

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 09/13/04
Approved 9/27/04

I. Call to Order.

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

II. Selectmen Items

A. Bid Opening - Propane

This item is to be reflected on a future agenda as no bids were received under this RFP.

B. Polling Place Deficiencies / Accessibility Improvements

Mr. Pardue advised the Board of the planned accessibility improvements to the Town Hall. These proposed improvements would answer each of the polling place deficiencies as noted by the New Hampshire's Attorney General's Office letter of July 23, 2004. Mr. Pardue further advised that representative of the Attorney General's Office (Ms. Cheryl Killam) had visited the Town Hall within the past two weeks and met with the Town's Building Inspector, Richard Mabey, to review the Town's proposed Action Plan as related to correcting identified accessibility deficiencies. According to Mr. Mabey, Ms. Killam advised that the plan appeared "sound" and that she would be submitting a letter stating such.

Mr. Rineman advised the Board that the School Board had approved holding future elections at the North Hampton School. The school administration is currently planning to have the North Hampton School serve as the polling place for the upcoming Presidential election in November and the Town election in March.

C. ZBA Letter of Resignation – Follow-up

As topic discussion was initiated, Chairman Gould recused himself from this matter citing his business relationship with the ZBA Chairman, John Anthony Simmons.

Mr. Pardue distributed a Letter of Opinion as authored by the Town Attorney, John Ryan. Attorney Ryan's letter came at the request of the Board of Selectmen following their review of Mr. Dick Wollmar's Letter of Resignation from the ZBA in which he, Wollmar, made accusations related to what he perceived as improper procedures employed by the Board and in particular it's Chairman, Mr. John Anthony Simmons.

Selectman Rineman and Selectwoman Creighton discussed the letter issued by Attorney Ryan in which he proposes language related to ones recusal from discussion.

MOTION/VOTE: Ms. Creighton made a motion to accept Attorney Ryan's position and recommendation as issued in his Letter of Opinion and to further urge the ZBA to consider adopting Attorney Ryan's recommendation for incorporation in their (ZBA) Procedures Manual. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0-1 with Mr. Gould abstaining from the vote.

D. Web Hosting of Assessing Database Agreement

Mr. Pardue advised the Board of the particulars related to the Web Hosting contract presented to the Town by Vision Technologies; the firm that performed the Town's Assessing Certification project in the last quarter of 2003. Mr. Pardue advised the Board of the numerous benefits associated with having assessing information available via the Internet, in particular the diminished foot traffic that comes to the Town office seeking assessing information.

Mr. Rineman voiced his concerns related to the property values that came about from Vision's work in 2003. At the same time however, Mr. Rineman did acknowledge that the State had issued a letter citing that the assessing data was within the guidelines required by the State – in essence approving the certification process.

Mr. Gould expressed concerns related to what appears to be low assessment values related to commercial properties. Mr. Gould advised the Board that he and Mr. Pardue had discussed this matter and that Mr. Pardue is working to have a representative of Vision attend a Board of Selectmen meeting in the very near future to address this concern.

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Gould made a motion to approve Vision Technologies Web Hosting contract for the period beginning 1/1/05. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

E. New Hampshire DOT Letter Re: Purchase or Transfer of Privately Owned – Open to Public Airports

The Board discussed the letter received from the State of New Hampshire Dept. of Transportation and the three questions contained therein as related to privately owned airports.

1. What are the impacts of the airport on the community or communities?

The Board stressed that the Town enjoys an excellent relationship with the Hampton Airfield management. Chief of Police Page who was in attendance at the meeting echoed this sentiment, particularly in relation to safety and security.

2. If the airport were offered to the Town for ownership, do you feel the Town would accept?

Following much discussion related to the possible pros and cons associated with airport ownership, the sentiment of the Board was that they (the Town) has no current desire to own the airport – again emphasizing that the Town and airport management have an excellent working relationship.

3. How does the Town feel about airport zoning?

The Board responded by stating that North Hampton does not have specific airport zoning. Mr. Shep Kroner, Vice Chair of North Hampton's Planning Board, was in the audience and affirmed this fact, stating that the airport was in the IBR zone.

The Board asked Mr. Pardue to contact the NHDOT, Mr. Barry Lawrence and advise him of the Board's response to the three questions posed in the aforementioned letter from NHDOT.

F. Assessor Services

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the Mr. Promer, the Town's contracted assessor is planning to be on vacation for the months of January, February and a portion of March. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he has concerns as related to providing appropriate customer service to the citizens in the absence of the Town's assessor. Mr. Pardue advised that it is not appropriate for the staff to be in a position to have to answer assessing questions or to tell citizens that the assessor will be available in 8-10 weeks.

The Board agreed that this appeared to create a difficult situation for the staff and that the citizens deserved more expedient answers to their assessing questions.

The Board asked Mr. Pardue to research other options that would allow for assessing "coverage" during Mr. Promer's extended absence.

Questions and Comments Related to Above Topic Areas

None.

III. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Discussion of Personnel Matter

MOTION/VOTE: Mr. Rineman made a motion to temporarily adjourn the public portion of the meeting, at 7:37 p.m., for the purpose of entering into a Non-Public Session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. A roll call of all members unanimously approved this motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

The Board and the Town Administrator moved to another room.

MOTION/VOTE: Ms. Creighton made a motion to reconvene in public session at 7:56 p.m. for the purpose of continuing the public portion of the Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

IV. Administrators/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

1. PWD – 200 tons of gravel due to arrive this week – to be used for road shoulders
2. PWD – Salt / Sand spreaders being serviced this week in preparation of winter – ugh!
3. PWD – 10/4 - Storm drain cleanout begins
4. PWD – Handheld GPS training for PWD employees – will be an aid in locating drains / culverts etc.
5. PWD – Painting of Town Office / PD / FD building to start on or about 10/1/04.
6. PWD – Mr. Strout at Road Agent training 9-16-04.
7. FD – Firefighter Dan Vickers has left the FD – accepted a position in another community closer to his residence.
8. FD – Ambulance is expected to be delivered in late September
9. FD – Engine #2 is out of service due to an “unknown electrical problem”
10. FD – D/C Landry is attending professional development course at National Fire Academy located in Maryland. Training is two weeks in length.
11. CEO – led tour of 239 Atlantic Ave. for Heritage Commission members.
12. Rec. Dept. – The tennis backboard – (eagle scout project) has been completed and is in place. Ben Coombs is the scout that headed this project.
13. REC. Dept. – Rec. Committee meeting tonight – Diane is attending.
14. TA - In response to a request by the MFAC, PC, FC, RA & TA have submitted reports addressing space / safety / security needs. The department heads are hopeful to meet with the entire committee at a future meeting to review their reports and to verbally discuss their department needs.

15. TA – Draft department / board / commission budgets are due to TA on or before 10/01/04.

Chief Page, who was in attendance, provided the Board with a few updates related to the police department, as he was unavailable to attend the staff meeting earlier in the day. Chief Page spoke of the NHDOT initiative to review the intersection of Exeter Rd and Post Rd. and the related accidents at this location.

Mr. Pardue also provided the Board with the Code Enforcement Officer's report as related to a letter of concern submitted by Mr. Phil Wilson, Chairman of the Planning Board, in which he, Mr. Wilson, expressed concern over some areas he believed to be in violation of the Town's zoning ordinances.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue provided the Board with a letter from Mr. Shep Kroner in which he expressed concern over the speed of vehicles traveling on Cedar Road. In his letter, Mr. Kroner makes a request to lower the speed limit of Cedar to 25 mph.

Chief Page advised the Board that in this instance, a speed reduction to 25 mph must be made via petition to the State and that the petition must come from the Chief of Police.

Chief Page spoke of the traffic on Cedar Rd. and the increase in traffic due to the development of business in the area.

Chief Page asked the Board to afford him an opportunity to determine the procedures required for an initiative of this nature and that he, Chief Page, would report his findings to the Board at one of their meetings in the near future.

C. Approval of Minutes

August 9, 2004

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/9/04 as written. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0-1 with Mr. Gould abstaining as he had been on an excused absence from this meeting.

August 23, 2004 – Public Session

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/23/04 as written with one minor revision. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0-1 with Mr. Rineman abstaining as he had been on an excused absence from this meeting.

August 23, 2004 Non-Public Session

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to accept the minutes of 8/23/04 as written. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0-1 with Mr. Rineman abstaining as he had been on an excused absence from this meeting.

D. Elderly Exemptions

The Board reviewed and signed off on three (3) elderly exemptions.

E. Cemetery Deeds

The Board reviewed and signed off on two (2) cemetery deeds.

F. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed off on the payroll.

G. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed off on the manifest.

H. Other Business

Mr. Rineman asked if Mr. Pardue had had any response from citizens desiring to serve on the CATV Committee. Mr. Pardue advised he had not. Mr. Rineman suggested that the Town might place additional announcements in prominent areas and on the sign display in front of the FD as time and space allowed.

Mr. Rineman discussed trash collection and a conversation he had with Mr. Stan Knowles as related to this topic. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he too had had conversation regarding trash collection with Mr. Knowles.

Mr. Rineman spoke of the recently approved adult housing development to be built in the vicinity of 205 Lafayette Rd and a related conservation easement.

IV. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator