



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011 –7PM
TOWN HALL**

1. Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a) (c) 6:30 PM

Motion by Selectman Maggiore to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.

2. Call to order

Chair Wollmar called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Those in attendance were Selectman Jon Rineman, Selectman Jim Maggiore and Town Administrator Steve Fournier.

Chair Wollmar invited those in attendance to join in saluting the flag.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Regular Meeting December 13, 2010

Motion by Selectman Rineman to accept the minutes of the December 13, 2010. Seconded by Chair Wollmar. Motion carries 3-0.

4. Consent Calendar

Motion by Selectman Maggiore to approve the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.

5. Report of the Town Administrator

Town Administrator Fournier reported on the following:

The Town Office, Police Department and Fire Department's septic system failed on December 22. The system was originally built for the Fire Department and was never expanded when the Police Department and Town Offices were built. A new septic system is in the design phase and should be approved soon. The Public Works Department will be working with a certified septic system installer to install the system.

Exeter Hospital and Anthem have come to an impasse in its negotiations, and unless a new agreement is reached, Exeter Hospital will not accept Anthem insurance after March 2. Chief Cote stated that emergency calls will not be included and that they would continue to be covered.

The Legislature will be holding a hearing on Senate Bill 1 Financial that will repeal the Evergreen Clause law enacted in 2008. Town Administrator Fournier stated that he may attend and testify at the hearing in favor of the bill.

6. New Business

6.1 Approval of FY 2012 Operating Budget

Town Administrator Fournier reviewed the changes that the Select Board had made during prior work sessions, and asked that the Select Board approve the amended operating budget of \$5,622,368 and the revenue budget of \$1,525,205. The overall budget is an increase of \$165,643 over last year.

Motion by Selectman Maggiore to approve the FY 2012 Operating Budget as amended, and to forward it to the Municipal Budget Committee. Seconded by Chair Wollmar. Motion carries 3-0.

6.2 Proposal for Paramedic Coverage – Fire Chief Dennis Cote

Chief Cote presented a Power Point presentation regarding a proposal that would allow personnel to enroll in the paramedic program.

Chief Cote read that “It is the mission of North Hampton Fire & Rescue to provide a high quality of fire and pre-hospital emergency medical services. These services are provided through a highly trained and adaptable force of personnel who employ modern prevention, education, suppression, rescue and medical practices.”

Chief Cote stated that the number of ALS (Advanced Life Support) calls versus standard EMS (Emergency Medical Services) where paramedics are required account for approximately 20% of their calls, and that he is 100% behind having such a skill level.

Chief Cote stated that having a paramedic program will be a huge commitment both monetarily and the 16 months personnel will spend on training. The cost for the program is an average of \$9,000, not including time coverage for the student. With the current rotation of personnel, approximately 17 shifts during the 16 month program would have to be covered. The cost to the department would be in excess of \$8,000 in overtime.

Chief Cote stated that along with class time, there is approximately 600 hours of clinical time in which each student must spend a specific amount of time performing skills such as in the emergency department, intensive care unit, labor and delivery room, pediatric unit and the operating room to name a few.

Chief Cote recommended personnel attend the Elliott Hospital Program in Manchester. The program is 16 months long and has the requirement of one class a week for the duration of the program. The program also allows individuals to continue to work while going to school.

Chief Cote explained that an order to implement the paramedic program a reasonable compromise between the Local 3211 and the Town of North Hampton to provide a stipend for those individuals willing to become certified as a paramedic for the town. The average increase has been a 5% increase in the individual's current pay. Seniority will not be taken into consideration as the employee should receive the 5% increase above the individual's current pay. New employees being hired as firefighter/paramedic will also be covered as vacancies occur.

The current stipulation of regulating overtime being expended for schooling would have to be lifted. The cost of the program would be tuition in the amount of \$9,200, coverage of shifts \$8,000, which would be spread out over two budget cycles, and supplies in the amount of \$6,000 for a total of \$23,200.

Chair Wollmar asked if there was something contractual that could be done to keep an employee here rather than pay for the training and then have them leave. Chief Cote stated that that would be something that would have to be discussed with the union. Town Administrator Fournier stated that this would also have to be discussed with labor counsel.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that for the past few years, the paramedic program has been a hot topic with the Municipal Budget Committee. He further stated that this item will be a warrant article so that the people of the town understand that this is an additional service that will be provided, and will have a chance to act on it.

6.3 Approval of Financial Warrant Article/Capital Items

Town Administrator Fournier recommended the following warrant articles be included on the 2011 Town Warrant:

- Contribution to Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$150,000 to be funded through taxation;
- Fireworks for Winterfest in the amount of \$3,000 to be funded through taxation;
- Mosquito Control Capital Reserve in the amount of \$70,000 to be funded through taxation;
- Reconstruct Highlander Drive/New Road/Cherry Road in the amount of \$190,000 to be funded through taxation;
- Establish Paramedic Training Program in the amount of \$24,000 to be funded through taxation;
- Fire Truck in the amount of \$339,560 to be withdrawn from Capital Reserve Fund;
- Tennis Nets in the amount of \$2,500 to be withdrawn from Capital Reserve Fund;
- First Year Payment Lease Police Cruiser in the amount of \$11,800 to be withdrawn from Capital Reserve Fund;
- Creation of the Accrued Benefits Buy Back Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,000 to be withdrawn from Fund Balance;
- Contribution to the Healthcare Stabilization Fund in the amount of \$25,000 to be withdrawn from Fund Balance.

The total amount from taxation would be \$437,200, the total amount to be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Funds would be \$353,860, and the total amount to be withdrawn from Fund Balance would be \$45,000.

Chair Wollmar stated that he is very much against the Mosquito Control Capital Reserve fund and would like to see it become a budgeted item so that it could be discussed more at the Deliberative Session. Chair Wollmar feels that putting it into a Capital Reserve Fund gets played down more and brushed to the side.

Selectman Maggiore stated that the Mosquito Control Capital Reserve Fund does get discussed in detail at the Budget Committee level.

Motion by Selectman Maggiore to forward the Warrant Articles to the Municipal Budget Committee. Seconded by Chair Wollmar. Motion carries 3-0.

7. Closing Comments

7.1. Closing Comments by Visitors

Cynthia Swank, Hobbs Road asked that the Select Board recommend to the Highway Department that they hold some sort of public meeting inviting residents of the three roads that are possibly going to be reconstructed and talk about what is done, how long it takes, and also to find out from the residents what particular issues they may have with the road and the part of the road that is in front of their houses.

Richard Bettcher, Lovering Road stated that he is “one step behind” as he has dish television and does not have access to Channel 22. He further stated that he had gone through the “state book” on wages and insurance and noticed that most cities and towns have Harvard Pilgrim, Matthew Thornton and different ones, and wonders if we are locked into a particular insurance company.

Town Administrator Fournier explained to Mr. Bettcher that the town does look into alternatives, but that the majority of the employees are covered under collective bargaining agreements that outline specific plans that they have, and that needs to be negotiated through the collective bargaining units.

Mr. Bettcher further stated that he hoped that the public sector unions realize in this downturned [sic] economy there are many towns and cities that are laying off employees, and that there are 70 houses in North Hampton undergoing foreclosure, and that he hopes that public sector union employees realize that there can't be any raises for quite a while, and that they are lucky to have a job.

7.2. Closing Comments by Select Board Member

8. Adjournment

Chair Wollmar adjourned the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Janet L. Facella
Administrative Assistant**