

Selectmen's Meeting
March 10, 2003

The Chair, Jenifer Landman, called the scheduled public session to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Lloyd Sullivan, Allen Hines (Selectmen), Michael Pardue (Town Administrator) and NormaJean Fowler (Recording Secretary). In the audience were Chief of Police Brian Page, Road Agent Robert Strout, Planning Board Member Ron Todd and Sandy Elaimo, reporter for the *Atlantic News*.

I. Questions & Comments:

Ms. Landman then asked for questions and comments.

Robert Strout, Road Agent, informed the BoS that the highway department has put out and covered the frost heave signs and that in the event of warm days they will uncover them. He will put an item in the local paper regarding this.

II. Selectmen's Items:

Agenda Item A. Police Department-Officer Commendations.

Chief Brian Page informed the BoS of the following commendations:

Patrolman Jim Russell. Officer Russell started in September of 2001. Since joining the force Officer Russell has been very assertive in making motor vehicle stops. On May 23rd (two months after graduating the Academy) Office Russell conducted a motor vehicle stop for a safety violation (headlight out). Upon stopping the vehicle Office Russell smelled marijuana coming from the interior of the vehicle. Upon questioning the passenger and driver and receiving suspicious answers Officer Russell called for the Sergeant to assist him. A Search Warrant was obtained and the operator and passenger were found to be in possession of Cocaine, Heroin, Ketamine and scales used in the measuring of drugs. The parties were charged with possession and intent to distribute.

Detective Stokel. Detective Stokel has been with the department for over two years. He does investigation and case management. Because of his dedication and work ethic he has been instrumental in solving seven burglary cases. He also fills in for patrol. His job clearance rate is unsurpassed in the department.

Officer Gary Homiak. He has served in the department for eight years full time and four years part time. On December 30, 2002 he responded to a 911 call. On the way to the call he encountered a suspicious vehicle. Upon stopping the vehicle and questioning the occupants he became suspicious because of the vague answers received. Upon inspection of the contents of the vehicle he found many items that were reported stolen from the 911 call as well as other items from other burglaries.

Agenda Item B. Road Agent Certification.

Ms. Landman informed the BoS that Mr. Robert Strout, Road Agent, has been designated as Road Scholar due to his participation in the certification program at the U.N.H. This achievement qualified him to instruct, if called upon. She mentioned that the BoS had received a letter from Lisa Wilson regarding Mr. Strout's willingness to come out on his own time to remove a large branch which had fallen onto the road blocking traffic. She was impressed with his willingness to work on his own time. The BoS thanked Mr. Strout for his dedication and hard work.

Agenda Item C. Fire Department-Ambulance Transport Rates.

Ms. Landman questioned what was action needed from the Board regarding the rates provided by Comstar. Mr. Pardue stated that they needed to be reviewed and then sent to the Chief of the Fire Department for his signature.

No vote was taken.

Agenda Item D. Donation to Memorial Fund.

Mr. Sullivan informed the BoS that the Town's attorney's wife had passed away and that he would be making a donation to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Barbara Ryan's name on behalf of the Board and that no Town money would be used. He invited the members of the BoS to contribute. Mr. Hines agreed to contribute also.

Agenda Item E. Town Website Update & Related Decisions.

Mr. Pardue informed the BoS that the website was moving forward and that a counter through Virtual Town Hall is showing how many hits the site receives. He wanted to acknowledge the hard work of all involved. He asked the BoS for direction regarding the listing of personal information such as address and phone number. He stated that there could be a blind e-mail account set up so that people could email to one address and it would be forwarded to the appropriate party.

Ms. Landman discussed the fact that in the past phone numbers would be listed in the local directory. She didn't feel that the addresses and phone numbers should be listed on the website because of the area of distribution of that information and agreed that a blind e-mail account was the best way to go. Mr. Hines and Mr. Sullivan agreed.

Mr. Pardue then discussed the posting of the Town's position regarding the State Wide Property Tax. He questioned if it should continue to be posted on the website. Ms. Landman asked if it was still an ongoing lawsuit and Mr. Pardue informed her that it was.

Mr. Sullivan felt that the coalition information should still be on the website.

Ms. Landman discussed the current proposal in Concord mentioned by Representative Gilbert at the last BoS meeting that seeks to eliminate the State Wide Property Tax. She suggested that we get an update from Representative Gilbert.

Mr. Hines discussed the fact that the Town joined the coalition to overturn the State Wide Property Tax. Joe Arena was made the town's representative in the coalition. Mr. Arena then decided that the town should join a group of private citizens seeking to overturn the State Wide Property Tax. Mr. Hines feels that we should rethink our position in this matter.

Mr. Pardue said that he would research this issue and report back to the BoS.

Ms. Landman informed the BoS that the Historical Society would like to add information regarding the history of houses over 100 years old in North Hampton to the website and that they had volunteers willing to enter the information into Word.

Mr. Pardue also discussed the need for a decision on what picture/pictures to have posted on the website.

Ms. Landman suggested either the Bandstand from last year's Town Report or the Fish Houses with the flower garden in the foreground. She asked if each page could have a photo, as Centennial Hall page, bandstand page, heritage page, etc. Mr. Pardue said absolutely.

It was decided that Mr. Pardue would obtain some photographs for the BoS to review. Ms. Landman offered to help.

Agenda Item F. Removal Bond

Ms. Landman discussed the letter received from Philip Wilson, Planning Board Chair, that suggested that the bond for \$25,000 be approved. She suggested that the bond be reviewed by Attorney Ryan to make sure that it was non-cancelable, doesn't expire, can't be cancelled or lapse due to non-payment and stays in place until the tower is removed. She also suggested that it be reviewed to insure that the surety company had a good rating and that the bond have all the required seals.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the amount of bond required.

Mr. Hines seconded.

VOTED: Unanimous to approve bond. 3-0

Agenda Item G. Other Business

Mr. Sullivan discussed the continuation of repairs/revisions to the old Town Hall. He spoke about installing a counter space for a customer service in the Tax Collector's area. He stated that it would look similar to the Town Clerk's area and would not remove any of the original area.

Mr. Hines made a motion to approve the work not to exceed \$1,000.

Ms. Landman seconded.

VOTED: Unanimous to approve work to the old Town Hall. 3-0

Ms. Landman discussed the BoS request that the Planning Board poll the members to get a volunteer to serve on the CCCTC PRC Route 1 Committee. It was never brought up at the last Planning Board meeting so Ms. Landman suggested we table this issue until after the next Planning Board Meeting.

Ms. Landman questioned if a letter of support had ever been sent regarding the Winnacunnett High School. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Pardue stated that they never received her email, so one was never sent to the local paper. Mr. Hines had read it and had asked Ms. Landman to add a sentence clearly stating that the BoS supported it.

Ms. Landman discussed the residential Comcast billings, considering the current legal negotiations with the Town regarding the franchise agreement. Mr. Pardue stated that people should pay their current bills even if they were from Comcast.

III. Administration/Business:

Agenda Item A. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue informed the BoS that the Town Report was now complete and wanted to acknowledge the hard work of all those who helped in preparing it, especially Jan Facella. He also stated that the audit was done. He informed the BoS that the new cleaning contract was signed and the new company seemed to be doing a fine job.

Agenda Item B. Approval of Minutes.

It was voted to approve the Minutes of the meeting as amended from February 24, 2003.

Voted: Unanimous to accept Minutes as amended. 3-0

It was voted to approve the Minutes of the meetings from February 27, 2003.

Voted: Unanimous to accept Minutes. 3-0

Agenda Item C. Payroll.

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item D. Manifest.

Manifest was reviewed and signed off on.

Agenda Item E. Abatements.

Mr. Pardue presented a request for a hardship abatement which the board reviewed and signed off on.

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

Two Veteran's Exemptions were presented and approved.

Three Elderly Exemptions were presented and approved.

IV. Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board in open session, Mr. Sullivan made the motion to adjourn the open session. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Open session adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

NormaJean Fowler
Recording Secretary