

Selectmen's Meeting  
24 August 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 reviewed the meeting minutes of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa voted to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The Selectmen reviewed the non-public minutes of August 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steiner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The Selectmen reviewed the site visit minutes of August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steiner made a motion to accept the site visit minutes as written. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The votes were unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Intent to Cut - David & Ellise Peck
- Veteran's Exemption - Erin O'Malley
- Conservation Easement Deed (Runnymede) - Selectmen signatures
- Rockingham County Nursing Home – Attest to residency (signatures)
- BTLA - Docket #16716 (Debra Hosmer)
- Health Officer Nomination - Paul Charron
- Driveway Permit - James Jameson
- Executive Newsletter - Ruth Griffin
- Mike Iafolla letter - Laura Simmons Well Problems
- Bob Dunkle (Health Officer) - Letter of Septic Failure (Ronzoni's)
- Turner Porter v. Town of NHHH - Default order notice of default
- Bid Complaints from New Jersey Bidder.
- Ladd Carmen - Structuring Conference Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>
- Coakely OU I Costs & North Hampton's Share
- Coakely OU II Institutional Controls
- Executive Committee Landfill Minutes
- District 53-B - Recycling education grant (\$900)
- HWW – Settlement Agreement
- Edward McGary - Abatement of interest (\$9.31) of property tax bill. Cumberland farms.
- ICMA - Performance Measurement Training (\$185)
- NHHFA - Public Comment Period

### **Topics of Discussion**

It was mentioned that the Board had an appointment with Renny Perry, the Town's labor negotiator, scheduled for 8:00pm. The TA gave a brief status report on the Little River Watershed Project indicating that a meeting of the steering committee was scheduled for August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Mr. Lagassa briefed those in attendance about the status of the negotiations between the Town and Hampton Water Works Company (HWW). Mr. Lagassa handed out copies of an agreement proffered by HWW to the Board members. Mr. Lagassa addressed the substantive parts of the agreement indicating that all well owners within a 3000' radius and 4000' radius for wells located along lineaments were now covered by the agreement. Criteria used to establish the basis of adverse impact to well owners was the HUD standard of 5gal/min with a four-hour recovery rate. There was to be no more contingency wells as originally proposed by the HWW. In his estimation the inherent weakness of the document lay in the trigger mechanism by which it was determined how the first well was impacted. If there were no second well impacted then the first well owner, theoretically, may well be on his/her own until another well was also affected. The time delay involved could be days until another well owner was impacted and this was a

weakness. Mr. Hines asked what the likely outcome would be if the HWW chose not to respond to a single impacted well owner because the condition necessary for response was not met. Mr. Lagassa pointed out that as a practical matter the HWW, not wanting to appear recalcitrant and unsympathetic to the plight of the well owner, would respond in a timely matter by providing potable water, drilling, pump replacement, or water hook-up—at no charge to the party affected. Another substantive element of the agreement included five years of wetlands monitoring for possible negative impacts of pumping. Mr. Lagassa noted that a procedural issue required by the HWW as part of the proffered settlement included recognition by the Town that the HWW did not fall under the purview of any Town planning and zoning ordinances. In effect the HWW would withdraw their petition with prejudice from the PUC if the Town acknowledged that they have no authority to impose conditions on wells located within their jurisdiction. It was noted that this condition was new to the agreement. There was some amusement over part of the agreement that required a signature from the Chair of the Planning Board. Why have the Planning Board sign if HWW believes that the PB has no authority to establish conditions? Brief discussion ensued regarding the newly adopted legislation that gave greater oversight and administrative rule making authority to the DES in the area of water resources. Mr. Charron (Building Inspector), reported that the HWW was granted site approval in April of 1998 to construct a water treatment building and had subsequently been issued a building permit. No building permit nor site approval had been issued in connection with transmission line construction. Mr. Hines suggested that the issue be tabled pending further review by the Board.

Mr. Steiner briefly discussed the HWW feasibility study in regards to its timing and cost.

Police Chief Maloney briefed the Board about traffic concerns along Post Road and Route 111. Mr. Maloney reported that the passing zone on Post Road had been eliminated. The crosswalk sign on Route 111 was moved closer to the school. Mr. Maloney described the intersection of Route 111 and Route One as having only one lane, but that in actual use traffic utilized two lanes. This presented a potential danger because of a lack of clear traffic signage. Under a plan proposed by the DOT the lane closest to the Irving gas station would be delineated as a right turning lane. Appropriate placement of curbing at that corner would also be done by the DOT. Before such improvements could be done the DOT required a letter from the Board indicating their acceptance of the proposed improvements. Mr. Maloney indicated that he had prepared such a letter for signature by the Board. The Board agreed to the proposed improvements and signed the letter.

The Board next discussed Cost of Living Allowances (COLA's) for the following department heads;

Robert Strout	Highway Agent
Michael Maloney	Police Chief
Thomas Lambert	Fire Chief
Chris LeClaire	Deputy Fire Chief

Department heads had not received any pay adjustments during the last two years. Upon review the Board made the decision to adjust their salaries by less than 1.5% per year for an actual dollar amount of \$100 per month, which represented less than a 3% total increase in their respective salaries. The TA explained that the total dollar amount of the combined pay adjustments was \$4800, but because the adjustments would not go into effect until September the actual dollar amount this year was \$4000. The total amount of the pay adjustments represented less than a penny in total gross appropriations. Mr. Steiner made the motion to approve the \$100/month pay adjustments for the above listed employees effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Mr. Hines began a discussion of the upcoming Board meeting with the Hampton Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hines reported that the Board was interested in economic development along the Route One corridor in Town, which may include sewer service. It was explained that the Board would like to see the tax rate trend downward and one way to accomplish this was to encourage commercial development along the Route One Corridor where it already existed. One way to encourage and attract businesses was to upgrade the available infrastructure necessary to encourage business development. In this case installing a sewer line and connecting it to the Hampton Wastewater Treatment facility. The Town of North Hampton was not interested in providing sewerage to residential properties and citizens did not want sewer in residential areas. It was too expensive to build a wastewater treatment facility to provide wastewater treatment service

for commercial businesses. In addition there was simply no place to locate a treatment plant. Another reason for providing sewer service was the need to protect the aquifers located beneath route one. The aquifers beneath Route One provided drinking water to North Hampton and all adjacent communities. It was explained that land use change impacted septic systems. Mr. Hines illustrated the example of a gift shop that may have originally been constructed years ago with a septic system design that was intended for minimal use. When the gift shop was sold additional construction may have been added to convert the previous land use to a restaurant. The problem is that the septic system may not have been upgraded to handle the demands of the new business. Consequently the system fails and the potential for aquifer contamination increases. As Route One commercial activity increases this scenario is likely to occur more often. Mr. Hines also pointed out that it was difficult to attract businesses when there was not adequate infrastructure. Mr. Steiner mentioned that the planning board had extended an invitation to the Board regarding the economic development plans currently under discussion.

### **Questions & Comments**

Lucille Ellingwood commented on the proposed improvements to the intersection of Route 11 and Route 1 adjacent to the Irving gas station. Ms. Ellingwood noted that traffic on the opposite side of the intersection turning left towards Portsmouth would not be accommodated by the proposed DOT improvements.

There being no further business to come before the Board Mr. Lagassa made a motion to convene in a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss the upcoming labor negotiations with the Fire Fighters Local 321. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The public meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator