

I. Call to Order

Chairman Don Gould called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. Public Hearing in Accordance With RSA 31:95-b. Acceptance and expenditure of unanticipated money received from a state, federal or other governmental unit from a private source, which becomes available during the fiscal year – Police Department.

Mr. Gould opened the public hearing at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Gould summarized the elements of RSA 31:95-b, explaining that the Town will be receiving reimbursement from the federal government, via the State of New Hampshire, for a grant that had been approved under the provisions of the Homeland Security Act in the amount of \$18,000.

Chief of Police Page provided those in attendance with an overview of the Homeland Security grant program, explaining that the police department has been awarded funds in the amount of \$18,000 for the enhancement of the security of the municipal facility housing the police and fire departments. Chief Page advised the Board that under the provisions of the Homeland Security Act, the funds granted must first be expended by the Town. Once expended, reimbursement of said funds would be made to the Town, the reimbursed funds to be deposited back into the Town's general fund as outlined under the provisions of RSA 31:95-b.

Mr. Gould asked for questions from the audience. Hearing none, Mr. Gould closed the public hearing portion of this meeting at 7:08 pm.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$18,000.00 from the Town's General Fund as permitted under the provisions of RSA 31:95-b for improvements to the critical infrastructure of the municipal building housing police and fire entities, with the provision the reimbursed grant funds, of the same amount expended, be deposited back into the Town's General Fund. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. 3-0.

Mr. Gould inquired of Chief Page on the status of the Town's interagency communication capability should North Hampton be impacted by a major storm or other catastrophic event. Chief Page stated that there would clearly be interrupted service to

the Town's communication systems and that the lack of cellular service on the east side of Town would be a great hindrance.

B. Introduction of New Police Office – Juan Infante Jr.

Police Lt. John Scippa introduced the newest member of the North Hampton Police Department, Mr. Juan Infante Jr. Lt. Scippa provided the Board with a detailed reading of Officer Infante's background and accomplishments that resulted in his being selected to serve as a full-time member of the North Hampton Police Department. Lt. Scippa did note that during the rigorous background investigation of Juan Infante, it was discovered that he is a devout Yankee's fan. Lt. Scippa stated that despite this fact, Juan Infante was the successful candidate selected.

The Board warmly welcomed Juan Infante Jr. to North Hampton and wished well as the newest member of the North Hampton Police Department.

C. Mosquito Control Discussion – Mosquito Commission and Mr. Walter Montgomery

The Mosquito Commission and Mr. Montgomery were scheduled to discuss the benefits associated with aerial spraying as a means to control mosquitoes. Due to unforeseen work demands, Mr. Montgomery was not available, thus this topic discussion was postponed to a future date.

D. Police Department Reception Area Discussion

Mr. Gould stated that he had asked that this be a Board agenda topic. Mr. Gould explained that he had received a complaint from a citizen recently where she cited she needed to meet with a police officer. The citizen reportedly came to the police department and found no one on site and the door locked, leaving no method in which to contact police aside from returning home or finding an available telephone somewhere. Mr. Gould stated that this was most concerning, and would have been even more so had the citizen had a dire emergency at the time she was attempting to personally contact police.

Mr. Gould asked Chief Page to describe staffing of the police facility and how best a person needing police services should contact an officer.

Chief Page advised that the police department is typically staffed on weekdays, the department's Administrative Assistant being usually available to greet and assist walk-in customers. He further explained that the building is usually not staffed during evenings and on weekends as police personnel are on the road patrolling and there is no clerical or staff assistance available due to budget constraints. Chief Page did advise that the exterior door to the building is supposed to be locked when police department staff is not in the building and that he is going to reiterate this fact to police personnel.

General discussion ensued regarding the staffing of the police department on a 24x7 basis and the provision of a telephone (Ring-down line) being available either in the lobby or on the exterior of the building in the absence of staff. The ring-down phone would allow a walk-in/walk-up customer to merely lift the receiver and be automatically connected to the dispatch center in Brentwood. It was agreed that this might not be the best solution for someone that needed help but that it was at least a level of assistance not presently offered.

Ms. Lou Downey, present in the audience, spoke to the fact that she was the resident Mr. Gould referenced in his opening comments. She cited that she was concerned that when she, or any resident, comes to the police station seeking assistance, there should be someone present to assist them. She questioned what might have happened had she been in a true emergency situation and no personal help was present to assist her as she stood at the entrance to the police station.

Chief Page discussed the concept of having a fully functional dispatch center at the municipal complex that could serve police, fire and highway departments.

Mr. Peter Dodge inquired about the current “call forwarding” process employed by the police department. Chief Page described this procedure in detail.

Ms. Creighton clarified the phone transfer procedures to the Brentwood dispatch center and Chief Page’s “next-steps” in insuring the front door is locked when police department personnel are not present in the facility.

The Board asked that Mr. Pardue and Chief Page work with Verizon to determine if local telephone wiring will allow for the installation of a “Ring-down” line to be run from North Hampton to the dispatch center in Brentwood.

Mr. Rineman further requested that if Verizon replies that this technology is not available at this time for North Hampton, then Verizon be asked to explain why North Hampton has been lagging behind all the other seacoast towns in being provided with such technology, as well as other “newer” services such as caller ID capability, and even now, complete Caller ID service for some residents (such as himself).

Mr. Rineman asked Mr. Pardue to also inquire of Verizon why, based on this previous history of lagging services, North Hampton residents have been asked to pay the full price for partial services.

E. Investment Policy Discussion

The Board stated that they had each had opportunity to review the draft Investment Policy as presented by Mr. Pardue. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he had mirrored sample policies as had been provided by the Local Government Center and by Mr. Ralph Henault of Citizens Bank. The Board asked that Mr. Pardue now distribute the

draft Investment Policy to the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Chair of the Budget Committee and to Mr. Terry Conklin, a member of the Budget Committee.

F. Historical Society Need for Storage, Display and Meeting Space

Mr. Gould advised the Board that he had been approach by Mr. Byron Kirby on behalf of the Historical Society regarding their need for storage, display and meeting space. Mr. Gould referenced the recent memorandum distributed by the Library Trustees citing the possibility that the library meeting room may no longer be available to outside groups as the library is considering turning the meeting room space into book display space.

The Board also referenced that the Town offices are cramped and in need of some additional office space and that the current room being used by the Historical Society is soon to become office space. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the room they referenced has indeed been “wired” and that plans are moving forward with the office space conversion. However, in that same light, Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he has met with a representative of the Heritage Commission and that provisions are underway to provide equal or greater storage space to the Heritage Commission in the room where the Town stores artifacts and records. Mr. Pardue reports that as recently as today, 9/12/05, Building Inspector Mabey had toured the proposed space with Heritage Commission representatives and reports that the representatives are “very pleased” with the proposed space.

Mr. Dodge inquired about the liability to the Town should an event occur at the Town office resulting in damage to, or destruction of, said artifacts. Mr. Dodge also spoke of the need to place filters on the lights illuminating the stored artifacts and the need to have lights on a motion sensor so as to reduce the artifact’s exposure to light.

Mr. Pardue will check on the Town’s liability and insurance coverage as related to stored historical artifacts while they are in the care and custody of the Town.

G. Highway Facilities Committee Update

Mr. Gould, as a member of the Highway Facilities Committee, provided the Board with an overview of the Committee’s to-date work effort. He further advised the Board that the Highway Facilities Committee has decided to suspend their work at this time. Mr. Gould stated that that the Committee has reservations regarding the construction of a salt & sand storage facility on the Cherry Rd. site due to the fact that research finds there to be an aquifer at this location.

Mr. Rineman inquired about the feasibility of the Town constructing a salt & sand storage facility on one of the two State DOT facilities located in North Hampton. Mr. Pardue advised the Board that he had been in contact with Representative Rogers Johnson regarding this matter, asking Mr. Johnson for assistance in determining if the Town could utilize a portion of one or both of these sites.

Mr. Gould advised that he believes it is very important the Town begin a Capital Reserve account in an effort to begin to set aside funds to be used for the construction of municipal buildings, including a highway garage and salt & sand storage facility.

Mr. Rineman asked if the Board was ready to attempt to sell the Town owned land on Cedar Rd, and if the proceeds of that sale couldn't , with voter approval, be placed in a Capital Reserve account such as Mr. Gould had described. The other Board members agreed that this could be a possibility, and the Board authorized Mr. Pardue to begin looking into the process to be followed as to the selling of the Cedar Rd. property.

Mr. Gould also stated that the Highway Facilities Committee recommends the Long Range Planning Committee factor the construction of a salt & sand storage facility and likely a highway garage into their planning vision for town owned structures.

Upon inquiry from a resident located adjacent to the Cherry Rd. site (Mr. Arthur Brady) concerning the possibility of the Town storing highway department equipment on the Cherry Rd. site, Mr. Gould stated that this remains an option but that it is premature to state how the Cherry Rd. site might be used in the future.

General discussion ensued related to the Town's recycling center and the cost associated with operating said facility.

Mr. Gould stated that he feels it is important to consider closing the recycling center due to the fact that the Town is losing money annually on operating this effort.

Ms. Laurel Pohl (in the audience) suggested that the net loss of the center over the last year was closer to \$20,000 vs. the \$40,000 Mr. Gould had stated. When asked, Road Agent Strout confirmed that the loss was in the lower \$20 thousands.

Mr. Rineman, who reiterated the need to increase recycling in North Hampton, one way or another, suggested that a citizen awareness campaign be tried before the center be closed. It was acknowledged that Ms. Pohl has already compiled a great deal of information on recycling in North Hampton which could be used to launch such a campaign.

Mr. Gould, after observing the facial expressions to his left and right (Mr. Rineman & Ms. Creighton) conceded that at this time, at least, he may be the only Board member in favor of closing the center.

Ms. Creighton stated that Ms. Pohl is already working on a brochure and is has sought, and received, feedback from her (Creighton) on her work efforts.

H. Questions & Comments Related to Above Topics

None.

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. for the purpose of entering into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 II (a,e) for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and a possible legal issue. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the Board was taken. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

III. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (a)

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to reconvene the public portion of the meeting at 10:125 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

1. REC – Sharon Hart will be leaving the employ of the Town due to personal commitments that require much of her time.
2. FD – Mutual aid calls to Hampton to be subject of 9/26 BOS agenda.
3. FD – New FF has been hired and started work today.
4. TA – Building Dept. Administrative Secretary position interviews to be conducted on 9/22/05.

B. Correspondence

None.

C. Property Tax Abatement

The Board reviewed one property tax abatement and asked that the Assessor more clearly articulate his recommendation to grant the abatement.

D. Approval of Minutes

August 22, 2005 – Open Session
August 22, 2005 - Non-Public Session

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of August 22, 2005 (Public Session) as amended. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes of August 22, 2005 (Non - Public Session) as written. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

E. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed two weeks of payroll forms.

F. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed two manifests.

G. Other Business

The Board reviewed a letter written by the Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Mabey, on behalf of the Planning Board, recommending the Board of Selectmen approve a Surety Bond in the amount of \$539,000 for the Rite Aid project.

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning Board, approving the Rite Aid surety bond in the amount of \$539,000. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.

Mr. Peter Simmons, a member of the audience, addressed the Board. Mr. Simmons expressed his appreciation for the professional conduct of the Town's Code Enforcement Officer, Richard Mabey at a recent Planning Board meeting. Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Mabey was, in his (Simmons) opinion, "maligned" by members of the Planning Board and that Mr. Mabey maintained his composure and represented the Town professionally.

The Board received Mr. Simmons' comments and advised him that although they were sorry to learn of this matter, they, the Board of Selectmen, have no authority over the Planning Board for actions such as those cited by Mr. Simmons.

V. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 10:33 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator