

Selectmen's Meeting  
24 September 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 regular and non-public meeting minutes of September 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa voted to accept both the regular and non-public minutes as written. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

1. Lloyd & Eileen Marshall - Veteran's exemption
2. Tax Interest Credit request - Daniel Packard
3. Intent to cut - Dick Wollmar
4. Conservation Restriction Assessment - Runnymede homeowners association
5. Land Use Change Tax Lien Release - Kaethe Quarck
6. Pole License - Ridgemont Estates
7. Rockingham County - Tax Levy Amount / \$509,947

#### **Town Administrator's Report**

The TA introduced Lloyd & Eileen Marshall explaining that their veterans tax credit had lapsed back in 1992. The Marshall's had recently discovered the error and were interested in receiving credit towards the second half of their present year's tax bill for those years during which they had not received the veterans credit. The TA explained that after a review of the available information, he suspected that a change in property ownership, while in name only, may have resulted in the Marshall's inadvertent loss of the tax credit. There was brief discussion over the amount of time it took to discover the error by the Marshall's. Mr. Lagassa made a motion to credit the Marshall's account in the amount of \$500. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The TA introduced a request by Daniel Packard to have the interest on his current tax bill credited to his account. The TA explained that Mr. Packard had paid the interest charges, but claimed that he had previously sent a check to the Tax Collector for payment of his taxes and that payment was made on time. In his letter Mr. Packard apologized for realizing that the check had not been cashed until September, but maintained that he had paid on time and had always paid on time. Mr. Hines made a motion to credit the amount of \$93.21 to Mr. Packard's account. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

#### **Senator Beverly Hollingworth**

Senator Hollingworth briefed the Board on the status of a number of legislative issues of the current session. Ms. Hollingworth described the constitutional amendment put forward by her to stave off the educational funding dilemma now facing the State. It was explained that bond ratings for Towns and the State may not be as bad as previously suggested. She explained that NHNH would not be required to raise more money for education than it currently does. On the other hand NHNH will not be eligible for additional state funding for education either. Ms. Hollingworth reiterated her belief that if the Augenblick formula had been fully funded 8 years ago the State would not now be facing this constitutional crisis over how to fund education. Ms. Hollingworth noted that state revenues were ahead of projections and that there would likely be a 34 to 70 million surplus expected at the end of the biennium. Ms. Hollingworth also stated that municipalities could be expected to see an increase in their share of the business profit tax.

### **Town Administrator's Report Con't**

The TA briefed the Board on the status of the construction costs associated with Coakely. It was explained that the TA had contacted Tom Roy of Aries Engineering concerning final construction costs associated with the project. Mr. McAllister explained that 20% these costs were covered under the state revolving fund (SRF). The Town would begin repaying loan money borrowed from the SRF next year. If there were additional construction costs covered under the program, the TA suggested the Town use the SRF program to help defray the total construction costs. It was noted that Tom Roy was looking into the total construction costs

The soil testing report for the tennis courts was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Hines recalled that the report was commissioned to determine whether the surface cracks in the tennis courts were the result of unstable subsurface conditions. The report indicated that the subsurface soil conditions were not unstable. The report did suggest that better water drainage away from the tennis courts would alleviate the surface cracking.

The TA briefed the Board on the status of Mr. Charron's progress as building inspector noting that his efforts were commendable. The Board agreed with the assessment. The TA noted that at the time of Mr. Charron's employment it had been agreed that he would receive an increase of \$1.00/hour upon successful completion of three months and another dollar increase upon successful completion of six months employment. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to increase Mr. Charron's salary by \$1.00/hour (\$40/weekly) effective October 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion so moved.

Because of the Columbus Day holiday falling on a Monday, the Board briefly discussed the meeting day for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. It was determined to hold the next Board meeting on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### **Selectmen Issues**

#### **a. Hampton Water Works Agreement**

Mr. Lagassa began the discussion noting that the request bargaining items brought forward by those in attendance at the last Board meeting had been submitted to the HWW. A meeting date of September 30<sup>th</sup> had been scheduled with the HWW to discuss the new items. Mr. Hines noted that the Town's attorney would not be present due to a scheduling conflict. The Board debated the merits of not having John Ryan available during the HWW discussions. Mr. Lagassa felt Mr. Ryan's presence was not necessary because no agreement would be signed without first having his review anyway. Mr. Lagassa stressed that the meeting was pretty straightforward. The HWW would either agree to the items brought forward at the previous selectmen's meeting, or further negotiations would be moved to the PUC. Therefore, under these circumstances Mr. Ryan's presence was not necessarily needed. It was necessary to meet with the HWW to demonstrate a "good faith" effort on behalf of the Town. Failure to be seen as bargaining in good faith could jeopardize the entire agreement by allowing the HWW to bring the issue in front of the PUC.

#### **b. Planning Board Appointments**

Mr. Steiner addressed the issue of appointments to the planning board noting that the recent resignation of Forrest Griffin forced some reshuffling of members. Mr. Steiner suggested that Bill Carlson be bumped from alternate to full member and that Tim Harned be appointed as an alternate member. Mr. Hines pointed out that he had previously proposed Tim Harned as a full member, but that if Mr. Harned were in agreement with the current proposal he would vote for appointments as recommended by Mr. Steiner. Mr. Harned replied that it was fine as submitted. Mr. Steiner made the motion to appoint Bill Carlson as a full

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member and appoint Tim Harned as an alternate member of the planning board. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

**Questions & Answers**

Dr. O'Kane asked whether there was an association of elected officials. It was explained that there was not an association of elected officials as described by Dr. O'Kane. Rather, there was a municipal association wherein policy initiatives germane to municipalities could be lobbied for during the legislative session by the NHMA. Such policy initiatives were brought to a vote by a meeting of municipal delegates who gathered to craft policies for the NHMA to pursue during the year.

There being no further question to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator