



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**SELECT BOARD  
DRAFT MINUTES**

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REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2011 –7PM  
TOWN HALL

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*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 (d) 6:30 PM**

**Motion by Selectman Miller to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session. Seconded by Selectman Wilson. Motion carries 3-0.**

**2. Call to order**

Chair Maggiore called the public session of the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Those in attendance were Selectman Wilson, Selectman Miller and Town Administrator Fournier.

Chair Maggiore led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

3.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2011

**Motion by Selectman Wilson to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.**

**4. Consent Calendar**

**Motion by Selectman Wilson to remove the request for an abatement on Map 005, Lot 002 from the Consent Calendar. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.**

**Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the Consent Calendar as amended. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.**

**5. Communications to the Select Board**

*No Items*

**6. Report of the Town Administrator**

Town Administrator Fournier stated that the preliminary tax rate will be \$16.11 per one thousand dollars of property valuation. He further stated that some of the reasons for the increase of \$1.13 are because in 2010 the town needed to raise \$14,890,007 for the town, school and county for the total commitment. This year the town

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needed to raise \$16,186,232. An increase in the town's commitment of \$588,898, the school's commitment of \$215,204 and the county's commitment of \$17,911.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that there are a number of factors that go into the tax rate. There were capital items that were approved, as well as a slight increase in the operating budget. The larger impact was due to the amount of funds taken from fund balance to offset increases. Last year the town used a total of \$652,000 from fund balance to reduce taxes. This amount was a combination of warrant articles and money used to offset the tax rate. This year \$40,000 was voted to come from surplus.

Town Administrator Fournier stated that at the end of October, 38% of the budget had been expended. The FY2013 Operating Budget should be completed for the next Select Board meeting. The Municipal Budget Committee has indicated that they would like to see a budget increase limited to 1.5% over the previous year. This would allow an increase of \$83,769 over FY2012. Two budgets will be presented to the Select Board; one with the Department's request, and the second with the cuts necessary to reach the 1.5% increase.

The State, the Towns of North Hampton, Hampton, and Rye are continuing to meet and discuss hooking up the State beach to the sewer line that runs through North Hampton. The State has had to shut down the bathrooms at the beach on numerous occasions due to the size of the septic system. As of now, the towns are in agreement on the principle of having this done. The Town of Hampton will need to place the item on their 2012 Town Warrant for approval, while the Rye Sewer Commission believes that they have the authority to do so without town approval. The State would like to begin construction of the hook up as soon as possible so they are able to use it for this coming summer season. In addition, money has been approved to tear down and reconstruct a new beach house for the 2013 season, which will add more facilities and improve the appearance greatly.

The State will be holding a public hearing on the actual hook up, and the impact on the Hampton sewer system. A second meeting will be held later in January.

The Secretary of State announced that the State Presidential Primary will be held on January 10, 2012. We are planning to have it at the Town Hall.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Appointment of Tom McManus as Representative to the Southeast Regional Disposal District – 53-B**

Tom McManus thanked the Select Board for the opportunity to serve the town as a representative to the Southeast Regional Disposal District, and encouraged town residents to contact him with any concern regarding refuse removal.

**Motion by Selectman Wilson to appoint Tom McManus as representative to the Southeast Regional Disposal District 53-B. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.**

### **7.2 Discussion of Repairs to Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Building – John Hubbard**

John Hubbard stated to the Select Board that there are many repairs needed in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's building that need to be addressed. Some of the items include:

- handicap accessibility/ADA compliance
- expansion of existing rear addition
- removal of all existing heating/cooling systems
- installation of a new high efficiency propane/natural gas fired FHA heating and integrated cooling system
- reroof entire back section from the ridgeline of the existing original building
- refinish or replace flooring in the entire building

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Mr. Hubbard stated that the project estimate is \$110,000.

Chair Maggiore asked Mr. Hubbard to keep the Select Board updated on this issue.

### 7.3 Update of Assessing Quarterly Review– Joseph Lessard

Mr. Lessard stated that a prior Select Board had adopted the policy of having quarterly reviews done during the period in between revaluations. He further stated that the last time there was a full measure and list completed was in 1997 and 1998.

Mr. Lessard stated that the assessors are currently working on quarterly reviews of the west side of Route 1. He further stated there have been between 85 and 100 sales per year from 1997 through 2011, with 50 to 70 of those considered valid sales.

Mr. Lessard reviewed an analysis that they conducted in an effort to aid the Select Board in deciding whether a full measure and list is needed during the next revaluation. The Select Board reviewed a spreadsheet, which reviewed the number of properties that were reviewed on the interior as well as the exterior, the net total assessment change in dollars, the net individual average change in assessment by percentage, the net individual median assessment change in dollars and the net individual median change by percentage.

### **Closing Comments**

#### 7.1. Closing Comments by Visitors

#### 7.2. Closing Comments by Select Board Member

Selectman Wilson stated that the decision about the tax rate was a very difficult one. He further stated that it is very unfortunate that the Select Board is in a position where they have to raise the tax rate by \$1.13, and if there had been any prudent way to avoid doing it they would have.

Selectman Miller stated that the Select Board made a decision to not decrease the tax rate. He further stated that had they had monies left over from previous Select Boards, they might have done that; they also might not have done that. The forecast for the future says to be prudent and careful. He further stated that he felt that what the Select Board did was what had to be done, and it happened to be the only choice they had.

Selectman Wilson said that in dealing with the tax rate issue they discussed the principles under which they thought money should be taken from the undesignated fund balance to buy down the tax rate. The Select Board's sense was that it is not prudent to buy down the tax rate just to artificially lower the tax rate unless you see a onetime "blip" that you can control. He further stated that this does not make for prudent management.

Chair Maggiore stated that as has been the case many times on this Select Board, when a subject comes up, it opens up Pandora's Box, and they see avenues for improvement. He further stated that it is important for the town to have a "rainy day fund", and need to do what is best for the town. He further stated that he knows that this Select Board will continue to do what is best.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella

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Administrative Assistant

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