

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 04/25/05
Approved 05/09/05

I. Call to Order

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. Paving Bids

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the Town is in receipt of five (5) sealed bids in response to the Town's request for paving bids.

Mr. Gould, on behalf of the Board, opened the sealed bids. The bids were opened in no particular order.

Continental Paving, Inc. \$41.00 per ton

Bell & Flynn, Inc. \$40.00 per ton

Pike Industries, Inc. \$39.23 per ton

Brox Industries, Inc. \$41.80 per ton

Bayside Paving, LLC \$43.00 per ton

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to accept the bid of \$39.23 per ton as submitted by Pike Industries, Inc. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

B. Town Ambulance Fee Policy

Mr. Gould provided an overview of the facts and circumstances that led to this matter being an agenda item.

Fire Chief Lambert presented the Board with a handout that served to provide facts and figures related to the fees charged by the North Hampton Fire Department / Town of North Hampton for ambulance service. The document provided by Chief Lambert also provided a series of Q & A's related to this topic.

Chief Lambert discussed with the Board the subject of “write-offs” and the criterion used by the Town when determining not to pursue the collection of fees from individuals whom have received ambulance service.

Mr. Gould inquired as to the average “bare bones” ambulance trip to the hospital would cost. Chief Lambert estimated the cost of such a trip would average \$390.00 - \$500.00.

Mr. Gould advised that a citizen had voiced concern that paramedic intercept service (ALS) determines if and when they will respond, resulting in additional fees being charged and collected by said service.

Chief Lambert explained that the North Hampton Fire Department personnel on an “as needed basis” request ALS. He emphasized that the ALS providers do not automatically respond or respond if “they” deem it appropriate. The North Hampton Fire Department personnel determine ALS response.

Chief Lambert further explained the billing procedures and the concept of “bundled billing” when ALS is used.

Mr. Gould stated that there is some sentiment amongst (a few) North Hampton residents that since they pay taxes they, North Hampton residents, should receive “free” ambulance service. Chief Lambert further explained the billing of “users” and the concept of bundled billing etc. He concluded his response by stating that if the users are not billed, the only ones that will be profiting by the Town’s ambulance services will be the insurance companies.

Chief Lambert advised the Board on an opinion issued by the Inspector General’s Office in relation to the billing and collection of municipal ambulance fees.

Ms. Creighton stated that she feels the Town needs to develop a clear policy on the billing of ambulance fees. Chief Lambert advised the Board that there is a process in place that has been followed for several years.

Mr. Gould asked Chief Lambert to please forward a copy of the billing process to the Board for their review and comment.

Mr. Rineman asked Chief Lambert to review the logistics of the ALS intercept and the billing sequencing following ALS transport. Chief Lambert referenced the bundled billing agreement that the Town has in place with Exeter Hospital and the “order of payment” following invoicing.

Mr. Rineman expressed his concern over the fact that the Town allows bills to go uncollected following three billings. He cited that those individuals who embrace “doing the right thing” would pay their bills appropriately while others will simply ignore the billings of the Town with no penalty. Mr. Rineman expressed his belief that those choosing to simply not pay their bills should be reported to a credit-reporting bureau.

Mr. Rineman acknowledged that there are hardship situations that should be given consideration by the Town but emphasized that those with the ability to pay should pay and not simply choose not to pay because they are familiar with the Town's "three (3) bill and stop pursuing" approach.

Chief Lambert explained that the "three bill and stop" approach has been the policy of the Town and not that of the Fire Department.

Ms. Creighton spoke of the pluses associated with reporting "bad debt" to credit bureaus. Mr. Rineman further agreed, citing the fact that those owing the Town money would likely be motivated to pay if they understood that by not paying they would be reported to credit reporting bureaus.

The Board asked that this topic be included on their May 9, 2005 agenda for further discussion. Chief Lambert advised he would do his best to accumulate the material desired by the Board but might need to request some additional time to collect the data desired.

Chief Lambert asked to take a moment of the Board's time to advise the Board of the work effort of the firefighters this past winter in relation to clearing around fire hydrants after snowfalls.

Chief Lambert cited that this past winter had 23 snow events. Following each snow, the fire department personnel had to clear the area around 130 hydrants. The fire personnel accomplished this effort without the expenditure of overtime monies, the work completely done by "on-duty" personnel.

The Board expressed their appreciation for this effort and asked Chief Lambert to pass their appreciation on to his staff.

C. Seasonal Tennis Court Facility at Dearborn Park Proposal – Mr. Seabury Stanton

Mr. Stanton provided the Board with a packet of documents related to his presentation.

Mr. Stanton advised the Board that he is proposing to erect a "bubble like" structure over the Dearborn Park tennis courts that would allow the courts to be used throughout the winter months. The structure is kept inflated via airflow. Mr. Stanton's proposal would allow the air-inflated structure to be erected on or about October 1st of each year and have it dismantled on or about May 30th of each year.

Mr. Stanton cited the benefits of year round tennis.

Mr. Stanton advised the Board that in his proposal, he cites that he would be responsible for all costs associated with constructing and dismantling the structure annually as well as costs associated with operating the facility and all related

maintenance, insurance et al. He also advised that he would not charge for use of the facility by the local high school tennis team during their season.

Mr. Stanton, when asked by the Board about the benefits to North Hampton residents, cited that a North Hampton resident would be permitted to reserve court time 7 days in advance, non-residents would be allowed to reserve a court 3 days in advance.

Mr. Stanton stated that his proposal calls for an eighteen (18) year lease at which time he would deed the structure to the Town at no cost. When asked, Mr. Stanton advised the life expectancy of an air inflated structure is approximately 25 years.

Ms. Creighton asked Mr. Stanton about the benefits he would receive under this proposal. Mr. Stanton cited it was a way to make his living while doing something he greatly enjoys, while at the same time allowing him to stay in the local area. Mr. Stanton stated that he viewed this as an opportunity to leave his "mark" as a tennis professional.

Mr. Rineman asked Mr. Stanton who would be responsible for playing surface cracks. Mr. Stanton cited his belief that major cracking would be greatly diminished due to the surface being protected from the winter weather. Mr. Stanton also cited that the normal wear to the sand paint surface would, in his opinion, be a shared cost with him (Stanton) responsible for 66% of the cost of resurfacing due to the 8 months of use he is proposing for his venture.

Mr. Gould questioned whether it is appropriate for the Board to be considering this proposal (as currently presented) as it calls for a month or two of lost free playing time if the structure is erected for as many as eight months.

Mr. Stanton voiced the idea of his providing North Hampton residents some free hours during the "shoulder months" of October and May.

A representative of the Yeardon Company, the firm that provides the inflatable structure was present to discuss the durability of the structure and various applications for the type of structure being considered.

The Board thanked Mr. Stanton for his proposal. The Board stated that they would review the materials.

The Board asked Town administrator Pardue to contact the Local Government Center legal department to discuss the liability associated with an effort of this nature.

D. Introduction of Firefighter

Fire Chief Lambert introduced Firefighter Martin Tavitian to the Board. Mr. Tavitian is a new member of the North Hampton Fire Department,. The Board welcomed Firefighter Tavitian and wished him good luck in his employment with North Hampton.

E. Computer Lease with Option to Purchase Agreement

Mr. Pardue provided the Board with a copy of the lease / purchase agreement as well as a Letter of Opinion from Attorney John Ryan, as required by the leasing company, stating his opinion that the lease is appropriate for signing by the Board, should they choose to move forward with this effort.

Ms. Creighton stated that she would like to have some additional time to review the requirements of the lease and the equipment being leased prior to signing. The Board asked Mr. Pardue how soon he needed the signed lease so he could forward it to the leasing firm. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the old computer equipment was in a state of failure and that time is of essence as tax billings etc. are due to be generated soon.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to approve the lease and authorize Mr. Pardue to move forward in acquiring the new computer equipment contingent upon the Board members independently reviewing the lease and signing off on their approval. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion.

Mr. Rineman advised the Board that he would be pleased to sign the lease but he is leaving the country on business tomorrow (4/26/05) prior to having time to thoroughly review the details of the lease. The Board reached consensus that two members could sign approval of the lease for acceptance.

Following discussion, the motion was moved and unanimously approved. 3-0.

F. Questions & Comments Related to Above Topics

The Board advised Ms. Laurel Pohl, an audience member, that the Board would be meeting with the Treasurer and a representative from Citizens Bank at 10:00 am on Tuesday, May 10, 2005. (Ms. Laurel Pohl, at a previous meeting had asked to be notified when such meeting would occur).

There were no other questions or comments.

III. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (d,e)

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. for the purpose of entering into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a,d,e) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter, to consider the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property and to discuss a legal matter. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the Board was taken. Motion passed 3-0.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to reconvene the public portion of the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

1. PWD – Staff has finished removing the old playground equipment including several tons of tires – Mr. Strout estimates a labor cost of \$4,800 had effort been contracted
2. PWD – Repairing damage to property caused by plows during snow removal operations
3. PWD – Beginning some sand removal with contracted street sweeping beginning w/o 5/9
4. PWD – Line painting will be performed in August following repaving efforts – new pavement needs time to “cure” before painting of lines
5. CEO – Reviewing various properties that might be feasible for locating of PWD facility
6. CEO – Red is beginning to identify municipal building repairs that are needed and will prioritize same in a report for BOS. This document is intended to assist the BOS in determining building repair / modifications needed for FY 2005-06
7. AA – Visiting various municipalities to review accounting software / seek user feedback
8. TA – Meeting with school personnel on Thursday (4/28) to discuss possible cost saving efforts / cooperative purchasing etc.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Rineman presented the Board and the Town Administrator a copy of an email authored by Mr. Shep Kroner. Mr. Kroner's email requests Mr. Rineman “to push the Board of Selectmen to do something about speeding cars in town.”

A copy of Mr. Kroner's email will be filed with the hardcopy set of the Board's 4/25/05 meeting minutes for future reference.

The Board asked Mr. Pardue to notify Chief Page of Mr. Kroner's email and provide him a copy of it for his review. The Board further requested that Chief Page, after having an opportunity to review Mr. Kroner's published concerns, respond back to the Board with his comments. The Board further requested that if Chief Page deems it appropriate to increase speed enforcement in Town, that he publishes notice of the forthcoming

increased enforcement efforts, as there are some citizens in Town that feel there is too much emphasis placed on speed enforcement.

C. Property Tax Abatement Request

None.

D. Approval of Minutes

April 11, 2005 – Open Session

April 11, 2005 – Non-Public Session

Mr. Rineman noted that in the April 11, 2005 public session meeting minutes, under the section of discussion involving camp fees, the term “per week” should be deleted as the fee charged is payment for the entire term of the camp.

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to approve the minutes of April 11, 2005 Open Session as amended and April 11, 2005 Non-Public Session as written. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

E. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed off on payroll forms.

F. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed off on the manifest.

G. Other Business

Ms. Laurel Pohl, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, requested a member of the Board of Selectmen to serve on said committee. Mr. Gould agreed to serve as the Board of Selectmen representative to the Long Range Planning Committee. Mr. Rineman and Ms. Creighton thanked Mr. Gould for his agreeing to serve this entity.

V. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator