

Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of 07/11/05  
**Approved 7/25/05**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. There were also 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 – Final Improvements – Abeniqui Meadows Sub-Division**

Mr. Gould acknowledged that the Town is in receipt of one (1) bid for this project. Mr. Gould opened the bid as submitted by John H. Rolfe Construction Company. The bid total was read aloud by Mr. Gould, the price being \$92,558.50.

The Board asked that Mr. Pardue and Road Agent Strout review the bid proposal to ensure that it meets all requirements of the RFP. Mr. Pardue advised that he is hopeful to have a recommendation before the Board at their 7/25/05 meeting.

Prior to moving on to the next agenda topic, Mr. Rineman complimented Road Agent Strout for his efforts in successfully securing FEMA funds as reimbursement for two winter storms. The other members of the Board echoed Mr. Rineman's comments and praise.

**B. Sidewalk Kids Project – Ms. Joan Breen and Students**

Miss Louise Breen, a student at the North Hampton School spoke on behalf of the students who have worked on this project. Miss Breen provided the Board with an overview of the proposed project, including the "next steps" needed to complete the Transportation Enhancement (TE) grant application. She explained that the grant from the federal government allows for 80% of the funding so long as the Town commits to pay 20% of the total cost. She concluded her statements citing that she, and the many people present at tonight's meeting, were present to ask that the Board commit to placing a question on the March 2006 ballot to determine if voters support paying 20% of the project costs.

Ms. Joan Breen addressed the Board's previously stated concerns regarding snow removal from the proposed walk. She cited research she had performed in Hampton and Exeter, speaking with respective their Road Agents on ways to remove the snow without having to purchase an expensive sidewalk plow.

Mr. Gould inquired of both Miss Breen and Ms. Breen if the Board could choose to endorse the placement of an Article on the ballot without necessarily citing their support for the Article. Mr. Gould went on to explain that the Board will have many financial requests coming before them over the next several months and that he believes it is a bit premature to commit support to the 20% funding without having a chance to view the complete Town's complete financial picture / forecast. He was assured by both Miss and Ms. Breen that the Board's commitment to place the question before the voters was all that was need at this time in order to comply with the terms of the grant.

Mr. Gould summarized for those in attendance for the first time when this topic was being discussed, a brief summary of the project and the to-date efforts. He also expressed some concerns he has in relation to the project including, but not limited to, precedent setting, maintenance costs and the need for specialized snow removal equipment coupled with the possibility of added staff to clear the sidewalk during snow storms.

Ms. Creighton advised Mr. Gould that the concerns he expressed had been addressed and could be addressed. Ms. Creighton stated that she believes the Board should allow the Article to proceed to the March 2006 ballot, thus affording voters the opportunity to express their support (or not) for this effort.

Mr. Rineman stated several reasons he was personally not in support of this project including, but not limited to, the sidewalk will not add additional safety to walkers as safety for walkers is dependent on the walkers themselves and the operators of the vehicles traveling alongside them. He cited several instances nationwide where a motorist drove over a curb, striking pedestrians.

Mr. Rineman pointed out that this project was initially proposed for three distinct reasons:

- Field trips for children to walk from the North Hampton School to the public library
  - He suggested a bus could be used for this effort
- Evacuation travel should children need to be moved from the school to the Town offices
  - He suggested that the entire roadway would be closed, negating the need for a sidewalk per se
- Presenters have cited that the school library closes after school, causing students desiring to perform research to walk to the Town library.
  - He proposed extending the school library hours to 5 pm daily while staffing it with a part-time employee. He estimated a cost of between \$3,700 - \$4,000 annually for staffing the expanded hours.

Mr. Rineman pointed out that it would obviously be a number of years before the expenditures cited in his suggestions came close to meeting the cost of the proposed project.

Mr. Rineman went on to say that with all his comments and suggestions “on the table”, he was put into office to not vote as Jon Rineman but to vote representing the people. Thus, he was going to vote to support the placement of the Article on the March 2006 ballot.

Mr. Gould added that he believes it appropriate that the voters make the final decision on this matter but that he wants it very clear that by agreeing to place the Article on the ballot, he is not, at this time, endorsing it.

Ms. Breen assured Mr. Gould that agreeing to place the Article is in no way an endorsement of it.

Several residents spoke in favor of this project and the Town’s funding portion. Comments of support were numerous.

Mr. Joe Kutt spoke in support of the project.

Mr. Bob Landman spoke as a Commissioner of the Rockingham Planning Commission. He apologized to the students for not having had time to meet with them as they worked on this effort. Mr. Landman spoke concerning the fact that Senators Gregg and Sununu had pledged their endorsement of this project. He cited that North Hampton is Town of roughly 4,000 inhabitants and that it has two libraries that both require maintenance and staffing etc. After considerable comments regarding this subject, Mr. Landman concluded voicing his opposition to this project but stated to Ms. Breen and the students that he would work to support it for them.

Ms. Jenifer Landman voiced her opposition to the project from her position as a citizen and as the Chair of the Heritage Commission.

Ms. Kim Kisner, past Chair of the School Board, spoke in favor of the project, stating that it melds with the “sense of community spirit”.

Mr. Jeff Hilliard stated that he supported the sidewalk and that he did not feel it would negatively impact the Town’s rural character.

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to place an Article on the March 2006 ballot to pay 20% of the total cost of a sidewalk between the North Hampton School to connect to the railroad bridge sidewalk located just to the east of the municipal complex. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.**

C. Aquarion Water Company

Mr. Larry Bingaman and Mr. Shawn Bradford, both of Aquarion Water Company reviewed a PowerPoint presentation they had prepared in support of a proposed rate

increase Aquarion is bringing before the Public Utilities Commission. The proposed rate increase totals 21.23%.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation used by the Aquarion personnel accompanies the hardcopy of the minutes and is available at the Town office.

General discussion between the Board and Mr. Bingaman and Mr. Bradford accompanied the presentation with an emphasis on the Town's cost related to water / hydrants used for fire suppression.

A brief discussion ensued related to the need to begin planning for water storage in North Hampton.

Mr. Bob Landman, as a member of the Water Commission, spoke of the poor relationship he had with the previous water company, Hampton Water Works. Mr. Landman cited his concern for the cost incurred by the Town for fire hydrants on an annual basis.

Mr. Gould assured Mr. Landman that the Town would seek input from the Water Commission when considering Aquarion's proposed rate increase.

Mr. Rineman engaged the two presenters in dialogue related to the provision of water to fire hydrants and the costs associated with such an effort.

#### D. Town Ambulance Fee Policy Discussion

Mr. Gould summarized the Board's last discussion on this topic when they met on June 27, 2005.

Ms. Creighton stated that she is of the opinion that the Town should charge for ambulance services rendered but at the same time conduct a careful review of each billing situation when a person fails to pay for the services provided them. Ms. Creighton continued stating that she urges that the Town be very careful in evaluating each "non-payment" situation prior to reporting the delinquent payment to a credit reporting agency.

Mr. Rineman stated that he is of the opinion that providing ambulance service, and billing for the service provided, is a business deal. In that same vein, he stated that he does not believe the Town should be taking on the responsibility of trying to determine why a "non-payer" is not paying. He stated that he believes it is the responsibility of the individual that received ambulance service from the Town, to contact the Town if he / she is unable to pay for the services rendered.

The Board engaged in considerable discussion related to this topic.

Mr. Gould, following the Board's discussion, worked to identify areas where there was consensus amongst the Board with regard to the topic of ambulance service provision and related billing.

The Board suggested that Chief Lambert contact the President of Comstar, the billing service used by the Town for ambulance service, and ask that he attend a future Board meeting to discuss billing procedures. Ms. Creighton asked that he be asked to bring a copy of the invoice Comstar uses when billing for services provided by the Town of North Hampton.

Mr. Gould also stated that he now regrets having made a prior statement (BOS meeting of 6/27) citing his support of a "zero tolerance" position on this same topic as the phrase suggests inflexibility and intolerance, something the Board is trying hard to avoid.

Chief Lambert will work to contact the President of Comstar to ask that he attend a future Board meeting to discuss billing services.

#### E. Mosquito Control Commission

Ms. Moreinis-Dodge was present to discuss with the Board potential dates when they could meet with Mr. Walter Montgomery to discuss the concept of aerial spraying to control mosquitoes..

It was suggested by the Board that Mr. Montgomery and the President of Comstar meet with the Board during a daytime meeting. The Board suggested sometime during the last two weeks of August in the hopes of accommodating the busy schedule of all parties involved.

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that Diane Wheeler has accepted the position of part-time Recreation Director. The Board congratulated Diane and thanked her for her many months of service to the Town while serving as the Interim Recreation Director.

#### F. Performance Bond Release – Joseph Pandolfo, 27 Lafayette Rd. PCI Realty

Mr. Gould read aloud the recommendation of the Planning Board to release of the bond in question.

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to release PCI Realty North, LLC from the performance bond totaling \$20,000 based on the recommendation of the Planning Board. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved 3-0.**

## G. Joint District Court

Chief Page discussed with the Board the great need for new courthouses across the State. He advised the Board that the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police Association and the Seacoast Chiefs of Police recently voted in opposition of the initial proposal related to constructing a new courthouse in the vicinity of the Seabrook / Kensington area. He advised that the opposition to this proposal centered on the fact that the courthouse was much closer to Massachusetts than to the communities in New Hampshire it is intended to serve.

Chief Page asked the Board to write a letter endorsing the placement of a new courthouse "in a location central to the communities it is intended to serve" and that the Board ask that the proposed courthouse "be staffed with an adequate number of judges to handle the case load imposed on said court".

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to adopt as the official policy of the Town the need to support centrally locating a courthouse intended to serve the seacoast communities and, to support staffing the courthouse with the appropriate number of judges and support staff. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.**

## H. Questions & Comments Related to Above Topics

None.

## III. Administration/Business

### A. Town Administrator's Report

1. REC – The new playground at Dearborn Park is installed with the exception of 140 yards of wood chips that will soon be spread by the highway department.
2. REC – 170+ summer camp attendees have signed up to date – camp is going very well
3. REC – Program Coordinator position has been advertised and application period has closed. Thirteen applications have been received for this position. Interviews begin on Wednesday
4. PWD – Lawn mower remains out of service due to a manufacturer's defect
5. PWD – Beavers are creating a problem on Deer Run resulting in flooding of land
6. FD – Calls for service showing sharp increase. Increase is related to nature and severity of calls – third member on shift has been a tremendous asset
7. FD – Conditional offer has been made to fill remaining FF position. Background screening completed with new hire beginning on or about 7/25

8. FD – CPR training completed for summer camp counselors
9. FD – NH Association of Retired Firefighters annual meeting will be held in North Hampton on Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual event
10. FD – Long-time FD member Charlie Paul has passed away. Mr. Paul was a call FF for many years and served as the Treasurer of the Association for 20-25 years as well. Mr. Paul's contributions to the fire service are appreciated and he will be missed
11. PD – DWI enforcement (paid via grant funds) was conducted this past weekend 7/8, 7/9
12. PD – Conditional offers have been made for two new police officer positions. Backgrounds are underway
13. CEO – Has been asked to increase enforcement of code violations. Reduced staffing levels have caused the CEO to be bound to the office the last several weeks – he has been authorized to bring-in our contract CEO to assist in any manner necessary to allow him to address enforcement / compliance issues. Contract CEO will be in on Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to begin additional enforcement efforts
14. TA – New electronic locking system has been installed on lobby door, allowing for 24/7 access to Town mailboxes by Board and Commission members as was previously agreed.
15. TA – Department Heads are drafting warrant articles for 2006 – 2007 budget effort. They are also working on six-year CIP and drafting a three-year "business plan" that has components of: Vision / Mission, Organizational Structure / Administration / Staffing / Service Deliverables / Financials
16. TA – Compiling contracted services information as BOS requested
17. TA – Administrative Secretary position soon to be filled. Restructuring will allow for the hiring of a professional minutes taker, affording the Administrative Secretary to fulfill the 40 plus hours needed in the office working on PB, ZBA and Building Department matters.
18. AA – New accounting software installation is complete. The first set of payables generated on this software will be run on 7/13.
19. TA/AA – Attending PRIMEX training entitled: Financial Integrity: protecting and Safeguarding Local Treasuries on July 19<sup>th</sup>
20. TA - Investment policy work has started
21. TA – Sexual Harassment Training scheduled for 7/12 and 7/20. All sessions to be held at NHPL. The July 20<sup>th</sup> session is a refresher class and is scheduled to begin at 6 pm.

B. Correspondence

None.

C. Visa Business Card Application

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator, Michael Pardue, to sign on behalf of the Town, a Visa business card application authorizing the Recreation Director, Diane Wheeler to obtain a Visa Card with a credit limit of \$3,000. The cardholder, Ms. Diane Wheeler, is expected to use the card in a responsible and prudent manner, for recreation department purchases only, insuring that only necessary and appropriate charges are incurred. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3- 0.**

D. Property Tax Abatement Applications

The Board reviewed and approved three property tax abatement applications as recommended by the Assessor.

E. Approval of Minutes

June 27, 2005 – Open Session

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of June 27, 2005 (Open Session) as amended. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 2- 0\*.**

**\*Ms. Creighton did not vote as she was not present at the June 27, 2005 Board meeting, having been excused due to professional commitments.**

F. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed off on payroll forms.

G. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed two manifests. A third manifest was held by Mr. Pardue until he could seek clarification on one of the expenditures he had identified as in need of additional information.

H. Other Business



Mr. Rineman inquired about the quality of the paving project on Runnymede. He cited that there appeared to be an uneven section in the work recently performed. Mr. Pardue advised that he would speak with the Road Agent on this matter.

Chief Page advised the Board of his recent research on the laws regarding public notification of sex offenders. He advised further that the approach being used currently in North Hampton appears to be in accordance with New Hampshire law.

## **V. Adjournment**

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue  
Town Administrator