

Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of 12/27/05  
**Approved 1/9/06**

***The proceedings of this meeting are available in audio format. To request a copy of the audio format, please contact the Town office at 603-964-8087.***

## **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. Bond Reduction Request – GFI North Hampton**

The Board reviewed a letter from the planning board recommending the reduction of the GFI - North Hampton surety performance bond by an amount of \$312,633.45, resulting in a remaining balance of \$1,337,366.55.

**Motion/Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to approve the recommendation of the planning board, reducing the GFI-North Hampton surety performance bond by \$312,633.45, resulting in a remaining balance of \$1,337,366.55. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.**

### **B. Bid Opening for Town Hall Structural Renovations**

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the Town did not receive any bids for this project, despite issuing a public “Request for Bids” notice in local print media.

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that the Town’s building inspector suggested the Board now consider seeking quotes from area contractors on a time and materials (T&M) basis. The Board agreed with this approach. Mr. Pardue stated he would ask the building inspector; Mr. Richard Maybe, to reach out to local contractors for quotes.

The Board discussed the priority of the renovations to be made to the Old Town Hall, recognizing that there may be the need to relocate said building in the future.

### **C. Tree Pruning at Commons**

The Board discussed the Ralston Tree Service proposal related to the cutting and pruning of trees at the Town Commons as had been requested by Bandstand Committee Chair Ms. Delores Chase. Discussion ensued about whether or not the

winter is the appropriate time to prune trees. The need to have an additional proposal(s) to consider was also discussed with the Board asking Mr. Pardue to work toward procuring another proposal for this effort. The Board also asked Mr. Pardue to determine from Mr. Stanley Knowles, an arborist, whether trees should be pruned in the winter months.

It was agreed that this matter should appear on a future agenda for discussion and decision.

#### D. RPC Circuit Rider Matching Grant Funds

Mr. Pardue advised the Board that Mr. Phil Wilson, Chair of the Planning Board had advised him, Pardue, that if the Town could fund \$2,500 additional dollars for Circuit Rider support, the Town would receive \$2,500 in grant funding. That in essence, if the Town spends \$2,500, it will receive \$5,000 in additional services from the RPC.

The consensus of the Board was to move forward with Mr. Wilson's request.

#### E. Board of Selectmen Representative to the Planning Board

The Board discussed the demands they face with trying to have appropriate representation on the Town's numerous boards and commissions.

Mr. Pardue, at the Board's request, had contacted the Local Government Center to determine the requirements related to RSA 673:2 which requires the Board to appoint a selectman or an administrative official to attend planning board meetings. Mr. Pardue advised that the LGC attorney could not easily define the term "Administrative Official", but was able to state that in this case, it should not be the building inspector or town administrator due to a conflict of interest situation likely arising. Mr. Pardue further advised the Board that the LGC attorney stated that the Board might wish to consider a five (5) member Board of Selectmen.

The Board discussed the idea of presenting a warrant article to revise the configuration of the Board of Selectmen to a five member board. Viewpoints were given by Board members both supporting and not supporting the idea of a five member Board of Selectmen.

**Motion/Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to include a non-money warrant article on the March 2006 ballot to change the make-up of the Board of Selectmen from the three members to five members. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.**

Mr. Rineman opened-up discussion concerning the idea of abolishing the current SB-2 form of town meeting and reverting back to the "old style" of town meeting. The Board discussed the pros and cons associated with each approach.

It was agreed that this matter could be discussed further at the Board's January 9, 2006 meeting. The Board asked Mr. Pardue to insure that the topic of "discussion of warrant articles" appears on the 1/9/06 agenda.

The Board discussed the idea of asking department heads to present their respective warrant articles at both the budget hearing and the deliberative session. Mr. Pardue will advise the department heads that this approach is desired by the Board.

The Board also asked Mr. Pardue to contact members of the previous Board of Selectmen who had agreed to compensate the tax collector, Ms. Neves, for accrued vacation time. The Board stressed they are not doubting Ms. Neves' recollection of this matter but only that they want to be prepared to answer any citizen inquiry concerning whether anyone from the Town had spoken with those reportedly responsible for making this prior commitment.

#### E. Questions and Comments on Above Topics

A member of the press inquired as to how long ago the public notice requesting bids for work on the Old Town Hall had been published. Mr. Pardue advised that the notice had gone out a number of weeks ago, but that without checking the Town records he could not offer the exact date.

**Motion / Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 8:00 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 matter. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

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

**Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to reconvene the public portion of the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Mr. Rineman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.**

#### IV. Administration/Business

##### A. Town Administrator's Report

1. TA – The contract has been signed and returned to the firm that will be appraising the Town owned parcel of land located on Cedar Road.

##### B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue supplied the Board with a copy of a letter from Mr. Gerry Billadeau requesting a revision to the Town's zoning regulations. The Board noted that this is a

planning board matter and further noted that Mr. Billadeau had indeed sent his letter directly to Mr. Phil Wilson, Chair of the Planning Board.

#### C. Abatement Request

The Board signed-off on one abatement.

#### D. Approval of Minutes

**Motion/Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the public and non-public BOS meeting minutes of 11/14/05, 11/21/05 and 11/28/05 as amended. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.**

**Motion/Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the BOS public session meeting minutes of 12/13/05. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous 3-0.**

**Motion/Vote: Mr. Rineman made a motion to approve the BOS non-public meeting minutes of 12/13. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. The vote was 2-0-1 with Ms. Creighton abstaining as she was not present at the session for which these minutes were written.**

#### E. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed three weeks of payroll forms.

#### F. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed three manifests.

#### G. Other Business

Mr. Rineman requested Mr. Pardue contact the individuals responsible for the NHCO newsletter and ask that they work to coordinate their information to coincide with that of the Town's. An example was given where the BOS meeting for 12/27 was reflected on the NHCO site as being scheduled for 12/26. The Board expressed concern that this might prove misleading to readers of the NHCO site.

Mr. Rineman advised the Board that due to newly evolving professional commitments, he would no longer be able to continue in his role as a Selectman. He advised that the time requirements of the new job he was entering would likely conflict greatly with his duties and responsibilities as a Selectman. With that, Mr. Rineman stated that he felt it only fair to his fellow Board members, and the citizens of North Hampton, that he resigns his position prior to the time candidates may file "Declaration of Candidacy" papers (1/25/06 – 2/3/06).

After expressing their appreciation for the service to the Town that Mr. Rineman has provided, the Board discussed the timing of his, Rineman's, resignation. This discussion centered on the logistics of the letting citizens know of the vacancy Mr. Rineman's resignation creates while allowing sufficient time for anyone interested in filling candidate papers to do so prior to the 2/3/06 deadline.

The Board asked Mr. Pardue to contact the LGC legal department for a legal opinion concerning this matter.

## **V. Adjournment**

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Rineman made a motion to adjourn at 9:31 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue  
Town Administrator