

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 04/12/04
Approved 04/26/04

I. Call to Order.

Chairman Lloyd Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were present Don Gould, Selectman and Michael Pardue, Town Administrator. Selectman Jon Rineman was excused from the meeting. Mr. Pardue served as the Recording Secretary for this session.

II. Selectmen Items

A. Recognition of Service to Community

Chairman Sullivan recognized Ms. Jill Brandt for her many years (21) of service to the North Hampton Recreation Committee. He cited her numerous contributions to North Hampton's Recreation Department.

Ms. Brenda McKenna, North Hampton Recreation Director presented Ms. Brandt with a ceramic plate that displayed the Dearborn Park insignia.

Ms. Brandt expressed her deep appreciation for the gift and spoke of her many years of enjoyment while serving North Hampton. Many in attendance then moved to the Mary Herbert Conference Room for refreshments.

B. Appointments to Boards & Commissions

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Michele Peckham and Susan Smith to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Stanley Knowles and Patricia O'Connor to the Conservation Commission. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Susan Beattie and Brenda Worrell to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Kendall Chevalier and Nell Ann Hiatt to the Bandstand Committee. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Chris Ganotis as the Town's representative to the Southeast Regional District 53-B, replacing Mr. Henry Mixter. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to appoint Pat Moreinis Dodge, Susan Flagg and Robert Hamilton to the Mosquito Control Commission for a period of one-year. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

C. Opening of Paving Bids

The Board opened sealed bids as were received in response to the Town's Invitation to Bid Notice dated March 16, 2004 entitled, Highway Resurfacing. Five bids were received. The respondents and their submitted pricing follows:

- Pike Industries, Inc. \$35.20 Per Ton
- Bayside Paving LLC \$41.39 Per Ton
- Bell & Flynn, Inc. \$36.50 Per Ton
- Continental Paving, Inc. \$37.50 Per Ton
- Brox Industries, Inc. \$37.00 Per Ton

Chairman Sullivan inquired of Road Agent Strout if he, Strout, considered Pike Industries an appropriate and capable company that can meet the paving needs of the Town. Mr. Strout responded in the affirmative.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to accept the bid as presented by Pike Industries, Inc. in the amount of \$35.20 Per Ton. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

D. Discussion of Rt. 95 "One-Way Toll" – Impact to North Hampton

Mr. Sullivan acknowledged that there had been much discussion on this topic throughout the seacoast area. He stated that it was his personal belief that the one-way toll concept was completely unacceptable and that if implemented, it would create great hardship for North Hampton as was experienced during the summer of 2003. Mr. Robert Landman, North Hampton's representative to the Rockingham Planning Commission spoke in opposition to the one-way toll proposal. Chief of Police Brian Page spoke in opposition to the proposal as well, citing a dramatic increase in vehicle traffic and related accidents / violations. Selectman Gould expressed his opposition to the concept, voicing his concern in relation to increased traffic, concerns of general safety for citizens and the impact to the municipal budget.

MOTION / VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to have the Town forward a letter to Governor Benson, Carol Murray and the District State Representatives reflecting the Town of North Hampton's opposition to the one-way toll concept. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

E. Discussion of Courthouse Consolidation Proposal – SB-369

Chief of Police Brian Page spoke in opposition of SB-369 – a bill proposing the consolidation of the Exeter and Hampton courts. Chief Page explained that currently, the bill proposes to consolidate these two facilities. A site in Seabrook and a site in Exeter are currently under consideration.

Chief Page advised the Board that consolidation of these two facilities would result in 14 towns reporting to a single court likely served by one (1) presiding judge. He further stated that currently the two facilities (Exeter & Hampton) are staffed by one judge EACH. Chief Page continued by citing the difficulties associated with travel to Seabrook during the summer months as well as the anticipated “officer wait time” due to the projected case load associated with 14 towns.

Chief Page requested that the Board author a letter supporting the amendment to SB-369 that would allow for two additional years to “study” this idea – resulting in a 2006-year implementation should passage occur. Chief Page cited that in his opinion this effort needed considerable “impact study” to determine the pros and cons associated with the proposed consolidation. He concluded by citing that he envisioned a budgetary impact should this proposal pass, an impact he has not planned for in the upcoming budget.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to support, via letter, the amendment to SB-369, allowing for two (2) additional years of planning for the implementation of this proposal. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

F. Discussion of “Old Generator” Sale

Chief Page addressed the Board concerning the possibility of selling the “old police department generator”. Chief Page advised the Board that the generator is a 15kw and was manufactured in 1991. He explained that the generator motor is “seized up” and therefore “worthless” to the Town. Chief Page explained that an individual has offered \$100 for the generator and would remove it from the confines of the police department sally port.

Mr. Pardue explained that he has made inquiry (and awaiting reply) of the NHMA Legal Department to determine if any statutory requirements related to the sale of Town owned equipment exist.

The Board advised that they would like to have the reply from NHMA prior to rendering a decision to Chief Page’s request.

G. Fee Structure – Summer Recreation Program

Ms. Brenda McKenna, North Hampton's Recreation Director making a request that the Board consider increasing the fees for the Summer Camp program to \$120.00 per participant for the six (6) week program. Ms. McKenna provided an overview of surrounding communities programs and the related fees. Her research found that North Hampton charges far less than other communities for similar types of programs.

MOTION / VOTE: Mr. Sullivan made a motion to increase the single participant fee for the six (6) week Summer Camp program to \$120.00. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

H. Abatement of Taxes – Discussion

The Board discussed the abatement of property taxes. Mr. Sullivan stated that the Tax Assessor had received 214 abatement applications prior to the closing deadline. Mr. Sullivan acknowledged that this number of applications is significantly lower than anticipated during the time following an assessment certification. Typically, Mr. Sullivan stated, a community would expect an abatement request from 10-13% of all properties of which North Hampton has approximately 3000. To date, Mr. Promer, Tax Assessor, has processed 58 applications equating to approximately \$67,000 of refund dollars due to applicants.

MOTION / VOTE: Mr. Sullivan made a motion to accept the abatement recommendations of Vision Appraisal Technology and the Town's Assessor, Howard Promer. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

I. Performance Bond – Lafayette Crossing

The Board received a letter from the North Hampton Planning Board recommending a Performance Bond in the amount of \$300,000 be required in relation to Lafayette Crossing, Phase III.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board, requiring a performance bond in the amount of \$300,000 in relation to Lafayette Crossing, Phase III. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

J. Hardship Abatement Request

The Board acknowledged receipt of a Hardship Abatement request. Mr. Sullivan provided an overview of the applicant's personal situation, related financial means and very limited ability to pay their Town tax assessment.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Sullivan made a motion to grant the Hardship Abatement in the amount of \$1,259.25 + interest. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

III. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue provided the Board with a summary report as reflected below:

1. BOS / TA: Property purchase complete. The Town has purchased 239 Atlantic Ave.
2. TA – Job descriptions (revisions) for the position(s) of: Building Inspector, Planning & Zoning Administrator, and Administrative Assistant have been completed and implemented.
3. TA – Job descriptions for the positions of Road Agent and Recreation Director are being revised / developed this week.
4. ASSESSING DEPT: The Assessor has completed 58 of 214 abatement applications. Abatement review / action must be completed by 6/30/04.
5. Mosquito control program to commence April 19th. Process will start with the control of larval mosquitoes in stagnant bodies of water.
6. PWD - Bulky Goods Collection Day – 5/15 from 8am – 5pm – Cherry Road site.
7. FD has had all vehicles serviced and inspected – only problem identified was an air system problem on engine #3. This matter has been addressed.
8. FD – The next exam for the position of Fire Lieutenant will be administered on 4/14/04.
9. FD – First phase interviews for the position of Firefighter have been conducted. Successful interviewees will be called back to participate in the next portion of the selection process.
10. FD – 1/1/04 to 3/31/04 department statistics = 254 incidents – see handout.
11. REC – Egg scramble went very well – estimates of 200+ participants. More than 6,000 pieces of candy given out along with “goody bags”. Many thanks to all the staff members that participated in this effort.
12. REC – Dearborn Park – courts are open – new chain basketball nets ordered – clean-up and general maintenance being performed.
13. REC – Scheduling of fields is very difficult – Brenda is working hard to accommodate all the programs / teams etc.
14. PD – CFS / Department Statistics – Chief Page to review with the Board.

Following the Administrator's Report, Mr. Gould spoke of his desire to create a Financial Oversight Committee. The vision for this committee would be to primarily address Capital Improvement items. This envisioned group would be charged to work closely with the Budget Committee and the Town Architect. Mr. Gould discussed advertising the formation of this committee on the Town website in the hope that interested citizens would come forward to serve.

The Board asked Mr. Pardue to contact the NHMA (LGC) legal department to review the requirements related to the formation of a committee of this nature. Mr. Pardue will coordinate with Mr. Gould on this matter as information is gleaned from the LGC legal department.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue provided the Board with a letter from the Mayor of Portsmouth, Evelyn Sirrell. In her letter, Mayor Sirrell request the Town of North Hampton join the City of Portsmouth in financially supporting the campaign to protect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closure under the Department of Defense 2005 Base Realignment and Closure review process.

The Board reviewed Mayor Sirrell's letter and related request. The Board fully endorsed Mayor Sirrell's approach and acknowledged the high importance of keeping the shipyard open. The Board discussed the importance of adopting a proclamation supporting this effort. Further, the Board recognized Mayor Sirrell's request for funding assistance in this matter. The Board came to consensus that the Town budget did not have funding available to assist in protecting the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closure at this time.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to have the Town draft a proclamation of support to protect the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from closure under the Department of Defense 2005 Base Realignment and Closure review process. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

C. Approval of Minutes

March 15, 2004

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to accept the minutes of March 15, 2004 as written. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

D. Payroll

Payroll was reviewed and signed off on.

E. Manifest

The manifest was signed off on.

IV. Temporary Adjournment of Public Session

Being no further business to come before the Board in open session, Mr. Gould made a motion to temporarily adjourn open session at 8:10 pm and move into Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a,d,e) for the purpose of:

Discussion of Personnel Matter

Acquisition, Sale or Lease of Real or Personal Property

Legal Matters

Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

V. Reconvening of Public Session

The Board reconvened at 8:35 p.m. No further discussion ensued. Mr. Gould made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator