

Selectmen's Minutes  
22 March 1999  
7:00pm

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

The first order of business addressed by Mr. Hines was the Chairmanship of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hines made the motion to pass the Chairmanship to George Lagassa. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. Mr. Lagassa agreed to accept the position. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

1. Electronic Systems Policy
2. Property Tax Abatement - Tax sale costs / interest not collected when lien was paid  
Total \$189.56 / Conservation Commission \$769.60
3. Property Tax Abatement - Various (Inexpedient to administrate amounts less than  
\$10.00) Total \$47.79
4. Property Tax Abatement - Walter Arsenault (\$491.40) Taxes were paid in 9/96. Amount  
paid was never entered into the computer.
5. Veterans Tax Credit - Robert Durant for FY 2000-2001
6. Current Use Application - Jarib Sanderson Map & Lot 008-161-000
7. Coakley Minutes
8. Executive Council Newsletter

**Citizens Bank - Ralph Henault**

*Y2K Issues and Cash Management Options*

Mr. Henault, VP of Government Banking, began his presentation by explaining the status of Citizen's Y2K efforts. Mr. Henault noted that Citizen's was now 99% compliant, the Federal Reserve was 90% compliant, and that the State of NH's Y2K efforts were recently rated C+. All systems at Citizen's will be functioning during the rollover and the bank would have 6 billion in cash available for the day following the rollover. It was explained that Citizen's CEO had canceled all employee vacations during this period so that any problems that might arise will be dealt with immediately.

Mr. Henault next talked briefly about cash management options and the interest all Municipalities were showing in managing their interest earnings. It was explained that until recently there was little advantage with investing longer term versus shorter term because the difference between short and long term interest rates was negligible. There was now a slight difference with longer-term rates (Treasury Bills & Certificates of Deposit) being 20-50 basis points more than short term rates (overnight deposits and repo's) repurchase agreements). The Town currently has a sweep account that invests all funds exceeding \$200k in overnight deposits and repo's. There are no fees to the Town so long as a minimum balance of \$150k is maintained on a monthly average that is calculated on an annual basis. Mr. Lagassa noted the need to improve cash management given the uncertainty surrounding the legislative response to the education-funding crisis. Mr. Henault talked about automated cash management software tools that were available to the Town. He passed out brochures to members of the Board highlighting some of the software solutions. All agreed that a future meeting with the Treasurer, Shirley Fuller, to look into the details would be necessary.

**Representative George Rubin**  
*Education Funding Briefing*

Mr. Rubins spoke of the difficulty of forging a consensus to craft a solution to the education-funding crisis with such limited time remaining. There was also disagreement over how much money was adequate. Mr. Lagassa asked where the Committee for Sensible Funding had come up with a cost of only 12million in additional funds necessary to solve the funding issue. It was noted that 25 communities presently raise less than \$4,500/pupil and that \$12 million represented that shortfall. Mr. Rubins noted that education funding in the state now totaled \$1.4 billion, so raising only half that amount would not resolve the funding dilemma.. Mr. Rubins mentioned that there are currently 200,000 students and 80 Superintendents with the attending bureaucracy. Mr. Steiner expressed concern over the administrative burden to the town because municipalities would be charged with collecting state wide property tax collections. Mr. Rubins noted that the state had a long history of passing unfunded mandates that municipalities had to pay for. Mr. Lagassa thanked Mr. Rubins for attending the meeting.

