

APPROVED 01/29/07
NORTH HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JANUARY 16, 2007

The Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Emily Creighton at 7 PM. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing, pursuant to RSA 38:8 A, concerning the proposed issuance of a bond; that a citizens petition had been filed for the purchase of a parcel of land (including a house and barn) located at 3 Exeter Road (Tax Map 14 page 105) and consisting of approximately 14.73 acres; that the proposed purchase price is \$900,000 and that the proposed use would be for recreation purposes. The petition asks the voters to approve the issuance of a bond in the amount of \$900,000.

Chairwoman Creighton also explained that the notice for this hearing was deficient because (i) the petition was not received until January 9,2007; (ii) State law provides that January 16 is the last day for holding hearings on bond issuances; and (iii) State law also requires that seven days "clear notice" by newspaper publication be given for such hearings. Because there was not sufficient time to provide the necessary newspaper notice, the notice for the hearing was inadequate, with the result that the hearing itself and any subsequent bond issue would not comply with the requirements of State law.

She further explained that, on receipt of the Petition, the Board had immediately consulted with legal counsel who confirmed the problem but recommended that the hearing go forward in any event. Chairwoman Creighton also informed those present that the Board had received advice from the Town's Bond Counsel who, while confirming both the inadequacy of notice and the fact that a bond could not be issued, stated that it might be possible to hold a special "curative" meeting subsequent to approval by the voters of the article, at which special meeting the defect in notice could be rectified. She explained that the Board still needs more information about the "curative" meeting process and its legal effects, but that the Hearing would be held in any event in order to furnish a basis for such a curative special meeting.

Chairwoman Creighton then opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM for purposes of receiving comments and questions from the public. Jean Robinson asked two questions about the specific location and topography of the parcel of land and her questions were answered. Hearing no other questions or comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:06 PM.

Upon motion made by Selectman Marsh, and seconded by Selectman Gould, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Donald B. Gould, Acting
Secretary