

Selectmen's Meeting
February 24, 2003

The Chair, Jenifer Landman, called the scheduled public session to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Lloyd Sullivan, Allen Hines (Selectmen) and Michael Pardue (Town Administrator) and NormaJean Fowler (Recording Secretary). In the audience were Cliff Sinnott, Dave Walker (Rockingham Planning Commission) and Robert Landman and Shep Kroner (North Hampton RPC Commissioners, State Representative Jeff Gilbert, Mr. Muscaru from Winnacunnet High School and Chief of Police Brian Page, Dr. Joe Arena (Planning Board member and Statewide Property Tax rep.) and Phil Wilson (Planning Board Chair.), Robbie Robinson (Budget Committee) and others.

I. Questions & Comments:

Ms. Landman then asked for questions and comments. She then asked State Representative Jeff Gilbert to address the audience regarding Senate Bill 95.

Representative Gilbert explained that SB95 proposed development of work force housing. He went on to say that the principal thrust of the bill was to address the barriers of work force housing. In some towns the barriers are decisions of the Planning Board and local Board of Housing. He discussed the bill he introduced, HB315, which addressed expediting the process so that developers didn't lose funding. SB 95 attempts to codify the Supreme Court decisions that relate to towns providing work force housing. He stated that he has reservations on the attempt to create a separate zoning effect.

Representative Gilbert informed the Board and members of the audience of a hearing on SB95 which is scheduled for the first week of March. He also stated that HB 315 has been retained by municipal government for further study. He said that HB 315 attempts to convey interest in having a comprehensive economic strategy plan concerning the lack of planning effort by the state. He stated that he wants to bring the right kind of jobs to the state to foster development. He is not in favor of a master zoning plan. He said that budget billing would be a disaster for the state.

He also spoke about the statewide property tax. He stated that he was optimistic that this would be repealed.

Dr. Arena stated that he felt that SB 95 was more complex than previously stated and that it would "neuter" planning boards. He also said that it would produce problems because work force housing does not expand economic growth. He does not feel that we should be relying on the decision of the people in Concord to tell us how to provide "affordable" housing.

Phil Wilson stated that he went to the hearing in Concord to testify. He felt that the removal of local control and putting in it the hands of judges and conflicting attorneys of

the town and developers was not the way to go. He questions if we want to let judges and the state to decide what happens in North Hampton. He went on to say that either Senator Larson didn't understand the bill or was misrepresenting what the effect of the bill would be. He said that SB 95 would allow developers to build developments that "might not be perfect" according to judges decisions. He fears that developers could encroach on available water resources. He spoke to the fact that the kind of developments being promoted don't pay much more than minimum wage and that employees wouldn't be able to afford live in the state. He feels that SB 95 will only help the developers. He asked that Representative Gilbert vote against this bill.

Mr. Landman stated that development of work force housing was a laudable goal because homes are quickly becoming unaffordable but that we can't drive home prices by legislation. He said that the only way to get it to work would be the install sewer systems (which would further hurt our water resources) and that the people have traditionally voted against this. He also spoke of each town being individual. He said that this bill will make "cookie cutter" towns. He stated that judges don't understand land use policy and that this bill would add another level of government.

II. Selectmen's Items:

Agenda Item A. Rockingham Planning Commission.

Representatives from the Rockingham Planning Commission presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Route 1 Corridor Management Study.

Mr. Cliff Sinnott addressed the board and spoke of the commission visiting each town in the Route 1 corridor. He stated that a Route 1 Committee had been formed (by Bob Landman, chair of that committee), composed of representatives from towns along Rte. 1 to get funds from the DOT for a study and repairs to Rte. 1. He told the board that the NH DOT had supplied funds for the study of the Route 1 corridor. He asked that the board appoint someone from the town to the advisory committee. We could appoint one of the two current RPC commissioners or someone else. He stated that this person would act as a liaison between the town and the committee and keep them informed of progress as well as getting input from the town on issues that needed to be addressed. He stated that this person would need to attend one meeting a month which would be for approximately two hours and that the meetings would most likely be held during the day. Mr. Hines suggested that the person be a member of the Planning Board to facilitate the transference of information.

Mr. Dave Walker gave a presentation in which he addressed the origins of the study, the projected phases of the project and schedule of the project.

He spoke of the Kimball-Chase 1989 study and the projected traffic patterns and how the actual traffic patterns haven't changed drastically since the original study and did not match the projected pattern of the original study.

Ms. Landman questioned the funding and grants from the state. Per Mr. Hines suggestion, Ms. Landman asked that the Planning Board poll the members to get a volunteer and report back to the Board in two weeks.

Agenda Item B. Winnacunnett High School Proposal.

Mr. Muscaru, from the Winnacunnett High School, made a presentation regarding the renovation/addition project for the Winnacunnett High School. He spoke to the inadequacy of the space available at the present time. He stated that two modular classrooms are being added per year and that many students only enter the main building for lunch, spending all their time going from modular classroom to modular classroom. He went on to say that the science labs were inadequate or in some cases non-existent. He told the board that the lunchroom facilities were inadequate and that lunches began at 10:18 in the morning and lasted for 22 minutes per lunch period, many times with a 15 minute wait in the lunch line.

He stated that this project will increase classroom space, relocate the cafeteria and build a new gymnasium. Major renovations would include the removal of asbestos, address the ventilation system, replace the fire sprinkler system and increase the available parking spaces. He said that if this didn't pass, there might be the possibility of losing accreditation, which could affect the property taxes.

Mr. Muscaru spoke of the \$24.8 million dollar cost and the availability of 50% state matching funds. He went on to say that there was a proposal to change the matching funds % in the future and the fact that this needed to be acted upon before these funds were decreased. The projected cost to the taxpayers of North Hampton would be .43¢ per thousand and that the loan rates were very low presently.

Ms. Landman suggested that a letter to the editor be sent by the Board in support of this project. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Hines agreed.

Agenda Item C. Police Department Vehicle Rotation Program.

Chief Brian Page spoke to the Board regarding the current vehicle rotation program. The Police Department currently has four vehicles in use. The usual program is to strip the oldest vehicle and resell it at auction and purchase a new vehicle. He spoke about the department needing this extra vehicle due to scheduling conflicts due to multiple calls, court hearings, training sessions and details. Because of these conflicts some officers are using their own vehicles for details, going to training, transportation to court hearings or in the course of their duties, which presents a possible liability to the town. He feels that the department should retain the fifth vehicle and use it for details, training sessions and as a backup. He feels that we should retain vehicles for five years and then rotate them out.

Ms. Landman mentioned that this would add a fifth vehicle to the town's insurance policy and inquired of Chief Page as to the available parking area for the vehicle.

Chief Page stated that the vehicle could be stored in the rear of the Town Hall.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve. Mr. Hines seconded. VOTED: Unanimously to approve fifth vehicle. 3-0.

Agenda Item D. Assessment Certification-Update.

Mr. Pardue informed the board that the workshops for Assessment Certification would be held on March 3, 2003 and March 6, 2003.

Agenda Item E. Other.

Ms. Landman asked about the bids received from cleaning companies. Mr. Pardue stated that he had received only one bid and that the bids had closed that day. He said that the current company did not submit a bid and that they hadn't shown up to clean for the past three days. He said that the only bid was from a company that was bonded and did the cleaning for the Post Office. Mr. Sullivan stated that if there was only one bid that we should open it and if it was in the general range of our past services, we should hire them. Mr. Pardue said he would open the bid tomorrow.

Ms. Landman presented a recommendation from the Planning Board to appoint Ben King to the Heritage Commission. Mr. Hines made a motion to appoint Mr. King. Mr. Sullivan seconded. VOTED: Unanimously to appoint Ben King to the Heritage Commission. 3-0.

Ms. Landman discussed NH RSA 79-D which addresses property tax relief to barn owners. She stated that Priscilla Leavitt, of the Historical Society, and Jan Facella, Administrative Assistant, and she had the information, if citizens requested it.

Ms. Landman mentioned the written request for abatement on the Metalias property, which had been approved by the prior BoS after the cutoff date. The development rights had been deeded to the town as part of the North Hampton Forever effort. Mr. Sullivan concurred. Mr. Hines said he had no objection to grant the abatement. It was the consensus of the Board that the abatement would be approved.

There was discussion regarding the B&M Railroad meeting held in Durham on February 21st, which Mr. Landman (MPO TAC rep.) and Ms. Landman (as BoS Chair) attended. The discussion included clarification of information provided from Russ McAllister (former Town Administrator), which was incorrect, including the statements that the town would have to take over the bridge sooner or later and that the town would be responsible for repairs to the bridge. It was the consensus of the Board that it would not be to the Town's advantage to take the financial responsibility of the bridge. Therefore, that responsibility would remain with the railroad company, B&M aka Guilford transportation.

Mr. Sullivan discussed the old Town Office repairs. George Chase and Lloyd Sullivan want the interior woodwork to be stained and the walls painted. He suggested that we place it out for bid for painting/staining and carpet installation (two different contracts.) The members of the BoS agreed.

III. Administration/Business:

Agenda Item A. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue spoke regarding the letter received from Citizens Bank regarding the FDIC limits. According to this letter, the deposits are collateralized above the FDIC limits of \$100,000.

Agenda Item B. Approval of Minutes.

It was voted to approve the Minutes of the meetings from February 14, 2003. **Voted:** Unanimous to accept Minutes. 3-0

Agenda Item C. Payroll.

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item D. Manifest.

Agenda Item E. Abatements.

Mr. Pardue presented requests for abatements which the board reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item F. Exemptions- Veterans/Elderly (if any)

None.

IV. Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board in public or non-public session, Mr. Hines made the motion to adjourn, Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

NormaJean Fowler
Recording Secretary