

DRAFT MINUTES

NORTH HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

Approved: September 24, 2007

Chairwoman Creighton called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Also present were Selectmen Gould and Salomon and members of the public.

Historical Artifact Display. The Heritage Commission (Jennifer Landman, Chair) on behalf of the Historical Society requested authorization to display historical artifacts in the Heritage Conference Room located in the former space of the Tax Collector. Chair Landman displayed a plan showing the proposed location of two glass display cases and a Plexiglas divider that would prevent the public from passing behind the display cases. After discussion and upon motion of Selectman Salomon, seconded by Selectman Gould, it was unanimously voted to support the request, conditioned only upon (i) receipt of written confirmation that the Town would not be liable for any loss or damage to displayed objects and (ii) execution of a satisfactory three year lease, at one dollar per year, between the Town and Historical Society.

Route 111 Sidewalk Project. Next followed a discussion of the status of progress on the proposed sidewalk on Atlantic Avenue and the recommendations of the Town Administrator and Building Inspector. Upon motion of Selectman Gould, seconded by Selectman Salomon, it was unanimously voted to award the Project Management contract to low bidder Seacoast Engineering.

Atlantic Avenue/Route 1 Lane Markings. The Board took up the matter of traffic lane markings at the easterly side of the Atlantic Avenue/Route 1 intersection. Comments were made by Robert Landman (TAC Rep) and Chief Page about the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's (DOT) lack of response to earlier requests on this and other traffic concerns. Mr. Landman pointed out that the state has no money for changes; Chief Page informed the board that the State has jurisdiction for these roads and that there is the requirement of 12 feet before changes can be made and this is not the case for this area. Chairwoman, Creighton, clarified what Mr. Landman was asking for ó a letter to the State signed by the Board. She then asked, considering what was presented by Mr. Landman and Chief Page, the purpose of the letter. Mr. Landman said to have something on record. Ms. Creighton asked Mr. Landman if he would draft the letter he proposed the BOS write and if he would work with Chief Page. Mr. Landman and Chief Page agreed. The draft letter, once approved by the Board will be sent to DOT in the hopes of enlisting DOT cooperation on this issue as well as the issue of the Hobbs Road/Atlantic Avenue intersection.

Noise Ordinance. Selectman Salomon addressed the Planning Board's request that the Board consider enacting a noise ordinance. Police Chief Brian Page told the Board he did not believe the local district court judges would enforce alleged noise ordinance violations against businesses if the noise is generated by a legitimate business

operation. He suggested, instead, an ordinance regulating business hours. Planning Board Chairman Phil Wilson volunteered that trying to draft an acceptable noise ordinance would be a fruitless effort. The Board agreed. No further action was taken.

Donais Land Acquisition. North Hampton Forever Co-chair Phillip Wilson presented a North Hampton Forever/Conservation Commission proposal for the acquisition of approximately 23 acres of land of Ruth Donais located on Exeter Road explaining it is not their policy to purchase wetlands but that this the property is entirely wetland but is of "strategic value" because it can be used to leverage further grant funds from CELCP. Upon further discussion, with both Selectmen Gould and Salomon stating that they favored the acquisition of this wetland parcel only because of its strategic importance to a future CLECP grant (and would not otherwise support the acquisition of wetlands), and on motion of Selectman Salomon, seconded by Selectman Gould, it was unanimously voted to approved the recommendation to acquire a fee simple interest in the Donais property (Tax Map 15, Lot 13) for a price of \$23,000.

Tax Collector Deeds of Property. The next item of business concerned whether the Board should refuse, pursuant to RSA 80:76, to acquire the deeds to several pieces of property where delinquent taxes are overdue. After discussion and on separate motions of Selectman Gould, seconded by Selectman Salomon, it was unanimously voted to refuse the tax deeds on the so-called Coakley landfill property as well as for three mobile homes. The question whether to accept tax deeds on four additional small parcels of land was referred to the Conservation Commission for its advice.

Revaluation Bids. Upon the recommendation of the Town Administrator and the Town Assessor, and after discussion, the Board agreed to authorize the Town Administrator to hold (unopened) the two bids received for the upcoming town-wide revaluation and to solicit further bids in the hope that there would be more than two competitive bids from which to choose.

Use Notices. The Board discussed the request of the Conservation Commission that the Board execute so-called "Use Notices" for the formerly acquired Durso and Treat properties, which notices would be recorded in the Registry. After discussion about the need to have their signatures notarized, the Board elected to have the attestation clause changed to permit Planning and Zoning Administrator Wendy Chase to notarize the individual signatures of selectpersons when they came to the office to sign.

Fire Study Comparable Communities. The Board discussed the need to select the names of five "comparable Towns" to be furnished to Municipal Resources, Inc. for purposes of comparing the staffing and equipment of the North Hampton Fire Department with those other towns. After discussion and review of demographic, population, housing, tax base and geographic size data prepared and presented by Chairwoman Creighton, the Board selected the following five comparable towns: Rye, Atkinson, Epping, Stratham and Brentwood.

Minutes. Upon motions of Chairwoman Creighton, seconded by Selectman Salomon, the minutes of August 22 and 23 were unanimously approved. Upon motion of Chairwoman Creighton, seconded by Selectman Salomon, the minutes of August 13 were approved with Selectpersons Creighton and Salomon voting in favor and Selectman Gould (who was not present) abstaining.

At 8:35 p.m. on motion of Selectman Gould, seconded by Selectman Salomon, with all voting in the affirmative, the Board entered into non-public session to discuss further the hiring of a full time Town Administrator. No action was taken.

At 8:48 p.m., on motion of Selectman Salomon, seconded by Selectman Gould, the Board voted to reenter public session.

On motion of Selectman Gould, seconded by Selectman Salomon, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:49 p.m..

Respectfully Submitted

Donald B. Gould, Acting Secretary