

Selectmen's Minutes
11 March 2002
7:00pm

The Chair, Lloyd Sullivan, called the regularly scheduled public session to order at 7:00pm. Those present included George Lagassa, Jenifer Landman (Selectmen) and Russell McAllister, (Town Administrator).

Selectmen Issues

Mr. Sullivan thanked George Lagassa for his service on the Board of Selectmen. A letter from Priscilla Leavitt wherein she expressed her gratitude for having the annual Town Report dedicated to her.

Mr. Sullivan noted that he had contacted Chuck Knox from the DES and Jeff Taylor at the Office of State Planning regarding the ongoing drought situation. Mr. Sullivan noted that he was interested in whether the Board could impose a building moratorium because of the drought. It was explained that there were four levels of drought alert; Level I is normal, Level II is drought, Level III is drought warning, and Level IV is drought emergency. Mr. Sullivan reported that the State was moving to drought warning and that they would soon move to drought emergency, both drought levels had never been declared by the State.

The Board briefly discussed the necessity of residences prominently displaying house numbers so that emergency vehicles could easily locate individual addresses.

Mr. Mixture informed the Board that Shirley Carter would not be accepting a reappointment to the Conservation Commission this year because she had returned to school. Mr. Mixture recommended that Charles Gordon be appointed to full membership from alternate member status. Mr. Lagassa made a motion to appoint Mr. Gordon as a full member of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. It was asked if the appointment was to fill out the remainder of Ms. Carter's term, which was expiring in March, or whether this was a new appointment. It was agreed that this was a new appointment and should therefore the newly constituted Board should make the appointment after the election. Mr. Lagassa withdrew his motion.

The TA presented the Board with a request for the payment of legal services for North Hampton Forever. There was \$9,435 in legal fees and \$36 for conservation books. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to approve payment of \$9,471 for the expenses associated with the North Hampton Forever program. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Ms. Laura Simmons briefed the Board on the status of the current Abeniqui Meadows subdivision which was seen many iterations in name since 1997, Park Avenue Development Corp., Exeter Oaks, and Buckskin Lane. Planning Board approval for the subdivision was granted in 1997 and a self-liquidating letter of credit in the amount of \$650,000 was posted to insure the construction of the subdivision road. Substantial work was completed on the road and Appledore Engineering subsequently recommended a reduction in the letter of credit to \$200,000. The Planning Board recommended the reduction to the Board of Selectmen who approved said reduction. A letter was sent to the Developer informing the developer of the reduction approval. Ms. Simmons noted that the Bank never received the reduction request from the developer. The self-liquidating letter of credit expired on October 27, 2000 and the remaining amount of the letter of credit was not forwarded to the Town as outlined in the letter of credit. Ms. Simmons noted that the developer was now, once again, in front of the planning board proposing some enhancements and changes to the development. Two houses are currently under construction in the development. Ms. Simmons noted that there were still some unresolved drainage issues. The Board suggested that the Building Inspector go out to the site and that no certificate of occupancy be issued until the situation was clearer. Mr. Lagassa suggested the TA contact Town Counsel regarding the matter and have Town Counsel request the remaining funds from the bank holding the letter of credit.

Administration/Business

Mr. Lagassa made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 21st. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Minutes - February 21st, 2002
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. CDBG Manifest
- e. Elderly / Veterans (Asa Keniston)
- f. [Coakley OU-1 Trust – Remove money from trust into Town's Coakley Trust Fund](#)

The TA briefed the Board on the recent auditor's report and recommendation for the Coakley Landfill (OU-1 phase). It was noted that the Town was part of the "Coakley Group" and that the group had a municipal reserve fund that was used to fund the costs associated with the OU-1 phase of the landfill (containment & construction). The OU-1 phase was now largely completed and money was still in the group's municipal reserve fund. The recommendation of the auditors (Melanson Heath & Co.) was to dissolve the municipal reserve fund and return the money to the respective members of the Coakley Group. The TA explained that any money from the municipal reserve fund would go into the Town's Coakley Trust Fund. The amount of North Hampton's share of the reserve fund is approximately \$40,000. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to follow the auditor's recommendation and transfer the remaining funds from the Group's municipal reserve fund into the Town's Coakley Trust Fund. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

- g. Coakley Minutes
- h. Executive Council Newsletter
- i. Rockingham County Nursing Home Data
- j. DOT – I-95 Widening & Construction Plans
- k. [Town Ordinance Change for Fireworks / RSA 160:1 was repealed in 1989 and replaced by 160-B.](#)

The TA briefed the Board about a recommendation made by Deputy Fire Chief, Corey Landry, to change the language to the Town Ordinance "Prohibited Sales & Possession of Fireworks" of May 1988. It was noted that the statute governing fireworks during that period was RSA 160:1, but that it had been repealed the following year by RSA 160-B. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to alter the language of the ordinance by deleting reference to RSA 160:1 and inserting RSA 160-B in its place. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

- l. [Septic Plan Review change in Fee schedule from \\$350 to \\$225](#)

The TA explained that a recommendation from the Building Inspector was seeking to reduce the amount of the Septic Plan Review fee from \$350 to \$225. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to implement the reduced permit fee amount from \$350 to \$225. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Chief Brian Page addressed the Board regarding the hiring of a temporary full-time police officer. The basis of the request stemmed from lower staffing levels that were themselves a result of two officers called to active duty by the National Guard. The loss of the two officers left the department with fewer members, which in turn was driving over time costs. It was explained that the position was temporary full time because returning officers (Pridham & Cormier) would reclaim their positions. Mr. Page explained the difference in part and full time officer status, both in terms of the required training time at the Police

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Academy, and total numbers of hours part and full time officers were allowed to work during the year (full = unlimited / part = 1300 hours). The Board agreed to review the application and make a determination on March 25th.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public session of meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. Ms. Landman made the motion to convene into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator