

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

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of October 4th. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of October 4th. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

Administration/Business

- a. Minutes - October 4th
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. Property Tax Abatement (Donahue, Simmons Trust, Muse)
- e. Property Tax Refund (Turgeon, Joe-Ghan, Ed Jewell Trustee)
- f. Fire Hydrant authorization on Winterberry
- g. Bell Atlantic - Pole Licenses
- h. Executive Council Newsletter
- i. NHDOT - Driveway & Excavation Permit (Raymond Carye)
- j. NHDOT - Driveway Permit (Richard Cote)
- k. Teamsters Notification to negotiate

The TA briefed the Board on the legal status of the Ladd Carmen property clean-up issue. The TA had written the Town attorney notifying him of the repeated attempts to solicit three bids as outlined in the Superior Court Order that proscribed the removal of construction equipment and debris from the Ladd Carmen property. To date no bids had been received. The letter requested that the Town be granted the ability to hire a single contractor to remove the construction debris from the Carmen property. The Town attorney had filed a motion to allow the Town to hire a single contractor.

The Board reviewed a Fire Department recommendation to allow the installation of four fire hydrants. The original request was for seven hydrants, but the FD recommendation consisted of four. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the four hydrants. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

North Road Concerns

Joseph Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald again expressed concern with the alteration of the "Y" type intersection to a "T" type configured intersection on North and Post Roads. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed unhappiness with the present configuration. Mr. Fitzgerald asked whether any federal and state specifications had been followed in the design and construction of the intersection. Mr. Strout explained that he had designed the intersection the same as "T" type intersections that existed elsewhere in Town. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that he had spoken with engineers for the City of Portsmouth and they told him that steel I-beams used as delineators beside the intersection represented potential liabilities. Mr. Lagassa asked if the steel I-beam posts had been removed. Mr. Strout replied that they had been removed. Mr. Lagassa asked what other concerns Mr. Fitzgerald had. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if the design and construction of the intersection followed state and federal specifications as were followed in Portsmouth. Mr. Lagassa asked whether the Town was required to follow state and federal design requirements. Mr. Strout replied that he did not know, but that he had a letter from Michael Burlage of NHDOT District 6 concerning "Y" type intersections. Within the letter Mr. Burlage indicated that "Y" type intersections had not been constructed for so long that he could find no

mention of them in the ASHTO manual. The TA asked if Mr. Fitzgerald remembered the name of the person he talked with in Portsmouth so that he could request a copy of the design manuals used by the engineers in Portsmouth. Mr. Fitzgerald could not at the time recall the name of the individual, but agreed to forward the name at a latter date. Mr. Fitzgerald noted that school buses could not make the turn around the intersection. Mr. Strout disagreed mentioning that he had not received any complaints from school bus drivers or the school. Mr. Strout also mentioned that fuel tankers successfully negotiated the intersection of Cherry and North Road, which had the same radius turn as the intersection in question at North & Post Roads. Mr. Steiner noted that the radius of the turn seemed to be a concern. He noted that the steel I-beam posts had been removed, and the reflective delineators had been moved back three feet to address this concern. The TA suggested that Mr. Strout obtain a copy of the ASHTO manual for future reference.

Noting that the Board was a few minutes ahead of schedule, Mr. Lagassa relayed some news he had received from the HWW regarding Wendell O'Connor's well. Mr. Lagassa noted that Mr. O'Connor's well had experienced some impacts due to pumping by the HWW of their nearby production wells. The HWW had provided potable water to Mr. O'Connor on a temporary basis because Mr. O'Connor's dug well had gone dry. Mr. Lagassa noted that HWW production wells and lineaments surrounded Mr. O'Connor's well on three sides. The Board had sent a letter to HWW expressing dismay over Mr. O'Connor's situation. The letter also urged the HWW to absorb all the costs associated with replacing the well. The reply by the HWW was characterized as "weasily" and unconcerned with the plight of Mr. O'Connor. Mr. Lagassa found the letter especially troubling as it suggested that blame for the episode lay with the Town for not agreeing to absorb half the costs of replacing Mr. O'Connor's well. The Board found such claims particularly egregious given that it was the pumping of the HWW production wells near Mr. O'Connor's property that had precipitated the loss of water in Mr. O'Connor's well.

Police Department Budget Review

Police Chief Michael Maloney briefed the Board on the department's proposed budget for fiscal year 00-01. Mr. Maloney noted that the Board's requested staffing study was not yet complete, but that he was working with Earl Sweeney of Police Standards & Training to develop the appropriate data. Mr. Maloney noted that the New England average number of officers per 1000 of population is 2.8. The average for all NH cities is 2.6 and for North Hampton the average number of officers per thousand, with 10 officers, is 2.3 based upon a population of approximately 4,500. There are also approximately 260-275 business located in Town, 19 of these businesses sell alcohol. The Town is home to some very high-end auto dealerships, fur showrooms and storage. Both Route 1 and Interstate 95 are heavily traveled roads. DOT traffic counts report that between 19,000 and 20,000 cars travel through NHH along Route 1 every day. The number of cars traveling Route 95 through NHH is probably more. The NHH PD responds to all traffic accidents on Route 1 in Town and most of the accidents on the section of Rt. 95 that passes through Town. Since March 1st the department has responded to 3,600 calls for service. Categories of service are numerous. Different categories of service require more time. For instance, processing a single DWI case involves 17-20 hours of an officer's time. Mr. Steiner advocated the idea of having monthly reports to highlight department activities and categories of services provided. Such reports were useful in determining staffing levels and overall service levels provided by the department. Both the police and fire departments were rolling out the same tracking software, such activity reports would prove invaluable to better understanding the correlation between service and staffing levels. The Board reviewed the budget numbers. The total PD budget request was 582,875 for FY 00-01 and represented a 5.6% increase over last year's total of 552,069. The majority of the increase was in wages due to step increases among department personnel. The Board agreed not to make any decision regarding the budget until the whole budget was completed.

Highway Department Budget Review

The Highway Agent, Robert Strout reviewed the proposed budget with the Board. The Highway budget was up 2% from 323,329 to 330,109. Salaries were up 5% due to the additional of an employee authorized

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by a vote on last year's budget and contracted increases. Street lighting was up to 18,000 in FY 00-01 from 16,000 in FY 99-00 because the actual costs in FY 98-99 were 17,877. Fire hydrant costs were up as well from 123,000 to 125,00 due to new hydrant installations in newly constructed subdivisions. Solid waste & collection showed no increases. There was some discussion on recycling. The TA reported that the part-time employees at the recycling center had not received an increase in five years. The employees were dependable, showed-up on time, did a good job, and had all been there for over five years, but were still receiving \$8/hr. Within that same time frame the amount of tonnage processed by the center had increased as well. The TA recommended a dollar an hour increase, which amounted to a \$52 dollar a week or \$2500 a year increase in wages for the employees at the recycling center. The Board and noted that it was well deserved. The change was noted but approval was tabled until the remainder of the budget was completed.

Selectmen's Concerns

Mr. Steiner talked about recharging the solid waste committee so that the Town could reduce the waste stream and thereby reduce costs as well. There was some discussion concerning making the transfer station larger to accommodate grater use and long range plans to relocate the highway department beside the recycling center in order to better consolidate operations. These were issues that would be addressed by the CIP committee.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood remarked that the Pavilion at Dearborn Park and the new Welcome to North Hampton sign looked good. Tim Harned reviewed the situation of Mr. O'Connor's well. The Board agreed to see what could be done to resolve the situation.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00pm

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator