



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES

ORGANIZATIONAL WORKSHOP – MARCH 18, 2014
MARY B. HERBERT TOWN HALL

1. Call to Order by the Chair *pro tempore*, Mr. Maggiore

Chair *pro tempore*, Mr. Maggiore called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Those in attendance were Selectman Miller, Selectman Stanton and Town Administrator Apple.

Chair *pro tempore* Mr. Maggiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair *pro tempore* Mr. Maggiore thanked the 1,352 (37%) voters that came out to vote on Election Day, and welcomed all the newly elected officials.

Selectman Stanton stated it was his suggestion to have an agenda item for a public comment session at the beginning of the meeting at least once per month in order to give the “folks” a chance to voice any concerns or issues they may be concerned about.

Chair *pro tempore* Mr. Maggiore stated agenda item 4-Discussion of Election of Officers would be moved up on the agenda, and the vote was unanimous to have Mr. Maggiore continue as chair, with Selectman Miller serving as vice chair. (Secretary’s Note: official motions are listed below under agenda item 4)

Chair Maggiore read the Preamble to the Code of Ethics into the minutes as per standard procedure before each newly elected board:

“The Town of North Hampton values honesty, transparency, accountability, respect and civility in the behavior of its Officials. All Town Officials, whether elected, appointed or hired, shall act in the best interests of the Town, shall maintain the highest standards of personal integrity in discharging their public duties, and shall never abuse their positions or powers for improper reasons or personal gain. Therefore, in order to promote and sustain an ethical culture it shall be the duty of all Officials to read this Code of Ethics and to familiarize themselves with its content.”

2. First Public Comment Session

Public Comment is an opportunity for residents to ask questions, request information and make comments on issues facing the Town. Individuals will be given not more than three (3) minutes to speak, and people who have already spoken will be asked to wait until everyone has had the chance to speak once. The total time devoted to this agenda item is fifteen (15) minutes. Individuals who are not able to speak will be given first opportunity to speak during the Second Public Comment Session at the end of the Meeting.

3. Identification and Discussion of Committee Assignments

Committee Assignments include, without limitation, the following:

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| a. Budget Committee | b. Planning Board |
| c. Economic Development Committee | d. Rockingham Planning Commission |
| e. Water Commission | f. Heritage Commission |
| g. Collective Bargaining Negotiations Committee | h. Capital Improvement Plan Committee |

Nomination by Selectman Miller to appoint Selectman Stanton as the Select Board representative to the Budget Committee. All members of the Select Board agreed to the nomination. Selectman Miller will be the alternate representative.

Selectman Stanton questioned the need to have a Select Board member on the Economic Development Committee.

Town Administrator Apple stated in the charter for the Economic Development Committee there is a call for a Select Board representative.

Nomination by Selectman Stanton to appoint Selectman Miller as the Select Board representative to the Economic Development committee. All members of the Select Board agreed to the nomination.

The Select Board agreed to have Town Administrator Apple represent the Select Board on the Water Commission.

Selectman Miller nominated himself to be on the Collective Bargaining Negotiations Committee, and Selectman Stanton nominated himself to be on the Collective Bargaining Negotiations Committee.

Selectman Stanton stated he is empathetic having been in a union and been through a strike, and has some background in labor negotiations.

Selectman Miller stated he felt it was a natural progression on the board having not served on the committee, that he take his turn sitting on the Collective Bargaining Negotiations Committee.

Nomination of Selectman Miller to serve on the Collective Bargaining Negotiations Committee agreed to by a Select Board vote of 2-1. Selectman Stanton will serve as an alternate.

Nomination by Selectman Miller to appoint Jim Maggiore as the Select Board representative to the Planning Board. All members of the Select Board agreed to the nomination. Selectman Stanton will serve as an alternate.

Town Administrator Apple stated the Planning Board will appoint someone to the Rockingham Planning Commission, and then submit their recommendation to the Select Board.

Nomination by Selectman Miller to appoint Jim Maggiore as the Select Board representative to the Heritage Commission. All members of the Select Board agreed to the nomination.

Selectman Stanton nominated himself to serve as the Select Board representative to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee. All members of the Select Board agreed to the nomination.

Chair Maggiore stated he would like to bring up the Cable Advisory committee. He stated members of the committee included himself, Wally Kilgore, Channel 22 station manager John Savastano, Anne Ambrogi, Town Administrator Apple, Laurel Pohl, Charlie Brindamour and Amy Kane.

Selectman Stanton stated it is important to have the Cable Advisory committee reconstituted as part of the administrative function, and there should be a budget set for things such as the Channel 22 director's salary, and the equipment should be part of the cable policy. He further stated if people have an issue with what is being broadcast, they can go to the Cable Advisory committee, and the committee can then bring it to the Select Board if it is something of significance.

Laurel Pohl stated she would be happy to volunteer on the Cable Advisory committee.

Selectman Stanton stated he did not feel it was necessary to have a Select Board member as a representative on the committee.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to reconstitute the Cable Advisory committee with five voting members, with John Savastano as a technical member as well as a member from the School Board. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Chair Maggiore stated there had been an update to the Governor Dale Farm Project, and asked if the other Select Board members objected to having Conservation Chairman Ganotis speak to this issue.

Mr. Ganotis stated that an “11th hour Federal Bureaucracy tsunami” has been thrown into the path of crossing the finish line keeping the town from making the last hurdle in completing the grant review process. The funding is currently committed for the grant match as well as the grant approval, but it is now pending a review of the appraisal. The last stop is for the Federal Ranch Land Protection to complete its review with only an \$800 expenditure of federal funds needed by the FRPP. Unfortunately, the Federal Office of Management and Budget has frozen spending on the new farm bill which was passed in February pending how it will allocate funding on the Farm Bill budget.

Mr. Ganotis stated that because the Conservation Commission is not allowed to expend the necessary \$800, the completion of a \$2 million project is being threatened, and jeopardizing the preservation of one of New Hampshire’s historic premiere land marks.

Mr. Ganotis stated he had received an email proposal from the Southeast Land Trust to privately hire a reviewer from the NRCS list of reviewers, and to select a reviewer to complete and review as soon as possible. The next step would be to have the FRPP staff hire that same reviewer who has already prepared the review, and can get a quick turnaround and hopefully a favorable appraisal review.

Mr. Ganotis stated he had received an unexpected email from Joseph Falzone indicating that because of lender’s demands he had little choice but to give the town a deadline of the first week of April to complete the entire transaction. He stated Mr. Falzone has been very supportive of the project from the very beginning, but as a businessman he cannot continue to fund his loans and operating costs with an open ended, uncertain conclusion from the Federal Government.

Mr. Ganotis stated they have reached out to Senators Ayotte and Sheehan and local representative Shea-Porter to help clear the bureaucratic logjam and are in communication with the OMB to see what they can do to help clear this matter.

Mr. Ganotis stated either an affirmative waiver or allocation approval of \$800 is needed prior to March 21, 2014 to begin the appraisal review. An expedited appraisal will then need to be done to meet the April 1 deadline.

Mr. Ganotis stated he had scheduled a special meeting of the Conservation Commission for March 19 to consider using part of their remaining funds in the Conservation account and hopefully keep the project afloat.

Chair Maggiore stated he would like to discuss allowing public comment at the beginning of the meetings and giving individuals not more than three (3) minutes to speak.

Selectman Stanton stated he agreed and individuals should be able to address an agenda item, but that the Select Board did not have to take it up at the point.

Selectman Miller suggested putting a cap of one half hour on the public comment section of the agenda, in order to allow the Select Board time to conduct their business.

Laurel Pohl asked if there would now be comment and the beginning and the end of the meeting.

Chair Maggiore stated he was in favor of keeping both.

The Select Board agreed to try this at their next regularly scheduled meeting on March 24, 2014, not to exceed the first half hour of the meeting, with the understanding that it is not a full on engagement or discussion.

4. **Discussion of Election of Officers**

The Board's officers are; Chair and Vice Chair

Motion by Selectman Stanton to appoint James Maggiore as Chair of the Select Board. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to appoint Larry Miller as Vice Chair of the Select Board. Seconded by Chair Maggiore. Motion carries 3-0.

5. **Review of the Goals for the Year Just Concluded and Development of Goals for the Coming Year**

The Board's Goals for the Year Just Concluded are attached to this Agenda

Chair Maggiore stated many goals were accomplished last year, however there is still a lot to do.

The Select Board reviewed items that had been completed over the past year.

