridor Communities - Transportation Committee Meeting
- NHMA - Legislative bulletins
- NH Center for Public Policy Studies - Welfare Reform
- NHDES - Non point Source Pollution Publication
- Rockingham Planning Commission - Agenda for Phase II meetings
- HWW - Advisory Council Meeting 3/18/98 7:00pm
- NHMA - Electric Aggregation Newsletter
- Media One - Correspondence

Topics of Discussion

The TA briefed the Board on recent developments in the Coakely Landfill Project explaining that the group representing the municipalities had severed the contract with IT, the contracted firm charged with closure. The IT Corporation, in turn, was suing the group for breach of contract. Mr. Steiner asked if there were any added financial liability to the Town as a result of recent events. The TA explained that there may very well be, but that he was unaware of the extent such liability might be. The TA offered to contact the Portsmouth City Manager for more details as the City's attorney was spearheading the issue.

The Board next discussed a meeting time they could set aside to meet the Brent Dalton, the new call fire fighter. Wednesday morning at 9:00am was agreeable to all concerned. The TA agreed to make the arrangements. The Board next discussed scheduling a meeting with John Ryan to discuss the Interim Growth Ordinance suit immediately following (9:30am) the meeting with Brent Dalton. All present voiced agreement on the times.

The TA briefed the Board concerning the recount of the vote for the IGO article. The recount would be held on Saturday at 9:00am in the Town Hall. It was explained that the Board was required to attend the recount and provide a supervisory function.

The TA briefed the Board concerning the office schedule for the week explaining that he would be attending a municipal manager's meeting on Friday.

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The TA next briefed the Board on the expense involved with registering the FD Forestry vehicle. The vehicle needed repairs of \$1,000 to pass inspection. The TA relayed information provided by the FD Chief that on an overall basis, the cost for registering FD vehicles for the remainder of the fiscal year should not exceed \$3,000.

The Board next discussed committee assignments for themselves. Mr. Lagassa accepted the assignment to the Budget Committee. Mr. Steiner accepted the assignment to the Planning Board and Mr. Hines accepted the assignment to the Conservation Commission.

The Board next took up the issue of meeting times. Brief discussion ensued regarding the merits of weekly versus twice per month meetings. Mr. Hines suggested that the time of year might very well dictate the frequency of meeting times. Mr. Steiner agreed that Budget season would likely necessitate weekly meetings. He also inquired about the status of the morning meetings. Mr. Hines explained that previously scheduled morning meetings with department heads was no longer necessary now that there was a TA who supervised the Departments and held weekly staff meetings. It was agreed that meeting twice monthly would work well until things got busy again. It was agreed that any need to meet more often than the proposed schedule might easily be arranged on an as need basis simply by posting notice.

Selectmen's Concerns

Mr. Steiner spoke about his wish to see a member of the Board attend School Board meetings and vice versa. All agreed that it was a good idea to improve communication. Mr. Hines spoke about the composition of the new Board characterizing it as a young Board. He felt strongly that the Board should decide issues as a Board with all members present. Mr. Hines agreed with Mr. Steiner on the need to improve communication with the School Board and to initiate more discussion with school officials. The TA asked if the Board had determined a time on the proposed get together for newly elected officials, existing members of the various Town boards, and Department Heads at the Town Hall. Mr. Hines agreed to schedule the event and flush out the details.

The TA asked if the Board wanted an ad written up soliciting volunteers for vacancies on the various town boards. All agreed and the TA was directed to proceed.

Mr. Lagassa mentioned that he would now resign his position on the Planing Board now that he had been elected as Selectmen.

Questions & Answers

Lucille Ellingwood asked if Selectmen meetings would now be on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month? The reply was in the affirmative. Mr. Grant suggested that the Board look into placing an event sign out front of the Town Office, much like the one used by the school, as part of improving communication.

Allen Sisson addressed the Board and unveiled a drawing he had done of the Town Office. He explained that North Hampton was his hometown and that before he became too well known and busy he wanted to give something to the Town. The sketch was beautiful and very well done and the Board thanked Mr. Sisson very much. A future date for the official donation by Mr. Sisson would be determined.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator

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