

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 05/10/05
Approved 5/23/05

I. Call to Order

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.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. Meet with Representatives of Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI) Assessing Dept. to Discuss
- Assessing Uses of the Public-Right-of-Way
 - Property Abatement Request(s)

Present and representing MRI was Mr. Joseph Lessard and Mr. Scott Marsh.

Mr. Lessard discussed the assessing / taxation of government property that is leased to utility companies. Mr. Lessard advised the Board that it is legal for the Town to tax for the use of its property by utility entities. Mr. Lessard stated that utility poles themselves are considered exempt and that it is the license the Town grants to a utility company that serves as the vehicle allowing for taxation.

General questions and comments were voiced in relation to how the value of the utility on the pole is determined.

Mr. Lessard discussed the "Global Amendment of Licenses Based on Public Good" approach.

Mr. Marsh discussed with the Board the assessment of Squire Drive and the related values of the homes in general on this road. Mr. Marsh advised that his initial review of the assessment data for this neighborhood indicates that the homes may be over assessed. Mr. Marsh recommended to the Board a proactive approach to reassessing this neighborhood and adjusting the values as findings determine.

Mr. Marsh also advised the Board that his findings suggest that the mobile homes in North Hampton appear to be under assessed by approximately 10%.

Mr. Marsh and Mr. Lessard suggested the Town consider a reassessment of the aforementioned properties. When asked if this effort would be considered "spot assessing", they responded in the negative, citing that this effort would be considered an update and in accordance with good assessing practices.

General discussion ensued in relation to the five (5) year assessing requirement.

Mr. Lessard and Mr. Marsh reviewed the sales of both residential and commercial properties with the Board.

Mr. Marsh addressed an abatement application for the Bishop property located on Mill Rd. Mr. Marsh advised the Board that he had performed a reassessment of said property and found it over assessed by approximately \$800,000. Mr. Marsh recommended to the Board that with the lowering of the assessed value by \$800,000, they sign-off on an abatement application approving the abatement in the amount of approximately \$12,000.

Mr. Marsh advised the Board that his analysis of Town properties, following abatements has resulted in an approximate \$11 million increase in taxable value.

Mr. Lessard reviewed the Town's "Total Equalized Valuation(s)" as issued by the Department of Revenue Administration in an April 25, 2005 letter.

The Board thanked Mr. Lessard and Mr. Marsh for the update information and asked they submit pricing for the earlier discussed assessment update.

B. Meet with Representative of Citizens Bank & Town Treasurer

Mr. Ralph Henault, Senior Vice President, Government Banking Division of Citizens Bank and Town Treasurer Ms. Shirley Fuller addressed the Board.

Mr. Henault provided the Board with an overview of the services offered by Citizens Bank in a PowerPoint presentation entitled, An Introduction to Citizens Bank.

Mr. Henault then reviewed with the Board, through a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "A Winning Partnership.....Town of North Hampton and Citizens Bank". During this presentation, Mr. Henault reviewed several recent transactions of the Town including the amount of the transaction, issue date, maturity date, interest rate and interest earned.

Additionally, Mr. Henault reviewed a "Rate Sheet" with the Board. This document served to provide the Board with a one-year history of the overnight sweep rate, average term investment rates and average monthly collected balance.

Mr. Henault further discussed with the Board various training opportunities associated with membership in a variety of financial organizations, citing that in some instances the Town is a member of a particular entity and that training opportunities are being sent to the Treasurer.

The Board expressed some concern that the Town is not receiving notices from organizations cited by Mr. Henault and asked that he, Henault, see that such notices

are forwarded to the Town Administrator as opposed to the Treasurer as the Treasurer is only at the Town office an hour or two weekly. Mr. Henault stated that he would see that all relative mailings are coordinated through Mr. Pardue as requested by the Board.

Mr. Henault, as requested by the Board, stated that he would forward sample investment policies to Mr. Pardue for reference as the Board is in the process of revising the Town's investment policy.

Also participating in the general topic discussion was Mr. Terry Conklin, a member of the North Hampton Budget Committee and Ms. Laurel Pohl, a member of the North Hampton Planning Board.

C. Notifying Residents of Registered Sex Offenders Residing in Town – Chief Page

Chief Page advised the Board of information regarding registered sex offenders currently residing in North Hampton. Chief Page further advised the Board that the police department is permitted to notify residents that a sex offender is residing in Town. Chief Page advised that he (police personnel) can distribute significant amounts of information about the offender, at least equal to that displayed on the State's web site.

Mr. Rineman discussed the concept of posting said information on bulletin boards throughout the Town so that residents are afforded significant opportunity to learn about the sex offenders that are residing in North Hampton, perhaps in their neighborhood or next door to them.

Mr. Gould suggested placing the sex offender information on the North Hampton Police department link on the Town's web site.

The Board asked Chief Page to work diligently to notify residents of registered sex offenders residing in North Hampton through various mediums to include, but not be limited to, bulletin boards, Town's web site, community newsletters and door-to-door efforts within an appropriate radius of the offender's residence.

Mr. Rineman also suggested that the police department coordinate this effort with other surrounding communities, as this effort should not stop at the Town line. He stressed the importance of knowing what offenders are "close-by" as it is unlikely that an offender would stop at the Town line.

The Board thanked Chief Page for his research and attention to this very serious topic.

D. Questions & Comments Related to Above Topics

There were no questions or comments.

III. Administration / Business

No other business was conducted.

IV. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator