

Selectmen's Meeting  
06 June 1998  
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Chair, Allen Hines, at 7:00pm. Those present included George Lagassa, Jack Steiner (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. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Payroll
- Manifest
- NH Estuaries Workshop
- Nursing Home Data Sheet
- Teamsters Local 633 PD Contract / Signed
- Tax Warrant - \$3,596,609 / Signed
- Reviewed various legal matters.

### Topics of Discussion

The TA briefed the Board concerning the tax bills. It was reported that Jack Begley (Tax Collector) commented that the tax warrant was correct to the penny for the first time in many years. The current tax bill reflects half of the previous year's commitment and the second billing will establish the tax rate for the year.

A brief swearing-in ceremony for Jason Allen as a new full-time police officer was held. Delores Chase (Town Clerk) administered the oath. The Board welcomed Mr. Allen aboard.

Mr. Lagassa briefed the Board on the status of the ongoing talks, of which Mr. Lagassa is spearheading, between the Town and the Hampton Water Works. He reported that progress is being made and that he anticipates that the two parties are close to settlement. Mr. Lagassa commented that he would keep Board members informed and seek their counsel regarding any decisions before proceeding with a final settlement.

The TA addressed the Board asking that two transfers of funds from the PD retirement account (01-4210.10-230) in the amount of 2k per transfer be made to the TA's salary account (01-4130.20-120). The transfer was part of the TA's performance evaluation in which the Board satisfied with the TA's performance authorized a \$1,500 lump sum payment. The second 2k transfer was from the PD retirement account to the Bookkeeper's salary line (01-4150.10-110) to cover the costs of a salary increase.

The Board's next order of business was the opening of the sealed bids for a backhoe. The bids by vendor are listed below and include cost and the cost with trade on the Town's old front-end loader.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Mfg/Model</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Price w/trade</u>
Knoxland Equipment	Fermec TLK760	\$66,795.98	\$56,795.98
Southworth Milton	Caterpillar 416CIT	\$68,900.00	\$59,990.00
Beauregard Equipment	Case 580L Turbo	\$58,295.00	\$51,798.00
Grappone Industrial	John Deere 310SE	\$	\$54,950.00
Grappone Industrial	John Deere 410E	\$	\$59,950.00

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No decisions were made regarding the bids. Bob Strout (DPW) agreed to further review the bids and specifications. Mr. Strout also mentioned that he would try them out before making any decisions.

Stan Knowles, the Town's Tree Warden as appointed by the State Forester, addressed the Board concerning care for the Town Commons (the Bandstand property). He briefed the Board on the soil conditions found on the Town Green. Mr. Knowles advised that lime treatments to the soil were necessary to raise the PH levels because of the soil's overall acidity. The soil's acidity was effecting the health of the trees growing on the Town Green and lime treatments would help offset the general decline in tree health. Two treatments were recommended with one treatment proscribed in the fall and the other in the spring at a cost of \$200 per treatment. Mr. Steiner asked whether some of the decline in tree health wasn't due to road salt. Mr. Hines made the observation that considerable investment has already been made in the site and that maintaining the quality of the site was necessary given the amount of use it was getting by the community. Mr. Lagassa suggested that regular maintenance of the Town Green should be included in the budget. There was general agreement among Board members that lime treatments be made and that the costs of regular care and maintenance be included in the budget.

Harry Lauer, Library Trustee, addressed the Board concerning his and another Trustee's resent resignation. Mr. Lauer reported that with the two recent resignations mentioned above, the Library Trustees were lacking the requisite number of trustees necessary to function. Mr. Lauer noted that the lack of membership was an issue of some urgency. Mr. Lauer offered the names of potential Trustees as recommended by the Library Trustees. Mr. Lauer noted that Dotty Delrymple and Peter Parker had both been recommended as replacements the Library Trustees. It was also explained that the replacements would serve only until the next election in March. Adding to the urgency of the situation was the fact that the Library Director would be undergoing surgery very soon. It was necessary, therefore, that appointment of two members with some understanding of Library operations be made as expeditiously as possible. Mr. Hines explained that he was not prepared to make any recommendations that evening. Mr. Lagassa commented that the Board would act soon, but he wanted to open the appointments to the public. Mr. Steiner voiced his belief that a decision would be made within a week and that an additional Board of Selectmen's meeting could easily be arranged on short notice to accommodate the timeline.

#### **Selectmen Issue's**

Mr. Hines asked if there were any issues Board members would like to address. The status on the search to fill the position of Building Inspector was briefly discussed. During the interim issues concerning gravel pit status, usually addressed by the Building Inspector, may need to be addressed by a temporary appointment of a Planning Board member to oversee the issue. Mr. Lagassa commented that it was unwise for a member of the Board of Selectmen to act as a building inspector due to the conflict of interest it might present. All agreed.

Mr. Lagassa asked Mr. Steiner how his researches on costs associated with consolidating municipal offices above the police station were progressing. Mr. Steiner replied that he was pulling things together. Recent cost estimates associated with installing a handicap lift was on the way. Information concerning heating and air conditioning was in. Mr. Steiner explained that once the cost items were in he would get estimates to complete the work. He believed his research on the issue would be completed before Town Meeting.

#### **Questions & Answers**

Dr. O'Kane asked whether there was any concerted effort by all the various Town Departments and Board concerning long range planning. Mr. Steiner replied that the Master Plan process was such a mechanism to look at long range planning issues concerning capital investments and economic development. Mr. O'Kane followed-up by inquiring whether or not local governing boards ever took official positions on state issues that impact local governments. Mr. Lagassa responded by explaining that it was his understanding that the

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responsibility of locally elected officials was necessarily local and primarily administrative in nature. Issues at the State level were primarily the purview of officials elected to offices for that purpose. When asked about the issue of State funding for education Kim Kinser (School Board member) offered the opinion that it never hurt to let opinions be known.

Lucille Ellingwood noted her displeasure over the removal of the bookcase from the Town Office. The TA explained that, while it was a shame to place it in storage, it was necessary to move the bookcase in order to provide more room for people to sit.

Kim Kinser mentioned that there was a School Board meeting scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at which long-range space needs at the elementary school would be discussed. All were invited to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister