

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

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of August 9th. Mr. Hines made the motion to accept the regular minutes of August 9th. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- I. Administration/Business
 - a. Minutes - August 9th
 - b. Payroll
 - c. Manifest
 - d. Centennial Hall / Use of green for yard sale
 - e. Capacity Building Grant / fund drawdown
 - f. Sub-recipient agreement
 - g. Fuel bid
 - h. DOT - Driveway permit - Jack & Betty Lessard
 - i. Executive Council newsletter
 - j. Municipal workshops

The Board reviewed a request to sell liquor on the outdoor deck of the Copper Lantern Restaurant submitted by the proprietors. Supporting documentation was reviewed such as seating capacity and so forth. Mr. Hines made the motion to allow the Copper Lantern to serve liquor on the outdoor deck of the restaurant. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The TA was directed to complete the necessary correspondence.

The Board next opened bids for winter fuel oil. The results are listed below.

Vendor		Oil	K1 mix
Bellmore		64.2 cents / gal oil.	81.9 cents / gal
Lamprey	<i>opt. #1</i>	61.9 cents / gal oil.	84.9 cents / gal
After 9/3	<i>opt. #2</i>	64.9 cents / gal oil.	84.9 cents / gal
Hanscom's		Newington rack price plus 10 cents	

No one present was sure of the current rack price and its omission by Hanscom prevented further consideration of their bid. The lower fuel oil bid was from Lamprey though their K1 mix was slightly higher. However, the Town used 300 gallons of K1, so the overall lower bid was Lamprey. Mr. Hines made the motion to award Lamprey the fuel oil bid. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Library Trustee - Richard Goeselt 7:15pm
Monthly funding for Library

Mr. Goeselt briefed the Board on a recent CPA cost analysis describing the difference between the Library processing 31 manifests versus 12 manifests. The analysis suggested that the Town would loose approximately \$30 in interest by switching to a monthly manifest for the Library. Mr. Goeselt explained that the Library currently submits manifests on a weekly basis, just as the Town does, for payment of bills. The required labor cost associated with preparing a weekly manifest by Library staff was too burdensome.

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Mr. Goeselt asked whether it would be possible to return to a monthly schedule in order to reduce Library labor costs and staff time. Mr. Hines voiced concern that the Board of Selectmen was ultimately responsible for all cash and payments passing through their office. The weekly manifest submitted by the Library Trustees to the Town ensured greater accountability and better financial controls. Mr. Lagassa asked if there were not some middle ground that addressed both the concerns of Mr. Hines and the Library. Financial controls, accountability and administrative costs were equally important and related. Thoughtful discussion along those lines ensued. Mr. Lagassa asked about the possibility of the library preparing a monthly budget needs report, submit their request for that amount, and then provide the monthly manifest / expenditure report. Mr. Goeselt was agreeable to the idea. Mr. Hines believed that his concerns regarding necessary financial controls and accountability could also be addressed by the new procedure. The Board agreed to the idea and Mr. Goeselt thanked them for their time.

SBAC Development Director - Gordon Lane 7:30pm

The TA introduced Mr. Gordon Lane, who was recently hired as the Seacoast Business Alliance Corp.'s Development Director. Mr. Lane provided a brief background of his experience as a director of economic development entities in both Massachusetts and Maine during the last 20 years. Mr. Lane noted that the SBAC office was in the North Hampton Outlet Mall, and that he looked forward to working with area businesses.

Motorcycle Patrol Report - Michael Maloney 7:45pm

Mr. Maloney briefed the Board on the status of the Motorcycle Patrol program. During the month of July the motorcycle had been used during 8 shifts, responded to 44 calls, and had been driven 800 miles and used approximately 12 gallons of gas. The motorcycle had seen less than normal use during July because of the field training of the new police officer Sabrina Allfrey.

Briefing on technology grant application.

Mr. Maloney next briefed the Board on the status of a local law enforcement grant. The grant was to cover the purchase costs of two laptop computers that would be used in the police cruiser. It was explained that currently all officers needed to return to the station to fill out reports at the end of their shift. With the laptops the paperwork would now be completed via the laptop during a call for service. Upon returning to the station the officer would simply download the file from the laptop onto the server. Using the laptops would keep officers on the street longer and lead to more effective officer redeployment. It was also explained that a \$1,000 dollar match by the Town was required by the grant. Board members asked whether any additional training costs were involved. Mr. Maloney said there were not as officers would be using the same program on the laptops as they did at the station. Mr. Steiner made the motion to allow Mr. Maloney to submit the grant. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board directed the TA to determine where in the budget the match would come from.

Selectmen's Issues 8:00pm

Update on the HWW request for rate increase with the PUC.

Mr. Lagassa chronicled recent PUC events and noted that an expert in public utility rate analysis had been located. Dr. Silkman was an economist and consultant living in Portland and had agreed to review the HWW filing data and serve as an expert for North Hampton and Hampton. The services of Dr. Silkman are \$150 / hour and will be split between the two towns based upon a percentage of HWW customers in each town (70% / 30%). For the time being Mr. Lagassa suggested that the cost be absorbed in the Town's legal budget and not the warrant article passed back in 1998 authorizing legal and technical costs associated with acquisition of the HWW. Mr. Steiner made the motion to engage the services of Dr. Silkman and that an initial expense cap of \$2,000 be imposed pending further review by the Board. Mr. Hines seconded the

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motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The TA was directed to contact town counsel regarding the outcome of the vote.

Mr. Lagassa also briefed the Board on the final disposition of the appraisal contract. Easement values are included as part of the business valuation of the HWW company, but easements are not included in that portion of HWW located North Hampton for ad valorem purposes. It was explained that considerable research concerning easements in North Hampton might be necessary. Mr. Lagassa explained that he had addressed this concern by providing language in the contract that allowed up to \$600 / day with a cap of \$3,000 for the purpose of researching easements in North Hampton.

Status of the Planning & Zoning Secretary position

The TA explained that several advertisements for a Planning and Zoning Secretary had been placed in newspapers, but response had been lacking. A strong economy and a current labor shortage were cited. There was some speculation that because the position was part-time, it was not attracting people who were interested in more hours and benefits. The TA expressed faith that a recent Sunday ad would draw some response. An alternate recourse would be to look into a temp agency.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood questioned why the State Police did not provide traffic control along Route 1. Mr. Maloney explained that the Town provided that service, but that State Police provided that service more on the interstate, or by special assignment.

Mr. Ladd Carmen addressed the Board with a request for more time in cleaning-up his property. The TA explained that the issue was one of very long standing—decades. That it was a zoning issue that had been in court for as long as he had been Town Administrator. During that time Mr. Carmen had agreed to clean-up the property and remove the construction equipment, trailers, cars and other debris, but that he had always missed the agreed upon deadlines. These included deadlines proscribed by District Court order, Alternative Dispute Resolution Agreement, and finally a Superior Court order. Mr. Carmen asked that the Board cut him a little slack in regards to his violation of the Superior Court deadline, stating that he had some interested buyers for his equipment. Mr. Steiner stated that the message to Mr. Carmen from the Board had been consistent in its message that the property be cleaned-up. Mr. Hines noted that there had been numerous complaints from his neighbors concerning the issue and that the meeting room had on several occasions been packed with his neighbors complaining about the situation. Mr. Lagassa explained that the Board had adopted a policy concerning the issue and that the process could not now be reversed. Mr. Carmen claimed that it was a hardship for him to have to clean-up the property as he had agreed to do. Mr. Steiner suggested that it was a hardship for the Town to have to go to these lengths and costs to enforce ordinances adopted by a vote at Town meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45pm.

Mr. Lagassa made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator