

The Chair, Jack Steiner at 7:00pm called the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting to order. Those present included George Lagassa, Lloyd Sullivan (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to accept the minutes of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Administration/Business
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. Veteran's Exemption - (Barbara Hart / Lucille Savageau )
- e. Warrant - Notification of November Elections
- f. [Rye Sewer Indemnification Agreement](#)

The Board reviewed and signed an indemnification agreement with the Rye Sewer Commission as part of the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Because the project was rerouting the sewer line to go over the new culverts the indemnification agreement held the Rye Sewer Commission harmless from construction damage and design flaws of the new system.

**g. [Underwood Engineers Sewer Design Services Contract](#)**

It was explained that Underwood Engineers are providing the design services associated with relocation of the sanitary force main (sewer line). The Town was entering into a contract with Underwood for these services as part of the overall project.

- h. Temporary Oath - Chuck Gordon (ZBA)
- i. Executive Newsletter
- j. Rockingham County Nursing Home
- k. Coakley Minutes
- l. DES Wetlands Permit - W/S North Hampton Properties
- m. [Testimonials - Brian Page / Peggy Neves](#)

The TA noted that the office had received a letter of commendation from the Attorney General's office regarding the assistance their office received from the North Hampton Police Department on a missing person's case. The AG thanked the PD for their professionalism. Margaret Neves also received a letter from the New Hampshire Town Clerks & Tax Collectors Association commending her completion of the Certified Tax Collector's Program.

**[Judy Day](#)**

**[Right to Know Law](#)**

Judy Day commented on her frustration with finding Planning and Zoning Board records. Ms. Day noted that information was not repeatedly unavailable. Ms. Day also said that she has never been able to get information pertaining to legal matters, which she explained are required to be available for public review. Mr. Lagassa asked if she was able to find what she was looking for in the planning and zoning records. Ms. Day acknowledged that she had found the information in files above the Police Station after a few hours of searching. Ms. Day questioned why staff could not find that same information for her. The TA noted that the corporate memory of the administrative staff members was not long because of the relatively short time each had worked for the Town. The TA noted that he had worked for the town 3 years, Paul Charron (building inspector) had worked for the town a little more than 2 years, Tina Kinsman (planning and zoning secretary) had worked for the town slightly more than 1 year, Peggy Neves (tax collector) had worked for the town almost 3 years, and that Jan Facella (administrative assistant) had worked for the town for 6 years.

Larry Miller asked what point the TA was making. The TA explained that knowledge of past events that preceded the employment dates of the administrative staff and the whereabouts of old records that were not located in the Town Office, was a problem for all concerned. Mr. Steiner noted that the Board was working on solving the record storage/space problem by revamping the upstairs of the Police Station. Mr. Sullivan also noted that there was not a lot of available staff time to search through the records upstairs. Mr. Miller complained about the copying charge of one-dollar noting that he found the charge excessive. Laurie LaRocque from Cedar Road commented about the plans for the factory outlet mall, particularly the right of way issue (ROW). Ms. LaRocque asked if tenant leases were available for review. Ms. LaRocque commented that W/S Development claimed that access to the ROW leading from the factory outlet to Cedar Road was contained in several tenant leases. Mr. Lagassa noted that some leases are registered at the registry office and could be found that way. Business leases were not usually available for public review. The Board agreed that the best solution to the traffic problem would be to close public access to the ROW, but that there may be no legal authority to do so if other nearby properties were deeded access to the ROW.

### Selectmen Issues

#### *Highway Budget Review*

Robert Strout presented the Highway Budget. It was noted that the total budget was up 3% from \$333,465 to \$343,526. The TA explained that no adjustment for the increase in health insurance rates had been added. He explained that those numbers would not be available until the end of November, but that the increase was expected to be 15%. Mr. Strout noted that the an increase of 21% in fire hydrant costs from \$140,970 to \$170,000 was the result of the PUC rate case and the additional hydrants added to the system because of new development in Town.

#### *Police Department Budget - Postponed until next meeting.*

#### *Recreation Department Budget*

Brenda DeFelice (Recreation Director) and Jill Brandt (Recreation Commission) presented the Recreation Budget. Ms. DeFelice reminded the Board that comparisons between the recreation budgets of last year and this year required adding last year's recreation warrant article to last year's recreation budget. The Recreation Budget rose 11% from \$80,746 to \$89,953. The Board asked Ms. DeFelice to research expenditure trends under general maintenance and report back.

#### *Fire Department Budget*

Thomas Lambert and Cory Landry (Chief & Deputy Fire Chief) presented the fire department budget. The total proposed budget was up 4% increasing from \$681,267 last year to \$706,995 this year. The majority of the increase was from wage and salary increases required by the collective bargaining agreement. Training was up slightly due to new federal and state regulations as well as newer fire fighters in the department. Mr. Lambert also presented a request for a part-time dispatcher for the department. Mr. Lambert noted that the number of pay per call firemen consisted of an all time low of 8 people. Previous staffing levels were 15, but finding volunteers was proving more and more difficult given the nature of the current economy. The Board suggested that Mr. Lambert review call statistics and prepare a report that documented the number of calls for service and how present staffing levels were either adequate or deficient in meeting service levels. Mr. Lagassa discussed the fire alarm maintenance item noting that there had been some controversy around a municipal system. Mr. Lambert noted that it was not an issue he felt strongly about. Mr. Sullivan noted that for those businesses that were connected to the system, discontinuing the system would raise problems as well. The TA noted that the municipal fire alarm system might not be a compelling issue, but it was important that the Town maintain its reserved space on the telephone poles. The pole space was an important asset that could be used when developing a telecommunications plan.

Selectmen's Minutes  
23 October 2000  
7:00pm

The Board discussed the one-dollar fee for photocopies and decided to lower the price to fifty cents. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to lower the price of a copy from one dollar to fifty cents. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00pm. The non-public session was cancelled.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister  
Town Administrator