

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 February 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of February 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

Administration/Business

- a. Minutes - February 14<sup>th</sup>
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. Property tax refund (Wesley Calder) overpayment
- e. Veterans Exemption - Robert Ramsdell / James Barton / Edgar Cyr / Junious Owens / William Druon / Hugo Riciputi

**Bid Review (Phase II) 7:15pm**

Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project

The TA briefed the Board on the two bids received for Phase II (dredging portion) of the salt marsh restoration project. Of the two bids reviewed Northeast Wetland Restoration's price was \$89,000, while Great Meadows Farm submitted a bid for a little more than \$112,000. Available funding for Phase II of the project was approximately \$52,000, which made the lower bid more attractive. While both submissions were impressive, only Northeast Wetland Restoration presented alternative ways of dredging that would reduce costs while achieving the desired goals of restoration and flood mitigation. Mr. Steiner made the motion to award the Phase II bid to Northeast Wetland Restoration. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

**Bid Review - 7:30pm**

Transfer Station Soils Test Boring

Mr. Steiner explained that the purpose of the proposed bid was to investigate the feasibility of locating the highway garage at the brush dump / recycling center. Data from the test boring results would make it easier to determine the feasibility of locating the highway garage at the brush dump / recycling center. Miller Engineering submitted a bid for \$4,700 with additional costs of \$350 should Dig Safe services be required. RW Gillespie submitted a bid with a range of \$3,280 to \$3,480, which included the cost of Dig Safe services. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the RW Gillespie bid. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The Board presented Henry Mixter with an autographed copy of this year's Annual Town Report that is dedicated to him in recognition of his hard work. There was a round of applause by all those present.

**Selectmen's Issues - 7:45pm**

Statewide Property Tax Warrant / Education Funding

Mr. Lagassa provided a brief synopsis of events to date regarding the education funding issue and the Coalition Communities lawsuit. He noted that the Board had previously approved the withholding of the State property tax by placing the payment into escrow until a court decision regarding the issue has been rendered. It was noted that the payment date to the State was March 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Solid Waste Committee Progress Report*

Mr. Lagassa reported on the progress to date of the Solid Waste Committee. He noted that there have been two meetings and two tours of recycling center operations—North Hampton & Rye, to date. The goal of the committee was to reduce the volume of solid waste by instituting mandatory recycling. Three alternatives were discussed including a curbside pick-up program like bag & tag. Another option under consideration was an incremental increase in the transfer center where the Town would still pay the tipping fee. The third option involved eliminating tax payer subsidized private subscription service like the Town has now. This option involves a full service transfer station where citizens would bring their recyclables and trash. However, those citizens still interested in having a subscription pick-up service would pay the hauling fees and tipping costs. The committee was now working on the financial implications of all three options.

*Growth Management Ordinance*

Mr. Lagassa reported that a mistake had been made on the ballot concerning the GMO where a vote yes or no was placed beside every section of the ordinance. In addition, the Planning Board's recommendation was improperly placed in front of the article. The placement of the recommendation in front of the article was a long-standing practice by the Town—since 1981. There was some discussion of exactly where the recommendation should be placed. The statute specifies that it must come after the topical discussion. Therefore, the Chair inserted a topical discussion with the recommendation following. The ballot now stands corrected. A discussion concerning the GMO by those in attendance was encouraged by the Board. The discussion concerned the number of annual permits allowed and the issue of vested rights. Vested rights meaning those properties/subdivisions previously approved by action of the Planning Board. Those properties with vested rights could not be refused a permit, and according to Town Counsel permits granted to properties with vested rights did count toward the annual permit limitation of 18. Robert Noble expressed concern that he did not qualify under vested rights. Mr. Noble explained that he had an undeveloped lot of record dating back to the 1960's. He had paid taxes on the lot all these years. Recently he had paid to have gravel put in for a driveway, paid for septic design, received a driveway permit and now he was concerned that he would not be able to sell the lot for another several years because of the way the permit situation now stood. Mr. Lagassa expressed concern over the issue, too, and suggested that a clearer definition of exemption may be needed to better address Mr. Noble's and similar situations.

*Hampton Water Works Appraisal*

Mr. Lagassa asked about the progress of Brooks Valuation in their appraisal of the Hampton Water Works. The TA reported that Jim Brooks had been denied access to HWW property in Town. There is a statute that can be used to gain access to private property by municipal officials for the purpose of conducting an appraisal. Mr. Brooks provided a list of HWW property located in Town. The list had been forwarded to the Town's legal counsel.

*TA Performance Evaluation*

Mr. Lagassa reported that the Board had completed the TA's annual performance appraisal. The performance appraisal contained various elements that were scored from 1-10. The average score was a nine. The Board found the performance of the TA favorable and had decided to grant a \$3,000 pay raise. Mr. Lagassa noted that performance appraisals of other members of the management team along with pay adjustments were under review.

**Questions & Comments**

Lucille Ellingwood commented on the scurrilous management behavior of Waste Management (!!\*#\*). Mr. Turchan agreed.

Selectmen's Minutes  
28 February 2000  
7:00pm

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25pm. Mr. Hines made the motion to convene in non-public session under RSA91-A:3 II (a) discuss personnel issues. Mr. Steiner seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator