

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 02/23/04
Approved 03/08/04

I. Call to Order.

Selectman Jenifer Landman served as Chair of this meeting in the absence of Chairman Sullivan. Chair Landman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were present Paul Cuetara, Selectman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Conservation Commission / North Hampton Forever Proposed Land Purchase

Mr. Tim Harned provided the Board an in-depth review of the property being offered for Town purchase. Mr. Harned provided maps that depicted the property, identifying it as three (3) parcels of land that total approximately 103 acres. Mr. Harned explained that the property is in "current use", resulting in an estimated property tax of \$50.00.

Mr. Harned advised the Board that approximately sixteen (16) acres of the one-hundred three (103) total are considered "dry". Mr. Harned advised the Board that the Treat family currently owns the parcels under consideration for purchase.

Mr. Harned further advised the Board that the Purchase and Sales Agreement between the Town and the Treat family totals \$300,000 for all identified acreage. Mr. Harned continued, stating that the Conservation Commission had requested and received an independent appraisal of said property. The appraisal price issued by the appraiser was submitted at \$370,000. Mr. Harned further noted that the Town has assessed the herein discussed property as one (1) house lot at \$285,000 and \$5,000 for each additional acre.

Mr. Chris Ganotis, Co-Chairman of the Conservation Commission referenced that it is the recommendation of the Conservation Commission and North Hampton Forever that the land be left "as is" and no consideration be given to subdividing the property.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Cuetara made a motion to approve the purchase of the herein discussed parcels of land identified as map/lot 018-053, 014-159 and 018-057, totaling 102.9 acres. Ms. Landman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

B. Display and Placement of Political Signs

Mr. Cuetara discussed the placement of political signs and cited the need to regulate the display and placement of said signs. Mr. Cuetara stated that he recognized that North Hampton does not have an ordinance regulating this action and hopes the Code Enforcement Office will develop (draft) such an ordinance for future consideration.

Mr. Robert Strout, Road Agent, advised the Board on the need to have signs placed far enough away from the road edge so as to not inhibit visibility etc.

The Board agreed that the placement of political signs could commence on 2/24/04 and that said signs should be removed no later than three (3) days following the election. The Board felt no vote was necessary on this matter, choosing instead to consider their comments as advisory in nature.

C. Code Enforcement Office Activity Report

Mr. Cuetara stated that he had asked this matter be placed on the agenda. Mr. Cuetara asked the Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Mabey for an overview of the work he and Mr. Smart were performing of late.

Mr. Mabey advised the Board that he and Mr. Smart were working on sign requirements with the primary focus of this effort situated along Lafayette Road. Mr. Mabey further advised that he and Mr. Smart have been working to identify violations in Town, having sent out five (5) notices of violations over the past couple of weeks. Mr. Mabey also acknowledged that he and Mr. Smart had been working on a list of potential violations as offered by Mr. Phil Wilson on or about August of 2003.

Mr. Cuetara and Ms. Landman each thanked Mr. Mabey for his overview of the efforts of his department and supported his continued efforts to bring violators/violations into compliance in a "voluntary" manner if at all possible, prior to using more stringent enforcement efforts.

D. Questions/Comments Related to Above Topic Areas

None.

III. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue made his report to the Board. Issues discussed were as follows:

1. FD Calls for Service continue to increase, as does the overtime for staffing of the FD. The FD continues to operate at understaffed levels due to medical and personnel related issues.

2. The PWD is experiencing high maintenance costs as related to their equipment, particularly snow removal equipment.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Cuetara read a letter from the State Department of Environmental Services in which the State cites the fine quality of work performed on the Little River Streambank Stabilization project.

C. Approval of Minutes

- i. January 12, 2004 – Approved 2-0.
- ii. January 12, 2004 - Non-Public Session – Approved 2-0.
- iii. January 16, 2004 Open Session – Approved 2-0
- iv. February 2, 2004 Open Session – Approved 2-0
- v. February 2, 2004 Non-Public Session – Approved 2-0.

D. Elderly Exemptions

The Board signed several Elderly Exemption filings.

E. Veteran Exemptions

The Board signed several Veteran Exemption filings.

F. Payroll

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

G. Manifest

The manifest was signed off on.

IV. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board in open session, Mr. Cuetara made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator