

Selectmen's Minutes
25 October 1999
7:00pm

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 (Selectman), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of October 18th. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of October 18th. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- Administration/Business
- a. Minutes - October 18th
 - b. Payroll
 - c. Manifest
 - d. Property Tax Abatement - John Lord / 59.33
 - e. Yield Tax - NHHH School / 127.90
 - f. Coakley Minutes

North Road Concerns

Joseph Fitzgerald

Mr. Fitzgerald was unable to attend the meeting, but had forwarded a fax to the Board listing three concerns. The Board reviewed the answered the three concerns.

Answer to question 1. Date For Repaving North Road

There is no set date for the repaving of North Road other than it must be done prior to the closing of the asphalt batch plants. Brian Goetz of HWW was contacted and asked to have North Road repaved prior to the batch plants closing. Mr. Goetz has since directed RH White to repave North Road.

Answer to question 2. Code requirements and construction design elements of intersections.

Regarding code requirements and construction design elements of intersections, the planning board has requirements governing the actual construction of a road such as the base composition, compaction and binder coat. ASHTO is a road design manual that offers guidelines for designing roadways, but the manual does not promulgate any specific requirements. Mr. Stout has consulted with Michael Burlage of NHDOT District 6 and Greg Mikolaities of Appledore Engineering regarding ASHTO.

Answer to question 3. Cleaning the ditch on the southern side of North Road

Dead and cut brush has been removed from the ditch along North Road including a log that was inside the ditch as well.

The Board directed the TA to provide the responses noted above to Mr. Fitzgerald. The TA agreed to do so.

The Board next reviewed the contract costs for professional services (Richard Silkman PhD.) of the PUC rate case. The professional services were estimated to now cost between \$10,000 - \$20,000 increasing the 25% portion of the costs beyond the \$2,000 cap approved by the Board on October 4th. Mr. Lagassa pointed out that the Board had the expectation that Mr. Silkman would produce data requests for the first round in the case. It was also the Board's belief that the data requests would be reviewed first. The Board members prefer to review the scope of services to be rendered, or a list of data requests from Mr. Silkman relevant to the issue prior to authorizing a larger financial commitment. Mr. Lagassa noted that the NHHH Board had acted early on concerning the issue and that the second round of data requests and reviews were well

underway. The Board members agreed that the NHH Water Commissioners were doing a very good job on the issue. The TA was directed to correspond with the Hampton Town Manager regarding their decision not to increase the cap for services prior to a review of the scope of professional services provided, or a list of data requests from Mr. Silkman.

The Board reviewed information concerning the repair costs for the Town Hall clock. The TA reported that an estimate of approximately \$3,225 had been received. This estimate did not include the costs for wiring, but did include costs for replacement of parts. The work also included installation of a timer that would enable the clock to ring only during the day, or not at all. Prior to repair it would be necessary to clean away the pigeon excrement. Mr. D'Avanza had forwarded a CDC health bulletin concerning the health risks associated with pigeon excrement to the office. An additional cost of \$1,800 for pigeon clean up brought the total cost to slightly more than \$5,000. A trust fund had been set up to pay for the maintenance of the Town Hall clock and Town green. The TA believed that the amount in the trust was sufficient to pay for the costs, but that he would research the issue and report back to the Board.

