

Selectmen's Minutes
08 February 1999
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the George Lagassa, at 7:00pm. Those present included Jack Steiner (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator). Allen Hines was absent due to illness.

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of January 25th. Any motion to accept the regular and non-public minutes was prevented because of the absence of Mr. Hines. Mr. Lagassa, because of his absence at the January 25th meeting, was unable to move the motion to accept the minutes. The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Veteran's Exemption - Wesley Calder
- b. Property Tax Abatements - \$1,207.52 (various, see attached)
- c. Update - NHH v. Ladd Carmen
- d. Superior Court - Merrill's v NHH ZBA
- e. Media One - Franchise Fee
- f. RPC - Annual Legislator's Forum 2-10 / 7-9pm Brentwood.

Town Administrator's Report

The TA briefed the Board on various matters associated with the Coakley Landfill. The Town's share of the EPA settlement costs was now due. The EPA had originally asked for 2 million. The Coakley group negotiated the settlement cost to 999k of which, 45k (OU II & I) was the Town's share. The Board reviewed Aries Engineering's proposal for three new clusters of sampling wells around Coakley.

The TA next briefed the Board on the status of various legal issues. In the case of NHH v. Ladd Carmen it was explained that Town Counsel was petitioning Superior Court to enforce the District Court decision because of the lack of progress in the court mandated Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process. The Superior Court had referred the case to ADR as a way for both parties to work things out. Part of the ADR process required Mr. Carmen to compile a list of material that he would remove from his property. Such a list had not been submitted and therefore Town Counsel had again filed with Superior Court.

The TA explained that during a recent meeting at OSP in Concord he had an opportunity to speak with the Coastal Zone Program Manager about the Town's eligibility for technical assistance funding for a build-out analysis. The TA was advised to contact the RPC and have them place an addendum in their technical assistance grant to OSP for NHH's build-out study. The technical assistance funding was for \$3,000, of which \$1,500 the Town would be required to raise for the local match. It was explained that the build-out analysis would compliment the Little River Watershed Project.

Walter Ruffner, State Representative

Walt Ruffner appeared before the Board and those present as a way of introducing himself. Mr. Ruffner explained that his visit was to establish contact with his constituency. Mr. Ruffner explained that he was newly elected and still getting his feet wet, but that any questions people might have he would do his best to answer, or find the answers to. M. Ruffner explained that he had been assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee. The topic quickly turned to the issue of school education funding and the legislative response to crafting a funding solution. Mr. Ruffner explained that Donna Sytek had proposed a state-wide property tax plan that classified towns as either donor towns or receiving towns based on valuation. Under the proposed plan North Hampton would be a donor town. However, a homestead provision of 25k was part of this plan. Mr. Ruffner explained that to receive the homestead exemption a homeowner must live in the home. Because the majority of homeowners in NHH lived in their homes the total amount of the

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homestead exemption for the Town would help to offset the amount of money the Town would be forced to donate. Mr. Lagassa commented that Town valuation is not a fair measure of an individual's ability to pay who happens to live in the Town. For instance, a 5,000 square foot home in NHHH may be valued at a million dollars, but a 5,000 square foot home in Berlin may be valued at 100k. Simply stated property wealthy towns do not equal wealthy citizens. Mr. Ruffner fielded several questions from those in attendance. Before departing Mr. Ruffner left his phone number and encouraged folks to call with questions. His number is 772-9558.

Adoption of Road Acceptance Policy

The Board briefly reviewed the language of the Winter Road Maintenance Policy prepared by Town counsel. It was noted that the Winter Road Maintenance Policy had been discussed during the last several Board meeting. Mr. Lagassa and Mr. Steiner next signed the policy. A copy of the policy will be made available to the Planning and Zoning Boards.

Selectmen Issues

Bob Strout briefed the Board about water drainage problems on Shepherds Lane. Pictures of water covering half the road for quite a distance were handed around. It was noted that Shepherds Lane would require some drainage work by developer prior to official acceptance of the road.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood noted that a brown shaggy dog crossed in front of her car as she was traveling to the evening's meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a personnel issue. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator