



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING –NOVEMBER 13, 2012 –7PM
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

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

1. Call to Order

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

Chair Maggiore invited all of those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Maggiore stated that if there were no objections from the Select Board, he would like to take up Item 6.1 first so that Mr. Ganotis could return to Conservation Commission meeting currently in recess.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1 Select Board Minutes of October 22, 2012

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

2.2 Select Board Minutes of October 30, 2012

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

3. Consent Calendar

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

4. Communications to the Select Board

4.1 Legal Notice from Rye Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Select Board discussed which item on the Legal Notice from the Rye Zoning Board of Adjustment pertained to the Town of North Hampton, and all agreed that item number 4 on their agenda for property located at 355 Lafayette Road owned by Sanctuary Care LLC, was property that abutted the Town of North Hampton, thus the reason for receiving a notice from the Town of Rye.

Chair Maggiore stated that he would follow up with a phone call to Shawn Crapo, the clerk for the Rye Zoning Board of Adjustment.

4.2 Communication from Comcast

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Chair Maggiore read a letter received from Comcast explaining new Spanish channel selections that will be offered.

4.3 Communication from McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton

Chair Maggiore explained the communication received from the law firm of McLane, Graf, Raulerson and Middleton was notification on behalf of Aquarion Water Company of New Hampshire regarding the water rate hike.

Selectman Wilson stated that the Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment (WICA) filing allows for Aquarion to incorporate the value of their improvements into their asset base. The rate structure is based on a return of their assets, which will then allow for an increase in their rates by the amount of the return on assets that the Public Utility Commission approves for them.

4.4 Communication from Regional Economic Development Center

Selectman Wilson explained the REDC process, and stated perhaps this would be something that could be looked into when a new Town Administrator is on board, as the town does not have an Economic Development Director or an Economic Development program.

5. **Report of the Town Administrator**

A meeting has been scheduled for December 5, 2012 at the Concord office of the Department of Labor to review North Hampton's case, and to provide an opportunity to discuss the \$500 fine preliminarily assessed against the Town for non-compliance with Department of Labor regulations.

The Budget Committee is meeting with town staff on November 28, 2012 to review department budgets. As a result of the November 7 meeting, there were several questions and requests for information made by the Budget Committee.

The Town received three proposals to complete the statistical update, which will be completed during the summer of 2013 with revised values used to set the 2013 tax rate. Proposals ranged from \$37,500 to \$48,600, and staff from Municipal Resources are reviewing the submissions. It is anticipated that there will be a recommendation to the Select Board to interview one or two of the firms prior to making a selection. This work will be funded from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund, which contains a balance in excess of \$80,000. Legal counsel is researching whether the fund can be used to allow the surplus to offset costs associated with the appeal process.

The FY12 audit is nearing completion, and the town's auditing firm, Melanson & Heath, would like to make a presentation to the Select Board at their next meeting.

The Department of Revenue Administration has set the Town's 2012 tax rate at \$16.05, a reduction of six cents from the 2011 rate of \$16.11. The town portion of the tax rate increased 1% from \$4.80 to \$4.85, and the Rockingham County assessment increased 2.9% from \$1.03 to \$1.06. The total tax effort for education dropped \$0.14 from \$10.28 to \$10.14; the local school rate is \$7.74 a 2.4% reduction compared to the 2011 rate of \$7.93 and the state school rate increased \$0.05 (2.1%) to \$2.40. The precinct rate for Little Boar's Head increased from \$0.11 to \$0.12.

The Select Board discussed inserting a memorandum in with the property tax bill that explains the tax rate and how the tax rate was arrived at. Selectman Miller stated that there are residents that open their tax bill, and do not understand what they are paying for.

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Selectman Wilson suggested that although it was too late for this tax bill, maybe information could be written in the next town newsletter.

Chair Maggiore thanked all of those who worked at the election, stating that a record number of North Hampton voters participated, including more than 288 new registered voters.

Interim Town Administrator Caron stated that Chief Cote had met before the Select Board at a prior meeting to announce that he had received a grant from Homeland Security in the amount of \$1,425 for pagers. He further stated that he had the grant documents that needed to be signed, and the Select Board could either sign them or vote to allow the Interim Town Administrator to sign the documents on their behalf.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,425 from the State of New Hampshire Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the purchase of six pagers for the North Hampton Fire Department, and to authorize David R. Caron, Interim Town Administrator to sign all grant documents on behalf of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

6. New Business

6.1 Public Hearing on Proposed Conservation Commission DES Watershed Assistance Grant

Chair Maggiore opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM.

Chris Ganotis, Chair of the Conservation Commission, stated that the Department of Environmental Services put out a request for proposals for watershed assistance grants for the years 2013 through 2015, with the grants going to impaired waterways and water resources protection. Proposals are due on November 21, 2012, with grants implemented from June 2013 through December 31, 2015.

The preliminary plan is to apply for the grant in the range of approximately \$100,000 based on discussions held with the DES and F.B. Environmental. A 40 percent funding match is required by the town. The match can be from cash, in-kind services or a combination of the two.

Mr. Ganotis stated that depending on discussions and a subsequent vote held at this evenings Conservation Commission meeting, there may also be a cash match of \$10,000 from the Conservation Commission Capital Reserve Fund as needed, and if needed.

Mr. Ganotis stated he needed the approval of the Select Board to proceed with the grant application.

Selectman Miller asked Mr. Ganotis how long the project would take.

Mr. Ganotis stated that the project could take up to two years.

Chair Maggiore closed the Public Hearing at 7:11 PM.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to proceed with the grant proposal as proposed by Mr. Ganotis in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

6.2 Petition to Temporarily Disregard No Parking Signs on Appledore Avenue – Phyllis Houghton

Chair Maggiore read the petition into the record as follows:

“Dear Neighbors, As you probably know, Houghton Builders is in the process of renovating at the home of Richard Clark and Thomas Murphy at 1 Appledore Avenue. Due to the construction project it has become necessary for construction vehicles to park on Appledore Avenue directly in front and across from the construction site where “No Parking” signs are posted. We are requesting your consent to park

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construction vehicles between the side lot lines of 1 Appledore Avenue and directly across the street therefrom [sic]. With your signature on this petition, we hope to obtain permission from the town to temporarily disregard the “No Parking” signs in that area.”

Selectman Wilson stated it was not simply a matter of 80 or 90 percent of the people who live in the Fifield Island subdivision agreeing with the petition, it also involves public safety issues. He further stated that he realizes that the general feeling about the “No Parking” signs is that they are to prevent overflow parking from the beach lots in the summer, but does not know how many tradesmen and their vehicles are anticipated for this project.

Selectman Wilson stated that he had asked the Building Inspector for information regarding this project and based upon what the Select Board received, it appears to be a rather small project, but that begs the question if it is a small project, why can't the tradesmen park somewhere where they are allowed to park.

Ron Houghton, owner of Houghton Builders stated that there are “No Parking” signs directly in front of the homeowner's house, and they cannot legally park in front of the house. He further stated that most of the tradesmen work directly from their trucks, and there is no way that they can walk back and forth to their trucks all day.

Mr. Houghton stated that there are usually not more than six or seven vehicles parked at the site between the hours of 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM. He stated that he lives on Appledore Avenue himself, and is extremely sensitive to the traffic as well as emergency apparatus needing to get through.

Chair Maggiore asked Mr. Houghton if the “No Parking” signs were placed all of the way around the circle on Appledore, and Mr. Houghton stated that they were not.

Vincent Carbone, 3 Appledore Avenue stated his opposition to the petition indicating that there were traffic and safety hazards, issues with snow removal, and the ability to maneuver through if there are vehicles parked on both sides of the road.

Mr. Carbone stated that there is something fundamentally wrong with the petition, and it starts with the town because there is not an ordinance that deals with construction parking. He further stated that he felt the town was “putting the cart before the horse” by going to the building department with a set of plans, and without logistics, operation hours or parking plans.

Mr. Carbone stated that a simple solution for Houghton Builders would be to park in the legal parking spots that are located 30 to 60 seconds away from the job site. He further stated that the only “fix” he can see for the town is to deny the petition.

Selectman Miller stated that he would like to ask the Police Chief what his professional opinion was in this matter.

Chief Page stated that a prior Select Board had allowed for signs to be “bagged” temporarily for between 30 and 60 days so that a construction crew could complete their job. He further stated that he had approved the job along with John Hubbard due to the fact that it was not during the summer season.

Chief Page stated that he does have concerns with parking on both sides of the road, particularly after a snow event when plow trucks need to get through to push back the snow. The Chief stated that if only one side of the road was bagged he felt an emergency vehicle could get through.

Selectman Miller asked Chief Page if only the petitioner's side of the road was “bagged” would the road be wide enough to get emergency vehicles through.

Chief Page stated that it would be wide enough, however it will still cause additional work for the police department if there is a snowstorm, as they will have to ask the contractors to move their vehicles to allow for snow removal.

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Selectman Wilson stated that his inclination is to deny the petition. He further stated that he felt the combination of general public interest, snow plowing, and public safety issues, he agreed with Mr. Carbone's statements. Selectman Wilson stated that with a little planning the trades people can manage this without great inconvenience.

Chair Maggiore stated that he is concerned with setting precedence as he has been soundly criticized for creating inconsistencies, and is therefore sensitive to the issue.

Motion by Selectman Miller to approve the petition. No second. Motion fails.

6.3 Authorization to Allow the American Lung Association to use North Hampton Town Common

Chair Maggiore stated that the American Lung Association is requesting to use the Town Common on May 5, 2013 as a rest stop for their fourth annual Cycle the Seacoast.

Chair Miller asked how many portable toilets they planned to have delivered.

Chair Maggiore stated that he did not know, but that they could contact the applicant for an answer.

Selectman Miller asked Chief Page if there have ever been any problems with this event in the past.

Chief Page stated that there had not been any problems, and that he felt this event wouldn't be much different than having a band concert there.

Selectman Miller suggested that the Select Board ask the American Lung Association to provide for a Special Detail Officer for traffic control.

Selectman Wilson stated that he did not think that the Town Common was an optimal place to have bicyclists and supporters congregating, as it is an extremely dangerous intersection in town.

Selectman Wilson asked if it is appropriate for the town to have its property used in support of these types of purposes. He further questioned whether anyone knew how much money was raised for this event and what percentage of the money raised was used to support the charitable enterprise.

Chair Maggiore stated that it would be helpful to have the American Lung Association come to a Select Board meeting to answer questions that they have. He further stated that it was what LOCO Sports did when they wanted to hold their marathon road race in North Hampton.

Selectman Wilson stated that he would like to see a route map showing what route the cyclists would be taking through the town, and if there would be any possible public safety hazards.

Chair Maggiore stated that he would contact Christina O'Grady at the American Lung Association and ask her to provide more information to the Select Board before they can render their decision.

Chair Maggiore stated that the Heritage Commission has asked if the Select Board will adopt as a policy that would include the North Hampton Heritage Commission in the review of any proposal to renovate historic town owned buildings or development plans for town owned buildings and sites, with the definition of Historic as being at least 50 years old.

Selectman Miller stated he could see no reason why any Select Board would not take their advice under consideration.

Selectman Wilson suggested including the words "consulted in an advisory capacity" to a policy.

The Select Board set their next meeting date for December 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

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Chair Maggiore stated that Select Board received more than 60 resumes for the Town Administrator position. The Select Board appointed a Sub Committee comprised of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Public Works Director and Chairmen of the Budget Committee, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Resumes were reviewed by all, and candidates met with the Sub Committee and the Select Board. Candidates have been asked for a second interview and will make a presentation to the Select Board and the Sub Committee. The Select Board hopes to announce their decision sometime in January or February.

Selectman Wilson stated the Select Board has learned by including the Sub Committee in the interview process that it has been very beneficial, and as a result the Select Board will have more confidence that the individual that is offered the job will be not only amongst the best of the 60 or so resumes received, but also because others have been involved with selecting that candidate, they will be more committed to supporting the candidate.

Motion by Selectman Miller to suspend the rules to end the Select Board meeting at 9:00 PM. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.

7. Closing Comments

7.1. Closing Comments by Visitors

Richard Stanton, stated he would like to make two comments. He suggested that the Select Board liaison with the North Hampton Business Association regarding an economic development grant as they might have some suggestions on development.

Mr. Stanton stated that he was at the meeting as a “courtesy call” to let the Select Board know that a group is putting together a citizen’s petition to change from a three member Select Board to a five member Select Board.

Vincent Carbone stated that he has adopted a two mile stretch of Route 1A and picks up the trash on a daily basis. He stated he would like to meet with the Select Board at a later date to see what can be done to have the State of New Hampshire Parks and Recreation Department due their part in keeping the North Hampton State Beach clean.

Chair Maggiore suggested Mr. Carbone send a letter with his concerns to the Town Administrator for the Select Board to review.

7.2. Closing Comments by Select Board Member

Selectman Miller stated that he was proud to be a part of Election Day, to see 80% of the towns registered voters turn out, and have everything run so smoothly.

Selectman Wilson stated that everyone involved did a great job.

8. Adjournment

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella

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