**NHMA Property & Liability Trust (PLT)**  
*Insurance Presentation*

Tom Dunn gave an insurance presentation to the Board. It was explained that PLT was a not-for-profit organization operating under the NHMA umbrella and providing insurance coverage designed specifically for municipalities. The PLT operated much in the same fashion as NHMA's Compensation Funds. Number and types of claims determined a municipality's rates. A good claims history lowers insurance costs for PLT and these lower costs are then passed along to the municipality in the form of lower insurance rates. During the last two years rates had trended down an average of 15% for municipalities' insured under PLT. Mr. Steiner asked about safety training programs. Mr. Dunn explained that PLT's loss prevention programs were free to municipalities and that such safety training resulted in fewer claims. Another service offered through PLT was a labor hot line, which provided legal information regarding personnel issues. The municipality also had the option to veto settlement agreements if they felt strongly about it. Private insurance carriers do not offer this option. The cost difference between private and PLT insurance offering was approximately \$200. The Board agreed to research the issue further before reaching a decision.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Chief Michael Maloney briefed the Board on the results of the hiring recommendation received from the outside panel for another police officer, which brings the department complement back to 9 full-time officers. Mr. Maloney noted that both candidates for the position did well. However, after review of the hiring panel's recommendation, and projects completed by the candidates, Mr. Maloney recommended Sabrina Alfrey to be Board for the position. Ms. Alfrey was already a part-time officer and had completed the part-time police academy training. Now she would be required to complete the training package at the full-time police academy that began in March. Ms. Alfrey would finish the program by June and be back with the department in time for the hectic summer season. A hiring and training contract between the town and Ms. Alfrey was also reviewed. The training contract contained provisions wherein training provided by the Town bound Ms. Alfrey's term of employment. While she was free to seek employment with other PD's, doing so prior to the completion of her term of employment with the Town's PD would result in her reimbursing the Town for the training it had incurred on her behalf. Mr. Steiner made the motion to adopt Training Expense Reimbursement Policy, approve the Employment Training Agreement, and hire Ms. Alfrey as the new full-time police officer in the department. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and was o moved.

The Board next reviewed a request by Gail Walters to have June 19<sup>th</sup> be declared "Old Home Day". Ms. Walters noted that it was also the 100-year anniversary of Old Home Day in New Hampshire. Mr. Hines made the motion to decree June 19<sup>th</sup> "Old Home Day" in North Hampton. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

### **Selectmen Issues**

The Board briefly discussed Board appointments. The appointment of various individuals to Town Boards is listed below:

<b>ZBA</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Expiration</b>
Michael Iafolla	Full-Member	2002
Russell Jeperson	Full-Member	2002
Sam Checkovich	Alternate-Member	2002

<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Expiration</b>
Christine Butcher	Full-Member	2002
Clair Walter	Alternate-Member	2002
Shirley Carter	Full-Member	2002
Frances "Buzz" Kelly	Full-Member	2002

<b>Planning Board</b>	<b>Status</b>
Roland Neves	Full-Member
Bill Carlson	Full-Member
Tim Harned	Full-Member

Mr. Steiner made the motion to appoint the above-mentioned individuals as members of the respective Town Boards. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board also agreed the Robert Landman should continue on as the Town's representative on the MPO and RPC as he has done fine work for the Town in that capacity. There was some brief discussion regarding the election of the planning board next year. Despite reading the statute referenced in the warrant article calling for an elected planning board, it remained unclear just how the election of planning board members would proceed. The Board directed the TA to contact Town Counsel for an opinion. The TA agreed to do so.

Mr. Steiner began a discussion on establishing a Municipal Records Board to develop plans for the care and use of municipal records. Mr. Steiner made the motion to establish a Municipal Records Committee. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The TA agreed to get the ball rolling.

Mr. Steiner brought forth a citizen concern about street lighting and the possibility of creating a street light committee to review requests for streetlights. Mr. Steiner noted that there were three people who would be willing to serve on such a committee, Homer Johnson, George Beamin, and George Kinser. After some debate about the streetlight issue having a long history, and previous actions of other Boards in addressing the issue, it was decided to table the issue until a future meeting of the Board.

### **Questions & Comments**

Lucille Ellingwood noted that a light bulb needed replacing in the Town Hall. Ms. Walters commended the Police Department for checking her residence while she was away on vacation.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10pm.

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Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator