



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

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REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2011 –7PM  
TOWN HALL

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**1. Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (a) (c) 6:15PM**

**2. Call to order**

3. 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.

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Regular Meeting February 14, 2011

Selectman Maggiore stated that he had a few spelling and grammatical changes, and that he would email them to the recording secretary.

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to accept the regular minutes of the February 14, 2011 meeting with the proposed amendments. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

**5. Consent Calendar**

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to accept the item on the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

**6. Report of the Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Fournier reported to the Select Board that the Municipal Budget Committee will be holding the public hearing on the proposed budget on Monday, March 7 at 7PM in the Town Hall. In addition, petitioned warrant articles are due by close of business on Tuesday March 8.

It has been decided that Deliberative Session and the Town Meeting Voting will be held in the Town Hall. The filing period for Town Officers open on Wednesday, March 23 and close on Friday, April

Governor Lynch presented his proposed budget to the legislature on February 15, 2011, and stated that there would be some significant cuts made across the board and it will affect Cities and Towns. The largest impact that he stated was that he is proposing reducing the State's contribution for Group II (Police and Fire) employees from the current level of 25% to 0%. If this is to pass, it will have a significant impact on the Town's FY12 budget. With the Governor's proposal, the Town will have to make up \$167,000 in the budget or doubling our current proposed increase.

The Governor also indicated that revenue sharing would not return, but the Town will continue to receive Rooms and Meals Tax as well as Highway Block Grants.

## **7. New Business**

### **6.1 Senator Nancy Stiles – State of New Hampshire Issues**

Senator Stiles addressed the Select Board and stated that she would like to answer any questions that the Select Board may have.

Senator Stiles stated that she did have good news and that is the amount of money for school education aid will remain the same as last year and it is not being cut.

Senator Stiles stated that there are several issues that the Senate has been focused on, with the first being the Evergreen Clause and that has been repealed in both the House and Senate; school funding is being worked on with two formulas, one being the Senate version and the House version. The Senate version provides for more stability for a longer period of time as well as predictability on what the Town will be receiving. The other issue being worked on is SB 3 which is the retirement issue. Senator Stiles stated that she had spoken with Senator Bradley on some of the questions she had with the bill as far as part time employees, as well as tightening some of the language to more clearly define the “employer.”

Senator Stiles stated that she did see in the Governor’s budget that \$900,000 for North Hampton, and she is guessing that it is for the restroom facilities at North Hampton Beach.

Senator Stiles stated that both the House and Senate are working very hard not to push the 35% for retirement down onto the local communities.

Chair Wollmar stated that he had recently read that Maine has the “right to work law” and if there is something in the legislature now.

Senator Stiles stated that Senator Will Smith from New Castle has a right to work bill in the House, and it just passed the house with an amendment that clearly states that the union would not have to protect those people who chose not to participate. It doesn’t state that you have to participate in the union but if you chose not to the union does not have to defend you.

Selectman Maggiore stated that he has a huge concern with the retirement system, and that it was interesting to hear the Governor’s speech and to hear that the state is not going to impose any new taxes but that it comes down to the towns’ and where are we going to find \$167,000.

Senator Stiles stated that we can hope that the House and Senate will work to keep it at least at 25% which means there will be huge cuts in other areas. Some adjustments will be made; the calculation will be over a period of five years instead of three, the intent is to change the number of years that you have to work to 25 instead of 20, and the age from 45 to 50. Also in Senator Bradley’s proposal that it would be only for vested members.

Selectman Rineman asked whether or not there were any other revenue sources coming up, such as gaming.

Senator Stiles stated she is co-sponsor on the gaming bill, and the reason she is sponsoring that bill is that she feels gaming is a choice; it is not a tax that is forced on you. You can chose to participate or not participate. As long as the community had the “first bite of the apple” in deciding, whether or not they wanted to host it. Senator Stiles stated one of the reasons she is in favor of gaming is because it is instant tax relief.

Senator Stiles spoke about the Rooms and Meals Tax and how the bill was killed in the Ways and Means Committee, however she plans to take it to the floor again to see if it can be overturned. She further stated that Rockingham County contributes the largest amount (\$67,000,000) to the Rooms and Meals Tax

## 6.2 Assessments for Cotton Farm Lane and Ship Rock Road

Town Administrator Fournier stated that there have been several requests from property owners located on Cotton Farm Lane and Ship Rock Roads. After review of market information, it appears that adjustments are appropriate to bring assessments of properties on these two streets more in-line with the Town’s overall assessment ratio. The two sales on each of these streets in the past year were found to have an overall ratio of 119%, while the Town’s 2010 overall ratio was 105%. There are roughly 23 properties on Ship Rock Road and 17 properties on Cotton Farm Lane. The improved properties are upscale homes in the \$1,000,000 assessment range and both streets are classified as having a site index 9; however there are no street adjustment factors which, based on preliminary review, may be what is appropriate to adjust.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that if an assessment update is to be conducted, the Department of Revenue Administration requires a separate agreement. The estimated cost for MRI to perform this update would be \$2,500. If the Select Board is in agreement an update could be completed prior to May 1, 2011 such that resulting adjustments would be made prior to the first issue of the 2011 tax bills.

Town Administrator Fournier cautioned the Select Board that due to the number of abatements received the Assessing budget is close to being over expended. He further stated that he had asked for additional funds in this account last year due to the number of abatements, but the Budget Committee reduced that line item.

Scott Marsh, Assessor stated that they are looking to adjust those properties to be in line with the rest of the town, because at the time of the revaluation there were no sales on those two streets.

Selectman Maggiore asked if there were any other communities (in the town) that this might be an issue for. Mr. Marsh replied that he has not seen an any evidence to indicate that.

Selectman Maggiore stated that although he is in favor of making sure everyone is assessed equally, he does feel this is going to raise a few issues with folks in town.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that he could assure the Select Board that this is no different than what any other community goes through. Between the five years of when a revaluation is done, there are always neighborhoods that drop in value, and some that go up in value.

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to accept the agreement from MRI for Assessing Services in the amount of \$2,500. Seconded by Selectman Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.**

6.3 Approval of Warrant Articles for Fiscal Year 2011-2012

Town Administrator Fournier stated that the Select Board needed to make their recommendations on the proposed warrant articles. He reminded them that the Select Board has until March 28, 2011 to introduce non-fiscal articles.

The Select Board reviewed the following warrant articles:

➤ Lease Purchase Agreement for Fire Engine

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to recommend the warrant article for the Lease Purchase of a Fire Engine. Seconded by Chair Wollmar. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Contribution to the Health Benefit Stabilization Capital Reserve Fund

**Motion by Selectman Rineman to recommend the warrant article for the Contribution to the Health Benefit Stabilization Capital Reserve Fund of \$20,000. Seconded by Selectman Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund

Selectman Maggiore stated that he wondered if it would be wise to invest \$150,000 into that fund at this time. Chair Wollmar agreed and suggested reducing the total amount.

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to recommend reducing the warrant article for Town Building Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund to the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 2-1.**

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to recommend the warrant article for Town Building Capital Reserve Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Road Reconstruction – Highlander Drive, Cherry Road, New Road

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to recommend the warrant article for Road Reconstruction in the amount of \$190,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman.**

Selectman Maggiore stated that knowing what the Governor has just said, and even though this would be going to the people, with no disrespect to the residents on Highlander, Cherry or New, he didn't think spending \$190,000 and to be funded through taxation is a good idea right now.

**Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Contribution to Mosquito Control Capital Reserve Fund

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to recommend the warrant article for the Contribution to Mosquito Control Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$70,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman.**

Chair Wollmar stated that he is not in favor of this article. Town Administrator Fournier stated that the majority of the mosquito control is larviciding, not spraying from a truck. Chair Wollmar stated that if that was the case than he would be in favor of just the larviciding. He further stated that to compromise he would be in favor of reducing the amount to \$50,000. After much discussion, Chair Wollmar stated that he had changed his mind and would be in favor of \$70,000.

**Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Creation of the Earned Time Settlement Capital Reserve Fund

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to recommend the warrant article for the Creation of the Earned Time Settlement Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Lease Purchase Agreement for One Police Cruiser

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to recommend the warrant article for the Lease Purchase Agreement for One Police Cruiser in the amount of \$11,000. Seconded by Chair Wollmar. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Creation of Paramedic Training Capital Reserve Fund

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to recommend the warrant article for the Creation of a Paramedic Training Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$24,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Creation of Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund

**Motion by Selectman Maggiore to recommend the warrant article for the Creation of a Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,000. Seconded by Selectman Rineman. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Replace Tennis Nets at Dearborn Park

**Motion by Chair Wollmar to recommend the warrant article to Replace Tennis Nets at Dearborn Park in the amount of \$2,500. Seconded by Selectman Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.**

➤ Winterfest Fire Works

**Motion by Selectman Rineman to recommend the warrant article for Winterfest Fire Works in the amount of \$3,000. Seconded by Selectman Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.**

#### 6.4 Discussion of FY12 Budget

Town Administrator Fournier updated the Select Board on past meetings with the Budget Committee, and the potential for a \$167,000 shortfall in the proposed budget. He further explained the role of the

Budget Committee is to recommend a bottom line and it is the Select Board who makes the determination of where cuts would come from should they need to do that.

Selectman Rineman stated that he has enjoyed working with the Budget Committee and that they are working hard on doing what is right for the citizens of the Town.

**8. Closing Comments**

8.1. Closing Comments by Visitors

8.2. Closing Comments by Select Board Member

**9. Adjournment**

**Chair Wollmar adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Janet L. Facella  
Administrative Assistant**