



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD

APPROVED MINUTES MAY 6, 2013 –7PM

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 (e) 6:15 PM– Executive Conference Room

2. Call to Order

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

Chair Maggiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (e). Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Select Board Minutes of April 22, 2013

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the April 22, 2013 minutes as emended by the Recording Secretary. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

4. Consent Calendar

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

5. Communications to the Select Board

5.1 Correspondence from NH Division of Historical Resources

The Select Board received a letter informing them the North Hampton Town Hall was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on February 13, 2013.

Chair Maggiore reminded those in attendance that “Town Hall Day” will be held on May 18, 2013 at 12:00 PM.

5.2 Correspondence from Paul Stinson

Mr. Stinson wrote to the Select Board requesting they waive the \$18.50 lien on his 2012 property taxes.
No votes or action taken.

5.3 Correspondence from Comcast

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Effective July 1, 2013, Comcast will be adjusting the cost of video services, equipment and installation fees.

5.4 Correspondence from State of NH Department of Revenue Administration

The Select Board received letters from the Department of Revenue Administration regarding their monitoring of cyclical inspections for 2010 and 2011, as well as correspondence regarding the sales assessment weighted mean ratios for the Town of North Hampton.

5.5 Correspondence from State of NH Department of Revenue Administration

5.6 Correspondence from State of NH Department of Revenue Administration

6. **Report of the Town Administrator**

Finances	Personnel	Facilities
Committee Nominations	Personnel Plan	Joint Loss Safety Plan
Technology Inventory	Merit Pool Policy	Earned Time Policy
Statistical Update	Finance Policies	Junkyard Closures/New Problems
Municipal Facilities Update	Hampton Rod and Gun Club	Pay Grades for Non-Organized Employees
Status of DOL Citation	Reconstruction Town Clerk Building	Storm Water Regulations

Town Administrator Apple reviewed the status of items on the “To Do” list noting that a large amount of them have been completed.

Town Administrator Apple reported that the operating budget continue to make progress and is now over by 1.5% which is down from the 3% to 4% and approaching 5% when the budget review process was started, in part due to the hard work of department heads.

Overtime is showing a bit of “creep” this week in the fire department, however Town Administrator Apple has been assured that it was a onetime event. Careful monitoring of this account will continue.

The Town of North Hampton has been accepted by Plan New Hampshire to manage the charette for master planning and other ideas about the town campus. A tentative date of June 7 and June 8 has been set. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their ideas and concerns they may have.

7. **New Business**

7.1 NH Department of Transportation – Construction of Route 111 Bridge – David Smith

David Smith from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation presented a power point overview of the improvements that will be made to the Route 111 bridge over I-95. The bridge was built in 1975, and during a bridge assessment it was noted that repairs and rehabilitation need to be done.

Repairs to the bridge will be done in a three phase, sequence manner. Plans were shown depicting the phases of repairs with alternating one way traffic with a signal control.

Mr. Smith stated that the project is completely funded through the state and no funds are required from the Town of North Hampton.

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Mr. Smith stated that he would need the Select Board to execute the Municipal Work Zone Agreement for the project. The project is estimated to take four months to complete and will commence sometime in the Spring of 2014.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the Municipal Work Zone Agreement for North Hampton State Project #15848. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

7.2 Acceptance of Granted Portable Radios- Round II - Deputy Chief Maddocks

Deputy Chief Maddocks stated that in May of 2012 Chief Page was asked by the Commissioner of Safety to sit on a committee to test and make a final recommendation on the model and brand of portable radio that would be purchased for local police departments throughout the state.

The police department has already received six of the portable radios in Round One of the State Grants Management Unit, and this is authorization to receive the final one APX-7000 portable radio, valued at \$3,760.50.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to accept the one (1) APX-7000 portable radio, that is valued at \$3,760.50 for the use of the police department, and direct the Chief of Police to ensure they are properly programmed prior to June 1, 2013 and for the Chief to request reimbursement from the Grants Management Unit for the programming no later than June 15, 2013. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

7.3 Appointment of Deputy Treasurer

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the nomination of Marcia Gagnon as Deputy Treasurer with a term to expire in March of 2014. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

7.4 Appointments to the Economic Development Committee

Town Administrator Apple stated that there were two applicants for the at large positions, and the Select Board would need to decide whether to appoint one of the two, or if they wished to expand the number of positions on the committee.

Motion by Selectman Wilson to change the charge of the Economic Development Committee to include two (2) at large members. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

Motion by Chair Maggiore to appoint Dr. Joseph Arena as the Planning Board representative, Gary Stevens as the North Hampton Business Association representative, Janet Atkins as an at large representative and Robert Schoenberger as an at large representative with terms to expire in March of 2014. Seconded by Selectman Wilson. Motion carries 2-0.

7.5 Appointments to the Agriculture Commission

Motion by Selectman Wilson to approve the reappointment of Dick Wollmar for a term to expire in March 2014, Dieter Ebert to expire in March 2014 and Cindy Jenkins for a term to expire in March 2015. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

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7.6 Notice of Impending Tax Deeds on 2010 Property Taxes

Motion by Selectman Wilson to waive deeding the properties on the Tax Collector's 2010 Tax Warrant except the following: Map 008, Lot 140 and Map 007, Lot 122. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 2-0.

Selectman Wilson stated that as a matter of policy, the Select Board has decided that they will waive the deeding of mobile homes because the liability the town accepts in doing that far outweighs the value of the taxes in question.

Selectman Wilson stated two properties were exempted from a deed waiver because they are properties that have some value on which taxes are in arrears, and therefore is the responsible action of the town to take the steps to either ensure that the owners come in very quickly and pay the taxes before the deeding actually happens, or the town actually gets that asset to offset the taxes in arrears.

Town Administrator Apple stated that for anyone that owes property taxes on a mobile home, and the fact that the deed has been waived, does not mean that the town will not be pursuing tax payers who owe back taxes. He further stated that he did not want to give the impression that because deeding is not going to happen that taxpayers that owe back taxes are in the clear. Town Administrator Apple stated that he and the Tax Collector are working on several different fronts to pursue that money, up to and including small claims cases brought against taxpayers that will result in a judgment and a motion for periodic payments from the court. He further encouraged taxpayers to see him in regards to working out a payment arrangement.

7.7 Local Government Center – George Bald

George Bald, Interim Executive Director of the Local Government Center thanked the Select Board for inviting him to speak, and provided the board with his background in municipal government.

Mr. Bald stated he believed there were a number of mistakes made in the operation of the Local Government Center, and hoped to get back on track doing the best to provide an excellent service that is cost efficient while also providing the communities with excellent service.

Mr. Bald stated it is his hope to resolve some of the issues with the interveners, and to be in a position to make the 2010 payment. He further stated there is no exact date for when a check will be issued, but can guarantee it will be no later than September 1.

Mr. Bald stated that he did not have an answer as to when the 2011 payment would be made, and the 2012 figures are in the process of an audit which is expected to be completed by late June.

Mr. Bald stated that he has made a recommendation to reorganize the way things currently stand at the Local Government Center. Organizations will be moving from an LLC to a "292" or Nonprofit organization. Each organization within the Local Government Center will have its own distinct board selected by the members. A date of July 1 has been given as an effective date for these changes. He further stated he felt these changes would enable the Local Government Center to do a much better job with transparency and focusing on its members.

Selectman Wilson asked Mr. Bald who would nominate board members for candidates, and did not hear Mr. Bald indicate that any member of that board would be particularly knowledgeable about issues of either property liability or health insurance. He further stated that he felt the circumstances that got the Local Government Center into the "mess" Mr. Bald inherited is the fact there were no real experts on the board that knew anything about insurance. Selectman Wilson asked if there would be any seats held on the board by anyone that knows about the business.

Mr. Bald stated that this issue has come up at a variety of public meetings and it was agreed that there is a need to have someone with experience on the board and to have this accomplished by July 1. He further stated the

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hope is to have the members rewrite their bylaws at their annual meeting in September to put that issue into effect.

Mr. Bald stated that he did not have an answer as to who would be nominating board members and he would get back to the Select Board with an answer.

Selectman Wilson asked Mr. Bald if there were any current members that could explain how RBC (Risk-Based Capital) is calculated, what it means, and the difference between calculating the RBC at 3% and 3.75%.

Mr. Bald stated that there are members on the board that may not be as skilled as someone who has been doing this type of work for a long time, but he would argue that the board of the HealthTrust today is more cognizant than perhaps it was four or five years ago.

Selectman Wilson stated that he would like the Local Government Center to send the Select Board a detailed description of how the amount that is going to be refunded is calculated.

Mr. Bald wanted the Select Board to understand that some communities have chosen to have a premium holiday versus a check, and he wanted to assure the Select Board that if they wanted to have a check that is what they would be given.

Mr. Bald stated that the Local Government Center is in the process of hiring a new auditing firm in order to have a "new set of eyes" look at how and what they are doing.

Selectman Wilson and Mr. Bald discussed what type of skill sets would be looked at when hiring the next executive director of the Local Government Center. Mr. Bald stated that there were mistakes made, but the hope is to get everything back on track, do the right thing, and have a lot of transparency.

Mr. Bald stated the last thing to talk about would be refunding the \$17 million. He stated there is not \$17 million sitting in an account, and he has been in discussions with banks and other lending institutions about ways to put this together. Mr. Bald is convinced there will be a method in place well before December 1 to make sure the Local Government Center meets the order.

Mr. Bald stated that the Property Liability Trust is not an organization that has a lot of collateral. He further stated there has been some confusion because the Local Government Center has put \$14 million in an escrow account with the Department of Labor. This amount of money is not surplus; it is an amount that is reserved for claims. He stated that even if that amount was not in an escrow account with the Department of Labor, it would still be reserved to pay claims; it cannot be used for collateral.

Selectman Wilson stated that he could not see any lending institutions lending the Local Government Center \$17 million to pay off debt that was essentially accrued for lack of collecting adequate premiums to pay claims.

Mr. Bald stated that he remains optimistic and feels that a solution will be found to pay and there are still steps that need to be evaluated.

Mr. Bald stated that before he would ever take any step in that direction things need to be evaluated first, and that would be an astronomical number for this select group of municipalities to raise.

8. Closing Comments

8.1 Closing Comments by Visitors

8.2 Closing Comments by Select Board Member

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Selectman Wilson and Chair Maggiore thanked Mr. Bald for his willingness to come to a Select Board meeting and to show transparency.

Chair Maggiore thanked Town Administrator Apple for his commendable job in helping the Select Board keep to their goals.

9. Adjournment

Chair Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.

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