

Board of Selectmen
Minutes of 01/23/06
Approved 2/13/06

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 7:02 p.m. There were also present, Emily Creighton, Selectwoman, Chuck Gordon, 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 or from a private source, which becomes available during the fiscal year – Police Department.

Mr. Gould opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m., summarizing the elements of RSA 31:95-b.

Chief of Police Brian Page presented an overview of the Department of Justice (D.O.J.) “Street Sweeper” grant program.

Chief Page spoke of having previously sent two officers to a training session on the use of the “Tazer”, a device used by law enforcement personnel designed to aid in controlling unruly or uncontrollable subjects. The Tazer is intended to be a component used in the force continuum.

Chief Page explained that the grant allows for a total of \$8,528.85 to be awarded the Town, allowing for the purchase of 10 Tazer units, related computer software and required training.

Chief Page, in his presentation, requested permission to expend \$8,528.85 from the Town’s Undesignated Fund Balance with the understanding that said funds would be immediately re-deposited in said fund upon receipt of the grant money.

Chief Page, in response from the Board and members of the audience, explained the manner in which the Tazer is intended to be used and the effectiveness of such a tool.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to accept, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, a Department of Justice grant in the amount of \$8,528.85, for the purchase of approximately ten Tazer units, related software and training, the amount to be

expended from the Undesignated Fund Balance (UFB) with the understanding that upon receipt of the grant funds, said monies will be immediately re-deposited in the Town's UFB. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved 3-0.

The public hearing portion of the meeting was closed at 7:16 p.m.

B. Town Hall Renovations

Mr. Richard Maybe, North Hampton Building Inspector, advised the Board that on or about 1/25/06, the Old Town Hall building will be reopened as the load capacity concerns have been addressed, the floor now meeting building code requirements. Mr. Maybe and the Board discussed the need to bring the Old Town Hall into compliance with ADA regulations.

The Board and Mr. Maybe also discussed the need to develop a timeline for performing renovation work, identifying the work needed, the schedule for performing the work and the need to develop and issue Requests for Proposals for the scope of work decided upon.

C. Discussion of Hobbs Road & New Road – Possible Safety Situation

Mr. Pardue distributed a letter that had been written to the Board by Mr. Ralph Woekel of 20 Hobbs Rd. The Board had initially received this letter in early October, following a serious motor vehicle accident that took place in front of Mr. Woekel's home. In sum, the letter appeals to the Town to consider making modifications to the roadway, signage etc. to aid in preventing another such incident.

Mr. Pardue reminded the Board that at the time they initially received the aforementioned letter the accident was under investigation and subsequently, there was little comment that could be offered by the Board or other Town officials.

Since that time, and at the request of the Board, Mr. Pardue stated that he has brought the concerns of Mr. Woekel to the Police and Fire Chiefs and the Road Agent for their review and comment. It has been suggested by the respective department heads that there be a meeting of the Board and public safety personnel, at the site of the accident, to discuss Mr. Woekel's concerns.

It was pointed out by Mr. Robert Strout, Road Agent, that Hobbs Rd. is a State road and that any modifications suggested by the Town would require State approval.

The Board assured residents that at the time they schedule a meeting to occur at or near the accident scene, notice will be provided so residents can attend the meeting should they choose to do so.

D. Warrant Article Discussion

The Board discussed two citizen initiated (special) warrant articles that require a recorded Board vote recommending, or not, the article.

The Board discussed a citizen initiated warrant article which requests the sum of \$1,500 for Seacoast Youth Services. It was pointed out that this article has been discussed numerous times by both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee and at no time has a representative of this organization been present to offer comment.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gould made a motion to have the notation “Not Recommended by the Board of Selectmen” appear atop the article as petitioned by Mr. Victor Maloney and at least 25 North Hampton registered voters. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved 3-0.

The Board next discussed a petitioned warrant article as presented by the Library Trustees and at least 25 other registered voters of the Town of North Hampton.

Mr. Gould provided an overview of the facts and circumstances surrounding this article.

Ms. Creighton again voiced her support for this article, having done so at previous Board meetings when this initiative was under consideration.

Mr. Gordon stated that he felt a need to abstain from voting on this article due to his having just joined the Board to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Rineman resigned due to professional commitments.

Considerable discussion ensued as to the advantages and disadvantages of having a Capital Reserve Fund for the library, a fund separate from the proposed municipal building fund.

Motion / Vote: Ms. Creighton made a motion to have the notation “Recommended by the Board of Selectmen” appear atop the article as petitioned by the three library trustees and at least 25 other North Hampton registered voters. Mr. Gould seconded the motion.

Additional discussion ensued. Mr. Gould stated that he supports this article as it is a citizens petition, not a Board of Selectmen article and, the petitioned article allows for matching funds.

The vote was called. The vote was 2-0-1 and so moved with Mr. Gordon abstaining.

E. Questions and Comments on Above Topics

None.

Motion / Vote: Mr. Gordon made a motion to temporarily adjourn the meeting at 8:06 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, the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property 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 9:18 p.m. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

IV. Administration/Business

A. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Pardue provided the Board with a verbal report citing that the Town Warrant is complete allowing for certain minor adjustments such as the notations of the Board's vote this evening on the two special warrant articles. He further cited that the auditors have been on-site with Ms. Facella and compiling the data they require for their work effort and, the Annual Report is coming together well and, final preparations are underway for the Town deliberative session and lastly, the MS-7 report was completed by Ms. Facella on the behalf of the budget committee.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Pardue presented the Board with an invoice from Parsons Electric Company for work that was performed at the North Hampton Library. The invoice was forwarded to the Town, from the Library Director, requesting the payment of same from the Town's Building Maintenance fund. The invoice indicated a price of \$636.70.

Mr. Pardue explained that historically the library trustees have been responsible for paying invoices for work performed at the library, having never forwarded such invoices to the Town administration. Mr. Pardue asked the Board for their guidance as he is aware some questions exist on how library building maintenance should be funded.

The Board engaged in considerable discussion related to this matter. The Board pondered whether the action they choose to take on this matter will serve to be precedent setting. It was stated by Ms. Creighton that to the best of her knowledge the library maintenance budget line is depleted at this time.

The Board discussed whether or not any department, including the library, should have a maintenance line within its annual operating budget. It was agreed that in the future, department budgets should not have a line item for maintenance and that maintenance efforts related to Town buildings should be paid from the Capital Reserve Building Maintenance fund.

The consensus of the Board was that the invoice in question should be paid out of the Building Maintenance Capital Reserve fund.

The Board next discussed State Representative Rogers Johnson's leaving his position.

Mr. Pardue presented the Board with a document from Fire Chief Lambert. The document was from a web based publication entitled, "Firefighter Close Calls". The article, a national publication referenced often in the fire service, highlighted the Standard Operating Procedure used by the North Hampton Fire Department regarding highway safety when protecting an accident scene.

C. Abatement Request

The Board signed-off on numerous abatements.

D. Veteran Exemption

The Board reviewed a Veteran's Exemption but asked for clarification from the Assessor on where the "denial" should be noted.

E. Veteran Tax Credit

The Board reviewed a Veteran Tax Credit request. The Board asked for additional information from the Assessor.

F. Elderly Exemption

The Board signed-off on an Elderly Exemption.

G. Payroll

The Board reviewed and signed-off on two weeks of payroll forms.

H. Manifest

The Board reviewed and signed-off on two manifests.

I. Other Business

None.

V. Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Gould made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. Ms. Creighton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Pardue
Town Administrator