

The Chair, Jenifer Landman, called the regularly scheduled public session to order at 7:03 pm. Those present included Lloyd Sullivan and Allen Hines, Selectmen. Due to the absence of the Town Administrator, Russell McAllister, Ms. Landman made written notes to prepare the minutes and Mr. Hines audio-recorded the meeting.

Questions & Comments

In order to allow time for the Town Clerk, Delores Chase, to close the Town Office and be present for the swearing in of a new police officer, the general public was given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Dr. Joe Arena asked if the proposed communications tower on private land (Walnut Avenue) would prohibit the Town from erecting a communications tower on the school land recently donated to the Town (on the March ballot). Mr. Sullivan stated that it would not prohibit a tower from being erected at a second site.

Dr. Joe Arena gave a report on the (Statewide School Property Tax) coalition status. He said that T.R.A.S.H. was receiving donations from private sources, even from "recipient" towns residents. He added that they were doing a better job at informing the public than the "coalition". The coalition wants to eliminate the statewide property tax, but suggests an income tax to fund education. Mr. Sullivan agreed that T.R.A.S.H. was doing a fine job, as they had sent out 40,000 mailers. The Town had previously allocated \$10,000 toward the coalition efforts, but had spent only \$4,500 to date. Mr. Sullivan said he personally supported the T.R.A.S.H. group and would donate funds as an individual. He encouraged others of the public to do so. Mr. Hines said that citizens groups can support T.R.A.S.H., but that he would not support a donation from Town funds to support a PAC, an association that did not have the financial support of any town or group of towns.

Cynthia Swank mentioned that the Budget Committee had voted some time ago to reduce the Brush Dump Sticker to \$1 to encourage proper disposal of yard waste and wanted to know the status of that suggestion. Mr. Sullivan said that he would bring it up under Selectmen's Issues later in the meeting.

Introductions

At 7:14, Chief Page introduced the newest full-time patrol officer of the Police Department, Michael J. Oliviera, and gave a brief history of Mr. Oliviera's experience and qualifications. Chief Page also introduced Mr. Oliviera's parents, who were seated in the audience, camera in hand. Delores Chase, Town Clerk read the oath, swearing in the new officer. Related paperwork was signed by the Board.

John Stowell was to be introduced as the new building inspector; however, Ms. Landman announced that Mr. Stowell regrettably declined the position and a search for a new building inspector would begin immediately.

Old Business (continued)

Ms. Landman opened the discussion regarding appointments to fill vacant positions on various boards and committees. Appointed unanimously for 3 year terms ending March 2005 were the following:

CBT Committee Member: Bob Kennedy

ZBA Full Member: Richard Luft

ZBA Alternate (re-appointment): Sam Checovich

ZBA Alternate: Jim Kierstead

The Town Administrator will notify the above in writing of the appointments and that they are to be sworn in by the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk as soon as possible.

Discussion regarding the Town website was postponed due to the absence of the Town Administrator. Mr. Bob Landman, RPC Commissioner, asked that the TA place on the website the road map in PDF-format that Ms. Landman e-mailed to the TA. He asked also that the TA e-mail the "Arcview" parcel map database to the RPC. They would, in turn, put it into PDF-format so it can be posted on the Town website. Mr. Sullivan stated that the town website was a high priority to the town for a means to be informed about various committees, agendas, calendar of events and announcements. Mr. Hines asked who would keep the site current. He said that the website should not become stale or the "blame" would fall upon the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Landman said that the Town currently had a website which was very stale and that it needed to be more comprehensive and current. He asked that the Selectmen have all committees, boards and commissions and town departments assign one member to prepare materials in Word.doc format and e-mail it to the CBT Committee, who would create an outline of the site and present it to the selectmen to be approved for posting onto the website. Mr. Sullivan made a motion that Ms. Landman draft a letter to all boards, commissions and committees suggesting that they assign a member to be responsible for the web page postings. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

New Business

a. Tom McManus introduced himself to the Board as being responsible for this year's Old Home Day foot race event. He asked permission to contact the TA to post the sign-up sheet on the Town website. He also asked for permission to contact the police department and highway department as to the necessary safety arrangements for the race. Mr. Sullivan made the motion, Mr. Hines seconded, voted unanimously.

b. *Technology & Software Discussion / Presentation – Seacoast Computer.* At 7:30, Mr. Hines began the discussion by explaining the research he had conducted, interviewing the TA on the current computer systems in place at the Town Office. He then introduced the representatives from Seacoast Computer, Jim Smith and John Trottier. Mr. Smith said that they do not have a contract with North Hampton, but work on a time & materials basis. The last time they were in the Town Office was 3 or 4 weeks ago installing an upgrade. Mr. Smith said that they had been in business for 16 years, and had no retail sales - they only serviced towns and munis (Lee, Portsmouth, Meredith, Raymond, etc.). Mr. Sullivan asked how long they had worked for North Hampton and Mr. Smith said 6-8 months, only when called for specific needs at \$75/hr. Mr. Smith said that they were certified with Novell, Microsoft, Cisco, accounting software, etc. North Hampton had a mix of some fiberoptics, linking some of the offices, some e-mail - Novell, Windows 2000 server, etc. Mr. Sullivan asked why e-mail wasn't available to all town office employees. Mr. Smith said the town needed high-speed Internet access before providing e-mail to all town office employees. Mr. Landman said that he has 7 computers on e-mail using 24K dial-up. Mr. Smith responded saying that 3 or 4 weeks ago, they provided the means for e-mail by installing Group-wise, but would not set up the e-mail until high-speed was available. Mr. Landman mentioned that AT&T verbally agreed to give the town high-speed free to the town offices and library by the Fall and that they were already taking it from "the curb" into the school and would have it in by May. Mr. Smith said AT&T verbally agreed to do the same for Portsmouth and all they got was the school. As regards passwords, Mr. Landman asked if Seacoast Computer had the passwords, which they said they did. Mr. Hines stated that most towns didn't have Internet access. Mr. Smith said that North Hampton ranked about "middle" as far as technology implemented and said that we had a lot going for us. There is little documentation (no schematics of the system), but the "new" fiberoptic cables and wires are labeled and fairly easy to track down. Mr. Smith said he has not tested the UPS systems or back-up tapes; but if he were contracted, this is something he would do on a monthly basis. Mr. Landman asked about the back-up policy and Mr. Smith said that towns, such as Portsmouth, archive (save) the month-end tape permanently.

c. *Change in Memorial Day Observance* – Mr. Harold Higgins and (Ret.) Army Lt. Col. Gene Ritzo spoke in favor of Memorial Day being observed on the 4th Monday in May (Federal Holiday) instead of May 30th. All of the states celebrate this holiday on Monday, (Vermont and New Hampshire being the last), and the

VFW have initiated an effort to make the holiday on the 30th. The argument for Monday observance is that it allows a long weekend for family get-togethers and that the 30th held no special significance. It originally was to honor the soldiers of the Civil War and then incorporated all of those who had served their country in the service. Mr. Higgins and Mr. Ritzo stated that they were members of the VFW but disagreed with the organization on this issue.

d. *Adopt-a-Plot program* – Chris Ganotis proposed that volunteers become stewards of town-owned properties to keep a watchful eye out for vandals and to help keep the properties clean of trash. In the case of cemeteries, which are not on the list of those being maintained by the town, volunteers would clear the plots of brush, etc., to honor the citizens of North Hampton's past. He mentioned that headstones were toppled intentionally on occasion. Mr. Ganotis prepared a hand-out of color photo-graphs indicating the lack of attention to some of these sites. The Board passed a resolution (moved by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Hines and voted unanimously) supporting these efforts and suggested that a list of properties (provided by the Conservation Commission), which would need a steward, should be posted at the Town Office. Volunteers would then submit, to the Conservation Commission, their names and parcel they wished to monitor. Mr. Landman suggested that the listing be put on the Town website, as well, and suggested that the Conservation Commission obtain permission from private owners of the land, if applicable. Chief Page suggested that the police be notified immediately if vandals, etc. were observed. In the past, people have waited for 3 or 4 days to report incidents, which put the police at a disadvantage.

e. *New Library Discussion – North Hampton Library Trustees.* At 8:22, Rich Goeselt stated that several years ago, the library trustees were concerned about the lack of space for adult and children programs, computer research and stacks research areas. Last year, the library hired a consultant to analyze the shortcomings now and in the future. It was found that the library was 2500 sq. ft short of today's needs! In 1972, the library was planned well for 25 years. It is time to look toward the next 20 years. The consultant, as well as the Town's architect, Dennis Mires, has estimated the Town's library needs to be 10,000 to 11,000 sq. ft. (The current 5000 sq. ft. space would need to double.) The trustees submitted this report for the CIP to the Planning Board. Dennis Mires said that:

1. There is not enough parking now, and future needs will be 96 spaces.
2. The foot-print is insufficient to expand town office or library.
3. The current library would be the desired square footage of the Town Office needs for the next 20 years.

Mr. Geoselt said that it would be a "steep hill to climb" to give up the current library for the Town Offices and not have land purchased for a future library facility. Dennis Mires' drawing showed the use of the lot next door to the west. Lloyd had previously suggested that the library contact the owner about the idea. The Trustees liked the idea and did, indeed, contact him. In addition, they contact Robbie Robinson, owner of the lot east of the school about a possible alternate site. Both landowners were agreeable to the idea. Mr. Geoselt said that Mr. Mires suggested that the Town buy both properties as a way to invest for the future of North Hampton. Mr. Geoselt wanted to know the opinions of the Planning Board, school and other town officials. He proposed that the Board of Selectmen appoint a committee composed of:

1. Selectman
2. Friends of the Library representative
3. Library Trustee
4. School Board representative (Cynthia Swank suggestion)
5. Member of the general public
6. Planning Board member
7. Review by police and fire

The tasks of the committee would be:

1. Investigate land acquisition
2. Prioritize events

3. Develop a time-line
4. Investigate sources of funding (bonds, grants, donations, etc.)

Mr. Geoselt also asked that the Board of Selectmen consider granting a few hours of the Town's architect Dennis Mires when deemed appropriate. Mr. Sullivan made the motion that a committee be appointed and that this committee could have access to the town architect on a limited basis, as necessary with prior approval. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous. Mr. Landman mentioned that the library would be convenient to children if located next to the school. The cost of sidewalks was \$150/ft in today's dollars. Even though the town has no intention of installing sidewalks, close proximity to the school would eliminate the need. Mr. Geoselt mentioned that locating the library within the town complex centralized facilities and would allow the parking lot to be shared. Mr. Hines had read all of the studies prepared by the library consultant and by the Dennis Mires, architect. He said that the town must be supportive of the effort to insure that the project would be successful. Keeping the towns people informed and participating in the process would help insure success in passing a warrant article when the time came. It was decided that the members of the committee would be appointed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting, April 22nd.

f. Heritage Center Discussion postponed to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

g. Municipal Records Committee discussion postponed to April 22nd, but discussed briefly. Cynthia Swank and Peter Parker, of the Inlook Group and residents of North Hampton, suggested that the Board of Selectmen first read a proposed Municipal Records Committee Ordinance (they provided) before discussing this issue. The ordinance would be in compliance with RSA 33-A:3 - ... Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Tax Collector shall constitute the committee. Mr. Hines asked Henry Mixter if he had records stored at his home. Mr. Mixter said he did, but they were most-likely duplicates of town originals. He was willing to put them in the care, custody and control of the town, if that was the desire of the Board. Any one-of-a-kind documents would be added to the archived files. Peter Parker suggested that any access to the files be monitored by authorized personnel.

Selectmen's Issues - 8:50 p.m.

a. Sealed Paving Bids opened. Lowest bidder awarded the contract. Vote: unanimous. (Listed in the sequence in which they were opened.)

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| 1. Continental Paving, Inc. | \$34.45/ton |
| 2. Pike Industries (Portsmouth) | \$30.90/ton (low bidder) |
| 3. Interstate Bituminus Materials | \$33.90/ton |
| 4. Bell & Flynn, Inc. | \$33.75/ton |
| 5. Brox Industries, Inc. | \$32.50/ton |
| 6. Bayside Paving | \$32.95/ton |

b. Updates from various commissions, boards, committees. None reporting. Ms. Landman mentioned that Jane Currivan, mother of twin scouts seeking to earn their Eagle badges, suggested that the various town boards, commissions and committees prepare a wish-list of activities that scouts could do to be of service to the town and post the list in the town office. These tasks would not be pre-accepted by the Eagle Board, but merely ideas of needed tasks that might qualify for an eagle project.

c. Coastal Watershed Forum April 30 - Ms. Landman advised the Conservation Commission of the upcoming meeting from a flier she had received.

d. Fire Department candidate – offer of conditional employment unanimously approved.

e. Highway Department – New proposed hours of operation for the Brush Dump. Robert Strout suggested that the brush dump be closed on Wednesday and open all day on Saturday (8-12 noon, 1-5pm). He said that it was too difficult to get 2 half-days to be manned, so he suggested that it be changed to one full day - Saturday, which is the most convenient to the public. Mr. Sullivan made the motion that the hours be changed as stated. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous.

Mr. Sullivan mentioned the request made earlier in the meeting by Cynthia Swank, that the BoS consider the Budget Committee proposal that the dumb stickers be reduced to \$1 to encourage proper disposal of bush and possibly discourage illegal dumping. Robert Strout agreed and said that the stickers cost 65 cents to have made. The fees went into the General Fund anyway, so the dump stickers were not intended to cover the cost of the operation. Mr. Hines made the motion to change the brush dump sticker fee to \$1.00. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. Vote: unanimous. Mr. Sullivan said that he would announce the sticker fee on the sign out front of the police station.

f. Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination: Prior to the meeting, the Town Administrator requested that the Board of Selectmen authorize hiring Ms. Linda Johnson to give a seminar on Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination to the Town Department heads and officials (elected and appointed). Ms. Johnson is on the NHMA list of credited speakers on this topic. Mr. Sullivan made the motion; Mr. Hines Seconded; unanimously approved.

Administration/Business

- a. Minutes: Motion to accept by Mr. Sullivan; seconded by Mr. Hines; vote was unanimous to approve.
 1. March 25th - as amended
 2. March 25th non-public session
 3. March 28th - as amended
- b. Payroll approved and signed
- c. Manifest approved and signed
- d. Other documents signed:
 1. Report of Appropriations Actually Voted
 2. North Hampton Community Development Program, Warrant #27
 3. Dennis Mires' proposal for architectural services for elevator addition to Police station
- e. Requests for elderly prop tax exemptions - Postponed to April 22nd

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Sullivan; seconded by Mr. Hines; voted unanimously at 9:19.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Landman, Chair
Board of Selectmen