

Selectmen's Minutes
8 November 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 November 1st. Mr. Hines made the motion to accept the regular minutes of November 1st. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

Administration/Business

- a. Minutes - November 1st
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. Intent to Cut - Richard & Diane Jones
- e. Current Use Application - David & Eugenia Boies
- f. Executive Council Newsletter
- g. Nursing Home Data
- h. Tax Warrant - \$4,641,071.07

The TA briefed the Board on the status of NH Department of Transportation indemnification agreement for the culverts under Route 1A that are scheduled for replacement next autumn as part of the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project. It was explained that the DOT would become the owners of the culvert and that the Town would also agree to help with maintenance of the culvert limited to cleaning and removing debris from the culvert. Structural maintenance would be the responsibility of the DOT. The TA suggested that the Town attorney review the document and the Board agreed. It was noted that the project is designed to alleviate flooding in the marsh.

The Board reviewed the property tax warrant. The total tax warrant amount is \$4,641,071.07 of which, \$372,485 is the state mandated "donation" for education funding. The tax rate is \$18.89. The breakout is as follows, town (\$3.88), county (\$1.09), local school portion (\$7.15), and state education portion (\$6.77). Little Boar's Head is 23 cents. The TA noted that the tax bills would go out on November 10th.

Opening of Cruiser Bids for 1992 Crown Vic - 7:20pm

The Board next opened the sealed bids for the 1992 Crown Victoria. Bid results are listed below with the award being granted the highest bidder, Police Cars Unlimited at \$1,440.

Tri-State Auto Brokers	\$1,323.00
Bradley H Spill	\$1,176.25
Bay Ridge Motors	\$1,088.00
Jersey One Auto Sales	\$1,010.99
William Doucette	\$1,311.99
Mark Gottenberg	\$1,438.00
Vernon Larkin	\$1,266.99
<u>Police Cars Unlimited</u>	<u>\$1,440.00</u>
Grace Quality Used Cars	\$ 400.00

Selectmen's Issues

State-wide property tax

Mr. Lagassa provided a brief synopsis of events that have so far transpired in the Coalition Communities lawsuit. It was noted that the coalition and North Hampton opposed the recent Supreme Court ruling, which found the phase-in portion of the statewide property tax unconstitutional, for obvious reasons. It was explained that the thrust of the coalition's efforts centered on the flawed methodology used by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) to equalize assessed valuation among New Hampshire municipalities. The uniformity provisions under the New Hampshire constitution precluded disproportional taxation and that the DRA's method of equalizing valuation for tax purposes under the statewide property tax plan, ran counter to the provisions of the state's constitution. Unlike the previous version of the statewide property legislation, the current revision had a severability clause. With such a clause in place, parts of the legislation may be found unlawful, but those parts did not make unlawful the remaining provisions within the legislation. Therefore, the implementation of statewide property tax and the collection of money would still remain lawful. It was noted that \$10,000 had been encumbered from last year's budget for anticipated legal expenses of the coalition lawsuit. The Board had authorized an initial expenditure of \$3,000 with the caveat that release of additional funds would occur after review of the report submitted by the assessing firm's evaluation of the DRA's assessing methodology. Mr. Steiner asked for clarification in regards to the education portion of the tax bills. The TA highlighted the financial aspects included in the table below.

elementary school	=	4,368,869	voted at town meeting
high school	+	1,399,580	voted at town meeting
total appropriations	=	5,768,449	approved by town vote = total local school
less adequacy	-	(2,587,680)	determined by Dept of Education
local school	=	3,180,769	DRA amount used to set local ed. share of tax rate
State tax	+	2,960,165	determined by Legislature \$6.60 per thousand
Total Tax	=	6,140,934	Add local School & State Tax
less total appropriation	-	5,768,449	amount approved by town vote
Total Donation	=	372,485	the difference between adequacy and what can be raised by a tax rate of \$6.60 on total town valuation.

The state mandated "donation" portion raised through taxes in North Hampton represented 6% of the total education dollars. This "donated" amount added approximately 84 cents to the tax rate. The increase in taxes represents an additional \$84 per one hundred thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

Mr. Steiner asked about the Board's willingness to go ahead with finalizing the costs associated with moving the town offices above the police station. Mr. Lagassa supported the idea noting that the present location had run out of space for both staff and records storage. It was strongly urged that all the details of the proposal be flushed out prior to public submission of the plan. Mr. Steiner also noted that he wanted to get the item to the top of the Capital Improvement Plan committee's list (CIP).

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood told the Board that she thought Bob Strout was a one of the best employees the Town had remarking how even-tempered he was. The present agreed.

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

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator