



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 –7PM

1. Call to Order & Call of the Roll

Members present: Chair Emily Creighton; Selectman Craig Salomon; Selectman Mike Coutu.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Steve Fournier

2. Non-Public Session – 6:30PM Executive Conference Room 2nd Floor

2.1 RSA 91-A:3 II

The Board reconvened into the public session of the meeting at 7:05PM.

Motion by Selectman Coutu to seal the minutes from the prior non-public session. Seconded by Selectman Salomon. Motion carries 3-0.

3. Consent Calendar¹ - None

4. New Business

4.1. Aquarion Water Company – L. Bingaman

Mr. Larry Bingaman introduced himself to the Select Board. Mr. Bingaman stated that he is the Senior Vice President of Operations at Aquarion Water Company. He then introduced the Select Board to the Operations Manager Paul Whittemore.

Mr. Bingaman gave the Select Board as well as those in attendance an overview of the proposed water rate increase application that Aquarion has filed with the Public Utilities Commission on August 29, 2008. This application was filed to recover the cost of investments the company and shareholders have carried over the past three years. The rate increase is expected to be approximately 21.8%. This will be a 10 month process for the PUC to complete review of the application with temporary rate changes requested for November and December. A Power Point presentation showed the Capital Improvements that have been done over the past several years. Three million dollars has been spent on water mains to meet peak summer demands and for supply reliability. Mr. Bingaman stated that of the \$5.6 million system wide improvements made in the last three years, improvements in North Hampton have included wells #10 and #138, Mill Road main replacement, meters, services, hydrants and valves as well as pump equipment \$1.5 million (26%) of the funds invested in the last three years was spent on improvements in North Hampton. North Hampton customers make up approximately

THIS LOCATION IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE. THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND WHO ARE HEARING OR VISION IMPAIRED MAY MAKE THEIR NEEDS KNOWN BY CONTACTING THE AT TOWN HALL 964-8087

¹ These items are routine in nature and are approved without discussion. Should a member of the Board request to have an item removed, it shall be placed on the agenda under new business. The consent format is to expedite the business of the Board when adequate backup material has been provided.

16% of Aquarion's customer base. Mr. Bingaman stated that part of the application proposal includes \$1.5 million for the Mill Road water tank replacement. This new tank has increased storage as well as increased fire protection flow and the peak demands during the summer. Mr. Bingaman stated that the hydrant costs will increase from \$184,000 to \$223,000 per year. Also part of the application submitted to the PUC is a system development charge which would effect new customers only. New customers will be asked to pay a one time charge to hook up to the system. Chair Creighton asked Mr. Bingaman if there would be an increase every three years. Mr. Bingaman stated that yes there would be to pay for the investments in the system. Chair Creighton stated that she was taken aback with the 21% increase, and asked if Aquarion had any type of planned program for those new customers having difficulty to pay the fee to hook up. Mr. Bingaman responded that generally the PUC does not allow any exceptions. Mr. Bingaman stated that the North Hampton Water Commission voted to support the increase. Selectman Salomon stated that he wanted it noted that the Water Commission does not speak for the Select Board and that their vote to support was not a vote by the Select Board. Much discussion ensued regarding the process in which Aquarion prepares its application and how they derive the figures shown. Selectman Salomon suggested that the Select Board meet with the Water Commission to review Aquarion's proposal. Town Administrator Fournier stated that they could meet with the Water Commission on October 15 and that he would coordinate the meeting.

4.2. Approval of Rockingham Planning Commission Agreement for Professional Planning Services

Town Administrator Fournier asked that the Select Board to sign the Rockingham Planning Commission's Circuit Rider and that it had been approved by the Planning Board. Town Administrator Fournier asked that the Select Board sign an agreement for professional planning assistance and support to the Planning Board. The agreement is for \$2,500 and that they would be adding a chapter to the Master Plan on Natural Resources.

Motion by Selectman Salomon to approve and sign the contract. Seconded by Selectman Coutu. Motion carries 3-0.

4.3. Revision of Planning Board Fees

Selectman Salomon stated that it is useful to increase the abutters fee from \$6 to \$8 as it insures return receipts from abutters, and that the increase to \$25 for the recording fee payable to the Registry of Deeds that supports the LCHIP program.

Motion by Selectman Coutu to increase the abutter notification fees from \$6 to \$8 for coverage of the costs for return receipts, as well as increase the fee to \$25 for the application fee in concert with Rockingham County which charges said fee to pay for the recording of plans. Seconded by Selectman Salomon. Motion carries 3-0.

4.4 Acceptance of Bid for Town Hall Clock Tower Restoration

Paul Cuetara addressed the Select Board with the two bids that were received for the Bell Tower. Mr. Cuetara stated that the bid from Langley Construction clearly meets the specifications, they have a lot of experience with this type of work, and they can start immediately. Mr. Cuetara addressed the question whether the bell tolls and the clock mechanisms work. Mr. Cuetara stated he wasn't positive, however any work done on the clock face will be charged to the Hobbs Fund that was created for this purpose. Selectman Coutu wondered if it would be advantageous to do the other work that needs to be done, that is not included in this proposal, while the scaffolding is already in place. Selectman Salomon explained to the viewers at home that although the bid from Langley is the higher of the two, Langley Construction has a good track record and that their bid is more realistic, and they are most likely to get the job done without problems. Town

Administrator Fournier stated he would notify Langely that they won the bid and ask them to send a contract to us for the Select Board to sign.

Motion by Selectman Salomon to accept the bid by Langley Construction for \$83,200. Seconded by Selectman Coutu. Motion carries 3-0.

Chair Creighton mentioned that she had spoken with Susan Buchanan and the fact that her building is not ADA compliant. Town Administrator Fournier stated that John Hubbard is working with Susan to address this issue. Chair Creighton also stated that the Secretary of State's office has told the Select Board that the Town Hall can no longer be used to hold elections because of its non ADA compliance. Discussion ensued regarding the placement of a ramp either in the front of the building or in the back.

4.5 Letter from Caesar Romano – by request of Selectman Salomon

Selectman Salomon wanted to acknowledge the Board's receipt of a letter from Mr. Cesear Romano asking the Board to take certain action with the scouting authorities relating to the incident at the Conservation Commission with Chairman Chris Ganotis, and the Boy Scout. Selectman Salomon stated that he wanted to acknowledge receipt of this letter and to bring it public, but that no action should be taken. Selectman Coutu agreed with Selectman Salomon that no further action be taken. Chair Creighton stated that Mr. Romano's letter was well intentioned and the he does make assertions that are not factual. Chair Creighton stated that the Boy Scout Council has asked the Board to respect their right to management of council issues and that the Board move on.

5. Items Laid on the Table²

5.1 Select Board Rules and Procedures⁵

5.2 Minutes of NHTV Committee Meetings

Selectman Coutu stated that he had been in touch with Laurel Pohl via email and she would not be able to attend the meeting this evening.

5.3 Channel 22 Policies and Procedures

Selectman Coutu stated that he had been in touch with Laurel Pohl via email and she would not be able to attend the meeting and address this issue.

5.4 Fire and Police Radio Communication Issues

Town Administrator Fournier advised the Board that Chief Page had sent a memo regarding a recent incident on Woodland Road where the cruiser could not make contact with Rockingham Dispatch. Chief Page spoke with the Sherriff and Chief Walsh of Rye regarding the repeater receiver. Chief Walsh stated that the receiver was installed, but there were hardware problems and it was sent back to be repaired and would be reinstalled as soon as possible. Selectman Salomon stated that when he was at the last Water Commission meeting, Aquarion has said space would be available for a tower on the new Mill Road water tower, and that we could have space.

Chair Creighton spoke about the recent meeting the Board had with Vision Appraisal, and the Board's dissatisfaction with them for not getting the Select Board the information that they had requested prior to their meeting.

² Items laid on the table shall remain on the table until a member of the Board of Selectmen makes a motion to remove such item from the table.

6. Report of the Town Administrator

2008 Fuel Bids: Town Administrator Fournier stated the we have received bids for fuel and signed an agreement with Hometown Oil for \$3.59 a gallon for #2 Oil and \$4.29 for Kerosene. This is an increase of \$1.30 a gallon for heating oil and \$1.95 for kerosene.

Letter from Municipal Resources Inc.: The Board has received a follow up letter from MRI in response to their questions on the Fire Study.

Facility Studies: The Fire and Police Chiefs are interested in knowing what the next step is for the facility studies that have been conducted. With the FY10 Budget Process underway, they would like to determine what the next step would be. Town Administrator Fournier stated he would recommend that if the Board sees a need for new facilities, that we meet with the Library Trustees and work together to conduct some kind of plan for the facilities on this parcel.

Demolition of Old Highway Facility and House: An RFP has gone out for the demolition of the old House on Atlantic Ave. and the former Highway Facility. We will be working with the Historical Society and the Centennial Hall Committee to make sure that any materials that they want to take out are.

Update on Radio Communications Issues: Chief Page sent an email that after an event on Woodland Road brought to his attention by Sergeant Stokel, where cruiser radios were once again unable to contact Rockingham Dispatch, he made contact with Sheriff Linehan on the status of the Repeater/Receiver Installation on the Rye Water Tower. While discussing the event with the Sheriff, Chief Walsh (Rye Police) approached him and told him that the Repeater/Receiver had been installed but there was a problem with one piece of hardware installed on the Rye Site. This hardware problem was causing considerable "echo and feedback" at the Dispatch Consoles in Brentwood. That particular piece of hardware has been sent back for repair/replacement, and will be re-installed as soon as possible. Chief Page will stay in touch with the Sheriff, and Chief Walsh so we will all know when it has been re-installed and they can assess the impact of that Repeater/Receiver Site on our radio communications. Apparently there are some adjustments that can be made to get peak performance out of that Rye Site once the hardware is all working properly.

Letter from Caesar Romano: Town Administrator Fournier stated that we had received a letter from Mr. Romano referencing the Conservation Commission Action with the Eagle Scout project in Town. I have attached a copy of this letter to my report.

The Town Administrator read a letter of commendation Diane Wheeler received. Chair Creighton said kudos go to Diane and her staff.

7. Minutes

7.1 Regular Meeting - August 13, 2008

7.2 Regular Meeting – August 27, 2008

Motion by Selectman Coutu to approve the minutes as changed with respect to the August 13 and August 27 Select Board meetings. Seconded by Selectman Salomon. Motion carries 3-0.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Coutu to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Selectman Salomon. Motion carries 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Facella