



TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
SELECT BOARD
APPROVED MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING –NOVEMBER 10, 2014 –7PM
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL
231 ATLANTIC AVENUE

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

1. **Non-Meeting Regarding Collective Bargaining 6:00** *(The New Hampshire Right to Know Law permits the Select Board to meet with respect to Collective Bargaining issues. No minutes or votes will be taken.)*
2. **Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) – 6:30 PM**
3. **Call to Order**

Chair Maggiore called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Those in attendance were Selectman Miller, Selectman Stanton and Town Administrator Apple.

Chair Maggiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Maggiore stated the Select Board had just come out of a Non-Public session where two votes were taken to seal the minutes of the Non-Public as well as directing the Town Administrator to move forward with a land use issue.

4. **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 ordinarily 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.

George Chauncey thanked the Select Board for reconsidering their vote on the Town Campus issue of having two warrant articles.

Selectman Stanton stated it upset him to know there residents that would vote against both projects in order to send a message. He further stated he took them at their word, and wants to be sure the town gets these facilities.

5. **Consent Calendar**

5.1 Payroll Manifest of 10/30/2014 in the amount of \$54,838.75

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- 5.2 Payroll Manifest of 11/06/2014 in the amount of \$103,611.25
- 5.4 Accounts Payable Manifest of 10/23/2014 in the amount of \$1,071,146.28
- 5.5 Accounts Payable Manifest of 10/24/2014 in the amount of \$1,293.64
- 5.6 Accounts Payable Manifest of 11/06/2014 in the amount of \$162,094.07
- 5.7 Veteran Tax Credit Application for Map 021, Lot 001-036

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

6. Communications to the Select Board

- 6.1 Correspondence from Granite State Wheelmen, Inc.

Chair Maggiore read this correspondence into the record.

Selectman Miller stated the Select Board had received correspondence from the North Hampton Water Commission to the DES, but it was not on the agenda as he had asked. The correspondence is in reference to ongoing investigations at the Hampton Rod and Gun Club.

Selectman Miller asked that the correspondence be included in the case file.

7. Report of the Town Administrator

Town Administrator Apple stated the process of winnowing Deputy Fire Chief candidates from 17 to 5 has begun. Oral board and management interviews have been set for November 20.

Work continues in the Town Clerk's office and they will be closed for two days while contractor's work on the floors. Due to the cost of \$8,000 for pavers installed for a walk way ramp to the administration parking lot, and an asphalt or concrete walk way will be completed in the spring.

Town Administrator Apple reported on labor negotiations between the Town and the Fire Department, proposed cell tower on municipal land, carbon monoxide remediation system for the DPW, and a second payment from Primex in regard to the lightning strike.

8. New Business

- 8.1 Presentation to Retired Firefighter Charles Fredette

Town Administrator Apple and Lieutenant Francis recognized Firefighter Fredette's 25 years of service to the Town of North Hampton, and presented him with an engraved clock as a small token of the town's appreciation.

Lieutenant Francis introduced Matt Greene who is the newest member of North Hampton Fire and Rescue. Firefighter Greene has taken the vacant spot left by retired firefighter Charles Fredette.

Lieutenant Francis thanked Jim O'Hara, North Hampton Recreation Director and members of North Hampton Professional Firefighters Local 3211 for their donation of candy, apple cider and treats to the Trick or Treater's of North Hampton who visited the fire station.

Town Administrator Apple stated to the Select Board that a 1950's era safe in the Town Clerk's office needs to be disposed of, and asked permission from the Select Board to do so.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to authorize the Town Administrator to dispose of the safe in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office on any terms that are reasonable. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

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8.2 Update on Bell Tower Clock – George Chauncey

Mr. Chauncey reported that the new clock hands have been installed in the Bell Tower. Mr. Chauncey further stated it has been a pleasure to serve as the “Keeper of the Clock” but effective immediately would be retiring and handing the reins over to Arthur “Jo Jo” Nadeau.

Motion by Chair Maggiore to appoint Arthur Nadeau as Keeper of the Clock for the Town of North Hampton until such time as his successor has been appointed. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

8.3 Fire Hydrant Discussion – Water Commissioner Henry Fuller

Mr. Fuller stated when he first became a Water Commissioner in the late 1980s, fire hydrant costs were \$600 each. Costs per hydrant today are now \$1,740 each.

Mr. Fuller stated that he continually asks the Public Utilities Commission when the rates are going to stop increasing. Every time the water rate increases, the costs per hydrant also increase. He further stated he would like to ask the Select Board for their support in helping to get the enormous rate increases to stop, and would like to see this challenged at the Supreme Court level.

The Select Board discussed taxing Aquarion Water Company’s right-of-ways in North Hampton, but considered that would only give reason for them to charge the town more for the hydrants to cover the costs of the taxes.

Selectman Stanton asked Mr. Fuller if he could provide the Select Board with an updated report on surrounding communities and what their costs are for hydrants.

8.4 Solid Waste Contract Renewal Discussion – Tom McManus

Mr. McManus stated coming up in June 2015, after 25 years of a contract with Waste Management for tipping, the contract will be up for renewal.

Proposals have been sought after by 53-B District for waste disposal with five year terms. Mr. McManus stated three bids have been received so far, and he reviewed prices proposed by each.

Much discussion took place between Mr. McManus and the Select Board regarding alternate haulers, tipping fees, pay as you throw and recycling.

Motion by Selectman Stanton that the Select Board is leaning towards the Waste Management contract but would like to exert pressure on Waste Management to reduce fees for residential collection, and further to investigate whether there is a partnership with Covanta Energy of Haverhill, Massachusetts and “some” hauler to introduce competition into the market place. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

8.5 Discussion of Community Newsletter

Chair Maggiore stated he had received an email on this date from Emily Creighton and did not have a chance to forward a copy to the Town Administrator, nor did he have a copy with him to read into the record. He further stated she was very much in support of, and encouraged the Select Board to continue to fund the community newsletter.

Town Administrator Apple stated the funding for the community newsletter was eliminated from the fiscal 2015 budget, and that elimination was maintained for fiscal 2016 budget.

Town Administrator Apple stated that while there isn’t disagreement on the value of the newsletter, there may be some discussion regarding editorial content.

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Town Administrator Apple discussed the possibility of having a sponsored newsletter similar to the one the Town of New Castle has.

Also discussed was the fact that the previously amount budgeted for the newsletter was less than the actual cost of publishing it.

Hope Miller, Alden Avenue asked for clarification on who would be selling advertising for the newsletter and if the printing would be outsourced.

Donna Etela, Exeter Road stated that New Castle is a very small town with no businesses to speak of, and asked if they go outside of New Castle to get their advertisement. She further stated that because New Castle is not that far away we may be duplicating advertising in terms of New Castle already having a certain business and would be able to get the same business.

Kathy Kilgore, 220 Atlantic Avenue spoke as the Co-Chair of the Friends of North Hampton Library. She stated a representative from PAL, the North Hampton School Board, the Library and the Friends of the Library got together to brainstorm on how to best continue with the community newsletter. An idea was presented about publishing three editions instead of four. Mrs. Kilgore stated an idea for the school to budget one edition and the town to fund one edition was also discussed. She further stated they have started the research of finding someone to sponsor the other edition.

Town Administrator Apple stated that the Select Board has until December 3 to finalize their proposed budget and could add this amount in and explain the circumstances to the budget committee.

Chair Maggiore asked Mrs. Kilgore to send any information or updates she receives to the Town Administrator and she agreed to do so.

8.6 Approval of Tax Rate

Chair Maggiore stated the unofficial tax rate had been received by the Department of Revenue Administration.

The Select Board discussed the overlay account, and what number they should use to fund it.

Town Administrator Apple discussed the overlay and explained it is a pool of money that is set aside to pay for tax abatements, and the auditors recommended identifying what the total exposure is in abatements. He further explained if the town was to lose all of the abatement cases last year the total exposure would be \$305,000. This year's exposure is more in the range of \$204,000 and Town Administrator Apple felt that the overlay can be reduced to \$100,000 as that would be enough to cover the potential exposure, as every case will not be lost, and every case would not be lost in the current tax year.

Selectman Miller asked if it might be wise to go on the high side rather than the low side because if the town needs the money, and it isn't there, the town gets into trouble. He further stated if the town doesn't need the money, it would go back into the general fund. Selectman Miller suggested chances should not be taken when setting the amount.

The Select Board reviewed the pending abatements and the monetary exposure.

The North Hampton unofficial tax rate for 2014 is \$17.07, with last year's rate at \$16.75.

Town Administrator Apple stated if you were to assume a \$200,000 overlay the town portion of the tax rate is \$5.29; the county portion \$1.10; local school \$8.18; and the state school \$2.52. This is compared to rates last year of the town \$5.24; county \$1.12; local school \$7.91 and state school \$2.48.

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Town Administrator Apple stated if the town was to assume a \$100,000 overlay, the ten cent spread comes out of the town portion exclusively. The county, school and state school rates would remain the same and the town would be \$5.185. He further stated his basis for recommending \$100,000 for the overlay was because the total liability had been reduced by half so therefore the reserve level could be reduced by half. He further stated because the revaluation has been concluded the pool of possible abatement cases have been reduced.

North Hampton Tax Rate	2014	2013	2012			
Town	\$5.25	\$5.24	\$4.85			
Local Schools	\$8.18	\$7.91	\$7.74			
State Education	\$2.52	\$2.48	\$2.40			
County	\$1.10	\$1.12	\$1.06			
Little Boar's Head	.012	.014	.012			
Total	\$17.05	\$16.75	\$16.75			

Motion by Selectman Miller to set the overlay amount at \$175,000 which is a reduction of the previous year's amount of \$200,000, and further to authorize the Town Administrator to finalize and sign the tax rate documentation once received from the Department of Revenue. Seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carries 3-0.

9. 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.

10. Second Public Comment Session

See Item 2, above.

Police Chief/Public Safety Director Page thanked both the police and fire departments for their cooperation over the past few months. Lieutenant Tully was thanked for his help in conducting background investigations on potential employees and stated he did an outstanding job. He went on to discuss upcoming interviews with Deputy Fire Chief candidates. He spoke of two conditional offers of employment in the police department.

Selectman Stanton stated there would be a Veterans Day program at 10AM on November 11, 2014 in front of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office.

11. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

11.1 Minutes of Regular Meeting of 10/27/2014

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Motion by Selectman Stanton to accept the minutes of October 27, 2014 as submitted. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

11.2 Minutes of Workshop Meeting of 10/29/2014

Motion by Selectman Stanton to approve the minutes of October 29, 2014 as submitted. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella
Administrative Assistant

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