Town Administrator Apple reported on items that had not yet been completed including the report from the Energy Committee on removal of ornamental street lights, and the pedestrian crossing light on Route 1A across from the North Hampton State Beach. He further stated Financial Policies and Internal Controls need to be completed, as well as planning for the Affordable Care Act as it comes online.

Town Administrator Apple stated another project to be completed was the assembly of all of the town ordinances in one place that will allow the public to easily find particular sections of ordinances that have been passed.

Chair Maggiore suggested holding a workshop for development of goals for the coming year.

Chair Maggiore asked Town Administrator Apple about the items the town was cited for by the Department of Labor, and asked whether or not they needed to be acted on immediately.

Town Administrator Apple stated the town has until May 1, 2014 to act on the items. He further stated if there is a plan with contractors in place by May 1 then the town will have complied with citation.

Town Administrator Apple stated the three items are the physical barrier at the town clerk's office, the circular staircase in the library, and the ladder in the hose tower.

Chair Maggiore stated the Department of Labor issues will not go away just because the Town Complex did not pass. He further stated he would like ideas on how to keep the many people that worked on various committee's to all come together and continue working together and moving forward.

Selectman Stanton suggested a joint meeting with the Library Trustees and do an "after the fact analysis" on what was done right and what was done wrong, so that the same mistakes are not made in the future. The next session would be to have people from the town to come together and express their views and make a decision on which way to proceed. He further stated he spoke with many people in town that felt they did not have any input.

Selectman Stanton stated he understood that both Chair Maggiore and Selectman Miller have been emotionally invested in the project, and it may be now difficult to suddenly have to look at perhaps a different change or way of doing things.

Selectman Miller stated 51% of the voters stated they liked the town campus idea. He further stated while he was emotionally invested in the project, he also feels he was intellectually invested as well.

Selectman Miller stated he believes the library, the two chiefs of emergency services, Select Board, along with all of the other plans since 2001, came jelled into a plan that almost passed. He further stated from where it started and where it ended up was quite a journey.

Selectman Miller asked Selectman Stanton what plan he did have that he was for so it can be cost in both money and time and compare it to what got 51% of the vote.

Selectman Stanton stated he would like to look at the WarrenStreet plan for the rehab and reconfiguration of the present fire and police station according to the updated plan, and according to the chiefs and priority on functional space. He further stated he would like to see an estimated cost for renovation independently and then make a decision. He would like the chiefs to also to look into other options such as storing fire apparatus outside during renovations, and make an agreement with another town to hold prisoners for the town during renovations. He further stated he would like to see what other types of things they would need to do while the building is being rehabbed.

Selectman Stanton stated he felt those types of ideas could not be looked at before because the department head's wouldn't feel it was proper to subvert what had been their bosses position.

Selectman Miller asked that Selectman Stanton please do not suggest that he twisted anyone's arm, because he did not and it is not fair of him to say he did. He further stated he wants very much to listen to Selectman Stanton's side and is willing to do so.

Chair Maggiore stated he does not want to throw any money at anything until it is certain that what is being done is in the best interest of the town.

Selectman Miller agreed that a consensus meeting should be held with all of the "stakeholders."

The Select Board discussed putting together a survey to help determine why the town campus was voted down.

Town Administrator Apple stated he would like to nail down a date for a workshop with the suggestion that it is bifurcated into two issues: the town campus and everything else that needs to be done.

Town Administrator Apple addressed ADA's issues and the misinformation and confusion that was currently circulating regarding it in regards to town buildings.

Donna Etela stated that Chair Maggiore did a great job of getting information to the public in regard to the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office (Stone Building).

Town Administrator Apple stated he would like to add an agenda item on future Select Board meetings to have Select Board members report back on the committees or commissions they sit on, to give them an update.

Selectman Stanton thanked all of those who voted for him in the election, the many words of encouragement and that his gratefulness for their faith in him. He further stated to those that supported his opponent that he takes his obligation to represent everyone very seriously and hoped to earn their trust.

Selectman Stanton stated he has set up office hours to be held on the first Friday of each month at 10:00 AM in the New Hampshire Room at the North Hampton Public Library for those interested in discussing any topic they may be interested in.

6. Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

The Board reserves the right to take action on any item relative to the prudential administration of the Town's affairs which circumstances may require.

7. Second Public Comment Session

See Item 2; above.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella
Administrative Assistant