Recreation Budget Review

Maragaret Jubb, Frank Pertruno, Paricia Shepard, and John Woodsworth presented the Recreation budget. Mr. Pertruno led the discussion by noting that the total requested budget had increased by approximately 17k due to the addition of a full time Recreation Director. Each member of the recreation commission agreed that their combined volunteer efforts were not sufficient to provide the level of coordination necessary to administer the various recreation programs. Mr. Pertruno explained that the Town of Hampton's recreation program would no longer be available for NHH residents and that the Youth Association had approached the recreation commission to take over managing their programs. It was noted that the surrounding towns of Hampton, Rye, Stratham, Exeter, and Portsmouth had full time programs. Members from the recreation commission noted that the Town of North Hampton had a very small budget for a town of its size. The town did not have any recreation fields for soccer and lacross. The Hobbs field belonged to the Youth Association. The present 3hr per week person was not enough staff for the increasing numbers of children in town. Mr. Perturno noted that there were several basketball teams in Town, but the teams would no longer have access to the Hampton gym and their teams for games. While NHH teams could use the NHH gym there were not enough teams to play each other for an entire season. A full time recreation director could make the arrangements with other town's basketball teams to fill out the NHH season schedule. The director would also be responsible for setting up the playing fields and organizing the different programs and coordinating their schedules within and outside of the Town. The Director would also look at grant opportunities to help underwrite program offerings. Mr. Steiner asked whether they were not putting the cart before the horse by hiring a director prior to having fields. The Recreation members disagreed because the Director could well save the town money by recommending the best ways to develop and equip fields. The Youth Association currently manages the Hobbs field. In addition, programs were in need of coordination now. Pat noted that teens needed activities now to get them off from hanging around the railroad tracks and beach. The Town is growing and the need is there. There was discussion of the 1,200 line item for a digital phone. Mr. Hines asked why it was needed. Mr. Perturno explained that office space within the Town office was not available and the phone was a way of providing anytime, anywhere access to the recreation director. The service also included voice messaging as well. A line item for web site development sparked discussion. Mr. Lagassa thought it a good idea, but believed that the web site development should include the whole town. Some discussion of forming a committee to develop the site was mentioned. Ms. Kisner mentioned that the school had a site that was operational. Mr. Perturno asked whether the Board supported the idea of a full time recreation director. Mr. Lagassa believed that there was certainly a need, but also cautioned that the Police Department wanted an additional officer and that the library was asking for more money, too. He noted that the recreation members all had the best interests of citizens in mind, but the Board of Selectmen were interested in the

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overall costs to the budget. Mr. Lagassa suggested that the Recreation Commission rework their budget and resubmit it at a later meeting.

Library Budget Review

Mr. Richard Goeselt and Marsha Gognon briefed the Board on the proposed library budget. The total dollar amount of the increase proposed for next fiscal year was 12k, which represented a 4% increase over last year's library budget of 204k. Mr. Goeselt noted that the costs for health benefits were not yet known. The TA reported that the Health Trust Trustees would meet on November 22nd and that the costs would then be known at that time. Mr. Goeselt noted that the library was funding half of the cost associated with the quarterly newsletter. The cost of the library newsletter previously was provided entirely through the fund raising efforts of the Friends of the Library. The Friends had since requested that the Library raise half the costs of the newsletter so that the Friends could direct at least half of their funding towards other needs within the library. Mr. Lagassa asked about the feasibility of increasing late fines. Mr. Goeselt noted that if the fines were too high it might possibly lead to books not being returned at all. Mr. Goeselt went on to note that the library was 25 years old and there were some ADA concerns. The trustees were in the process of trying to project what capital facilities improvements will be necessary to carry the library forward 25 years hence. The Board mentioned that a stronger relationship between the school and town library may result in lower costs and better services. Mr. Steiner suggested a circulation profile. Mr. Hines expressed concern that there was not enough business materials and references within the library given the economic makeup of the town. Mr. Geoselt disagreed but agreed to see what the library did have and report back to the Board.

Selectmen's Concerns

Mr. Steiner noted that the capital improvement plan (CIP) committee would be up and running in a month and that the public was welcome to participate.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood commented about the number of parked cars around Hobbs Road. Mr. Strout mentioned that it was probably due to the soccer playoffs. The TA said he would pass Ms. Ellingwood's concerns along to the Police Chief.

Kim Kisner reported that the school was now publishing a quarterly newsletter. She also reported that the school was involved in a community forum. A facilitator had been retained and those participants of the forum would be charged with writing a vision statement during the November 5th and 6th forum. Participants would be required to attend the forum on both days. Sixty people had been invited to participate in the forum. The facilitator had suggested that he number of people not exceed 60.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50pm

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator