



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 13, 2011 –7PM
TOWN HALL

These minutes were prepared as a reasonable summary of the essential content of this meeting, not as a transcription.

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

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

2. Call to order

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

Chair Maggiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Consent Calendar

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the consent calendar as presented. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Chair Maggiore stated that if the Select Board had no objections, he would like to move the approval of the meeting minutes down to the end of the new business. There were no objections from Selectman Wilson or Selectman Miller.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 4.1 Regular Meeting of May 23, 2011
- 4.2 Special Meeting of May 27, 2011
- 4.3 Special Meeting of June 3, 2011
- 4.4 Special Meeting of June 6, 2011
- 4.5 Special Meeting of June 7, 2011
- 4.6 Special Meeting of June 8, 2011

After agenda item 6.- New Business concluded, a **Motion was made by Selectman Wilson to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.**

5. Report of the Town Administrator

Town Administrator Steve Fournier welcomed Selectman Miller to the Board. He further stated that he would like to set up a goal setting session as well as a orientation workshop.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that he had looked into a program offered by the UNH Cooperative Extension called, "Community Profiles." The program helps communities develop a vision for the future and helps communities build citizen involvement, community consensus and community spirit.

The Department of Public Works will begin to work with a contractor to install the new septic system for the Municipal Complex. Town Offices will be closed to the public as they need to dig up and install the tanks right in front of the entrance to the administrative offices.

There are a number of bills going through Concord affecting education funding that may eliminate donor towns.

The House and Senate Committee passed a retirement system reform that will hopefully begin to address the underfunding of the state retirement system. Starting July 1, all Group I employee contributions are rising from 5% to 7%. Group II employee contributions will increase from 9.3% to 11.55% for police and from 9.3% to 11.8% for fire fighters.

The North Hampton Fire & Rescue Department was awarded an "Assistance to Fire Fighter" grant from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) in the amount of \$84,731. The monies from the grant will be used to replace the 20-year-old large diameter hose on its trucks and equip several of the trucks with headphones to help protect the hearing of the fire fighters. The funds will also send at least two emergency medical technicians to paramedic school. A public hearing will need to be held in the future in order to accept the funds.

6. New Business

6.1 Presentation by Chris Ganotis

Chris Ganotis presented Shirley Carter with an engraved mantel clock to thank her for many years of contributions and public service to the town. Mr. Ganotis gave a brief history of Mrs. Carter's many accomplishments throughout the years, stating that she had been a resident of the town for over 65 years, and has served the town for almost a half century.

6.2 Blasting Permits

Selectman Wilson stated that Jerome Day and his spouse Jane Currivan, had spoken with him last week regarding an issue in which they had subdivided a back lot from their property, and the contractors for the new owner had sited the house on a piece of land that needed to be blasted. Mr. Day was concerned that the abutters were not given enough prior notice before the blasting was to occur, and they had not been given an opportunity to speak about their concerns.

Chair Maggiore read a letter from Town Attorney Matthew Serge from the law offices of Upton & Hatfield, regarding the ability of an abutter to appeal the issuance of a State blasting license to a local board.

Chief Dennis Cote stated to the Select Board that under the New Hampshire fire laws the State Police control the licensing procedure, transportation, sales, storage and the movement of explosives.

Selectman Wilson stated that he felt the Planning Board could adopt a standard condition of approval for subdivisions that states the developer shall submit an affidavit saying that in the event that blasting is required for the development of the subdivision, or of any property, that there will be a public hearing held by the Planning Board before a blasting permit is issued. He further stated that the Town Attorney would have to look into if the town would have legal authority to do this.

Jerome Day stated to the Select Board that the problem is, as he sees it, an insufficient articulation between the process of granting a building permit and granting a blasting permit. Mr. Day stated that he felt the information listed on the building permit that was issued is invalid and therefore a blasting permit should not be valid. He further stated that he felt there needed to be greater involvement of the abutters who are going to be potentially affected in a major way by the blasting, and that there needs to be a more robust procedure. Mr. Day stated that

he would like to have the building permit rescinded due to the fact that it is not valid, and that before a new permit is issued some of the issues need to be thought through and new procedures worked out.

Selectman Wilson stated that Mr. Day could file for an appeal with the Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Mr. Day stated that he is in the process of filling out the application.

6.3 Addition of Matthew Thornton Blue Health Plan and Health Care Buyouts

Town Administrator Fournier briefed the Select Board on a proposal to offer a Matthew Thornton HMO plan in addition to the POS Blue Cross Blue Shield plans. The Town has been attempting to control rising healthcare costs for a number of years, and in reviewing Matthew Thornton it was determined to be less expensive for both the town and the employee.

Those employees who elect not to utilize any health and dental benefits shall not be eligible for those benefits again unless ample notice to re-budget the cost of coverage for the next fiscal is given to a Department Head in writing by September 15 of the current fiscal year in order to be reinstated in health and dental coverage beginning July 1 of the next fiscal year.

Town Administrator Fournier explained that the town will also need to hire a firm to administer the Healthcare Reimbursement Account. Proposals were received from HR Concepts and Benefit Strategies. Town Administrator Fournier recommended that the town hire HR Concepts.

Chair Maggiore wanted to be clear that this additional plan is being offered, not forced on non union employees, and that it is also being offered to union employees. He also stated that health insurance is a priority topic for the current Select Board, and that they would continue to look at other plans that would be both beneficial to the town as well as the employee.

Selectman Wilson stated that he had read the proposals from HR Concepts and Benefit Strategies and that there is a slight cost difference, but there seems to be very little difference between the two plans.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to amend the Town Personnel Policy, Section 4.09 Medical Benefit Plan to include the offering of the Matthew Thornton Blue HMO plan as presented, and to authorize the Select Board Chair to enter into an agreement with the NH Local Government Center to offer said plan, and to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into an agreement with HR Concepts of Manchester to administer the Health Reimbursement Account for the employees' deductibles. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

6.4 Parking Ordinance Review – Chief Brian Page

Chief Page stated that changing of any type of ordinances of this type has to go through three public hearings. Chief Page stated that because this meeting was properly posted, it could be considered the first of the three public hearings.

Chief Page stated that he had one change to the information that he had given to the Select Board, and that is to add the state statute ordinance 231:114, which is a state statute that gives the town the authority to create parking ordinances for parking meters, municipal lots and other types of parking lots.

Chief Page stated that one of the changes he is recommending is to increase the parking fine to read “up to \$100.” Chief Page explained that he had added an “up to” amount so that if the Select Board wanted to raise the fine next year, it could be done without the need to re-write the ordinance. He further stated that with the Select Board’s approval of the ordinance the initial increase will be a fine of \$50.

Chief Page stated that handicapped parking is not included in the ordinance as the town follows the state statute.

Selectman Miller stated that he felt handicapped parking should be included in the town ordinance.

Chair Maggiore stated that he would like to see the fine for illegally parked vehicles at the beach increased to at least \$250 to make it a deterrent.

Chief Page stated that illegally parked vehicles are not allowed to sit there all day. The Chief further stated that once a ticket has been issued, and if the vehicle is still there when they come back by, it will be towed.

Chair Maggiore opened the public hearing at 8:48 PM. There were no comments from the audience so Chair Maggiore closed the public hearing at 8:49 PM.

7. Closing Comments

7.1. Closing Comments by Visitors

7.2. Closing Comments by Select Board Member

8. Adjournment

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella
Administrative Assistant