

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 January 10th. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of January 10th. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

Administration/Business

- a. Minutes - January 10th
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. DES - Wetlands permit (NHDOT)
- e. Coakley Minutes
- f. Solid Waste 53b minutes

The Board signed the Town Warrant (available on the web at north-hampton-nh.com). The proposed warrant (operating budget and warrant articles) totaled \$3,030,820. The amount to be raised in taxes was \$1,866,775. The proposed operating budget is \$2,846,059. Total warrant article amounts are \$184,761.

The Board authorized the Tax Collector to abate property tax interest of up to \$5.00 noting that lesser amounts were simply inexpedient to administrate.

The Board signed a direct deposit agreement authorizing the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) to deposit grant money for the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project into a town account for the payment of project activities.

The Board renewed the auditing services of Mason & Rich for the current year.

The Board signed an agreement with the Rockingham Planning Commission to conduct a town-wide build-out analysis. It was noted that such a study was timely and would provide better information should a growth ordinance be adopted.

Winnacunnet High School Planned Addition - 7:15pm

Presentation.

Grant Seaverns and Assistant Principle Richard Ray briefed the Board on the expansion plans for Winnacunnet High School. Mr. Ray began the presentation of the issue by noting that all of the surrounding town's have had school building projects during the last 5-6 years to accommodate the increasing numbers of elementary age students during that time. Those same elementary students would soon be attending the high school in the coming years. As of 9/20/99 there were 1,150 students at the high school. A study conducted by the NH School Board Association projected that the student population would increase to 1,550 students by 2007. Without considering growth in the surrounding communities the number of projected students was pegged at 1,440. The current utilization rate for science classes is 96%, Language and math 89%, art 88%, physical education and health 91%. Mr. Ray explained that architects consider a building at capacity when space utilization is 85%. The addition of modular classrooms was considered, but the rental fees are \$10k/year with additional site preparation costs per unit averaging another \$10k. Expansion plans included adding to the gym, enlarging and relocating the library to the front

of the building, adding additional classrooms for special education, and adding a two-story connector between two parts of the existing building for language and science classes. Mr. Seaverns provided an overview of the bond issue costs. He noted that the bond issue would be for 17.9 million dollars and that the State would pay half of those costs. It was explained that the current bond issue for the current auditorium was 15 cents on the tax rate. The bond is scheduled to retire in two years, which coincided with the new bond costs coming on line as the previous bond issue was retired. The new bond issue would equal 25 cents on the tax rate which will have a net effect of adding 10 cents in debt related costs on the tax rate above the previous amount.

Selectmen's Issues

Mr. Lagassa asked the TA to confer with the Town Clerk about the legality and possibility of collecting email addresses from residents. Mr. Lagassa reasoned that the advent of email made it possible to better communicate the activities and issues of the Town. It was also an inexpensive way and much more timely than using the traditional newsletter.

Mr. Lagassa noted that he would like to review the default budget over the next several days to see if it could not be lowered more, particularly in regards to discretionary non-contractual wage and salary increases.

Mr. Lagassa also noted that he was reconstituting the Solid Waste Committee and that a meeting was planned within the next week to ten days.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood commented that she could not understand where the rift raft came from who had dumped roofing shingles over in the cemetery.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator