



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON
SELECT BOARD DRAFT MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING – JANUARY 6, 2015 –10:30 O’CLOCK A.M.
NORTH HAMPTON TOWN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
233 ATLANTIC AVENUE
NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Purpose: The purpose of the Special Meeting is to complete discussions about the proposed budget and warrant articles before the public hearing by the Budget Committee on January 7, 2015; to meet with the Moderator about extended polling hours; to discuss the Board’s site-walk at the Hampton Rod and Gun Club; to discuss ratification of a tentative agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters; and to conduct such other public business as may be required. The Board will conduct a non-public meeting to consider the resolution of a pending legal matter before the Bureau of Land & Tax Appeals, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e). The Board will also discuss a proposed side-bar agreement for the Police Department. The discussion about the side-bar is a “non-meeting” under RSA 91-A:2, I(a).

1. The Call to Order by the Chair

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

Chair Maggiore led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Maggiore stated if there were no objections, he would like to move to agenda item 6.1 first.

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. Ordinarily, Citizens 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 do not speak during the First Public Comment Session will be given first opportunity to speak during the Second Public Comment Session at the end of the Meeting.

3. Consent Calendar

- 3.1 Supplemental Tax Bill for Map 013, Lot 071-042 in the amount of \$653.00
- 3.2 Abatement Application for Map 013, Lot 071-042 in the amount of \$653.00
- 3.3 Supplemental Tax Bill for Map 013, Lot 071-040 in the amount of \$348.00
- 3.4 Abatement Application for Map 013, Lot 071-040 in the amount of \$348.00
- 3.5 Abatement Application for Map 008, Lot 019-01A in the amount of \$865.00
- 3.6 Abatement Application for Map 008, Lot 019-01B in the amount of \$865.00
- 3.7 Supplemental Tax Bill for Map 008, Lot 019-001 in the amount of \$882.00
- 3.8 Approval of Elderly and Disabled Tax Deferral Application for Map 018, Lot 015-001

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

4. Communications to the Select Board

- 4.1 Correspondence from Scott Marsh, Municipal Resources
- 4.2 Correspondence from Brian R.S. Davis

Chair Maggiore read both pieces of correspondence into the record. Copies are available at the Town Offices.

Town Administrator Apple explained the equalization ratio referenced in the letter from Mr. Marsh refers to how property is assessed and compares it to fair market value.

5. Report of the Town Administrator

5.1. There will be no Report.

Town Administrator Apple stated he had received notice of an increase in water rates of 2.5386% WICA surcharge based on the calculus that has been submitted to the Public Utilities Commission.

Town Administrator Apple stated an education tax warrant was received for tax year 2015 issued by Director Hamilton from the Municipal and Property Division.

6. New Business

6.1 Meet with the Moderator, Mr. Boesch, regarding extended Polling Hours;

Chair Maggiore explained the Select Board would like to extend the polling hours from 7:00AM until 7:00PM, and invited Moderator Boesch to the podium.

Mr. Boesch explained his history of being the Town Moderator and his many years of service to the town. He stated Election Day is a very long day to begin with, and if the Select Board were to extend the hours, it would be even more difficult for workers and it also increases the “fatigue factor.”

Mr. Boesch talked about the inadequacies of holding the elections at the Town Hall and the need to move the polling place to the North Hampton School. He also spoke of his inability to find a deputy moderator.

Discussion ensued between the Select Board and Mr. Boesch regarding the importance of finding a deputy moderator in order to provide for not only a rest period for the moderator, but also in case of an emergency and or illness. It was suggested by Selectman Stanton to change the hours for a one-time trial only.

Mr. Boesch stated he wanted to make it clear to the Select Board that by expressing his opinion is in no way challenging the Select Board’s ability to make the decision to change the polling hours.

Selectman Miller reminded everyone that the current Select Board would only be setting the hours for the next election; the new Select Board would set the polling hours for future elections.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to set the polling hours from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM on March 10, 2015. Seconded by Selectman Miller for discussion. Motion carries 3-0.

The Select Board discussed voting at the school logistics and parking issues with Chief Page.

6.2 Discussion regarding site-walk at Hampton Rod & Gun Club;

Chair Maggiore stated the Select Board completed a site walk at the Hampton Rod and Gun Club on December 30, 2014.

Selectman Miller described the “lay of the land” at the gun club noting that the gun club had moved the pistol range to a location where the pistols are now firing into professional bullet traps. He further stated he walked along the top of the rifle and the pistol berm, with permission, all the way out to the wetlands and he noted there is a lot of material in the wetlands. A screen has been placed across the stream through the wetlands to stop further material from going downstream.

Selectman Miller thanked the members of the Rod and Gun Club for making it possible for the Select Board to visit. He further stated the gun club representatives stated they are awaiting directions from the DES for whatever restoration or soil mitigation that will be recommended, and further stated they are complying with what has been asked of them.

Selectman Miller stated the town's wetlands ordinances have not yet been discussed, and that he would not be discussing them at this meeting, however they may or may not be discussing in the future with the gun club.

Judy Day asked the Select Board why they were waiting for a report from the DES.

Chair Maggiore stated because this sits in the hands of the Code Enforcement Officer, it has to flow through him first.

Town Administrator Apple stated because the wetlands are jurisdictional to the state that is why the DES is in "command," and therefore the town must wait to receive their final report.

6.3 Discussion regarding Tentative Agreement with IAFF and ratification vote;

Chair Maggiore stated the town and the IAFF have come up with a tentative agreement.

Selectman Miller stated he was part of the negotiating team along with Town Administrator Apple, Chief Page and Attorney Kathy Peale.

Selectman Miller stated the contract was a three-year contract which expires on June 30, 2017. He further stated in the end the town reached an agreement of that which could be done for the short term and the long-term view.

Selectman Miller stated that both sides were able to negotiate pay increases, paramedic program, health insurance, the change from a HRA to a HSA ,vacation time and the overtime issue. He further stated the fire union showed a great deal of willingness to negotiate.

Selectman Miller stated he was recommending approval of the proposed contract to the Select Board.

Chief Page stated he was in full support of the proposed contract. He further stated there were many concessions made by the fire department that he never thought he would see.

Town Administrator Apple commended all team members and thanked all for negotiated in good faith. He strongly recommended the Select Board ratify the contract.

Motion by Selectman Miller to accept and ratify the agreement with the North Hampton Professional Firefighters Local 3211 for the contract period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. Seconded by Chair Maggiore for discussion.

Selectman Stanton stated his philosophy is that wages should be based on the taxpayers ability to pay that should be regarded for public employees. The current average over three years was 1.56% in the Portsmouth statistical area. He further stated there are a number of residents in town that survive on Social Security , and there is a need to structure the pay raises for public employees more in line with the ability of taxpayers to pay.

Selectman Miller stated by not ratifying the contract, you leave the voter exposed to no control, and the purpose of having the contract with the firefighters is to have control. He further stated he did not necessarily like everything in the contract but if the Select Board is looking for the voters best interest there was not going to be any control over what was spent. He further asked Selectman Stanton to rethink his position as the framework for consideration needs to be far greater than what someone can pay.

Selectman Stanton stated he did see all of the positives in the contract, but with a great reluctance that he had to vote his conscience and what he feels is most important for the voters.

Chief Page voiced his support of the contract stating it supports to level of service the town expects.

Shean Gray, President of Local 3211 stated through a lot of hard work, as well as differences of opinions, the two sides came together, and he considers it a big step for the union, as well as the town, to be able to work in collaboration.

Mr. Gray further stated he sees the contract as a positive step for the town.

Motion carries 2-1.

6.4 Review updated Proposed Operating Budget and Warrant Articles.

Town Administrator Apple stated after the last meeting with the Budget Committee, some changes were made and were tasked with doing some research on certain line items. He stated after consulting with Lamprey Energy, no changes will be made to the heating oil account as although rates were down, town usage was up.

Town Administrator Apple stated decisions were also made regarding lease purchase payments of police vehicles, and money will now be taken from the Police Detail Revolving Fund which will result in no monies being raised from taxation.

Town Administrator Apple stated changes were also made to the merit pool budget. The numbers have not been changed, but it does separate COLA from merit.

Town Administrator Apple stated the proposed operating budget is now \$6,428,750, and a proposed default budget of \$6,360,659.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to approve Article 15 as presented, that will raise a bond of \$5,946,347 for the Town Campus and also to raise \$412,000 by taxation for the first year's interest and the total project cost is \$7,315,275 and the amount of \$450,029 be released for the project from those raised by taxation and matching funds and to approve the amount of \$918,859 by private donation. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0. Motion carries 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Miller to include on the official ballot, Article 16 as presented with the operating budget of \$6,428,750, and a default budget of \$6,360,659. Seconded by Selectman Stanton. Motion carries 3-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the wording of the warrant article for the cable franchise fee in order to clarify for the voters.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to reconsider the vote on Article 33, the creation of the Cable Franchise Fee Capital Reserve Fund to amend it to as modified by Town Administrator Apple. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Chief Page stated the number for the purchase of the police cruisers the Select Board voted on at a prior meeting should be \$45,000 and asked them to reconsider the vote with the correct amount.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to reconsider the vote on Article 18, the purchase of a police cruiser for \$45,000 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to reconsider Article 19, the lease purchase of a police cruiser to reflect the price of \$49,500 for the purpose of leasing, and raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,500 for the first year's payment. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

6.5 North Hampton Beach Parking Rates for 2015

Chair Maggiore stated the Select Board had received a letter from the State of New Hampshire regarding a rate increase in the leased parking spots at the North Hampton Beach. He further stated the board needed to consider the parking fee due to the increase.

Chair Maggiore stated if the fee is left the same as last year at \$30 each, the estimated income for the Recreation Revolving Fund will be approximately \$3,100. He further stated the monies collected from the sale of beach stickers is deposited into the Recreation Revolving Fund with amount of \$5,332 last year

Selectman Stanton stated if the price per sticker is raised to \$32 each, the estimated revenue would be \$4,880; if it is raised to \$33 the estimated revenue would be \$5,555. Selectman Stanton suggested setting the price somewhere in between \$30 and \$35.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to raise the beach parking stickers from \$30 to \$32. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

7. **Non-Public Session I:** Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e), to consider the resolution of a pending matter before the Bureau of Tax and Land Appeals.

8. 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.

9. Second Public Comment Session

See Item 2, above.

10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

10.1 Minutes of December 22, 2014

Motion by Selectman Stanton to approve the minutes of December 22, 2014 as presented. Seconded by Selectman Miller. Motion carries 3-0.

10.2 Minutes of December 30, 2014

Tabled.

Motion by Selectman Stanton to go into Non-Public Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e). Seconded by Selectman Miller. Roll Call: Chair Maggiore, aye; Selectman Miller, aye; Selectman Stanton, aye. Motion carries 3-0.

After the Meeting is adjourned, the Board will continue its discussion regarding a proposed side-bar agreement with the Police Union. This discussion is a "non-meeting" under RSA 91-A:2, I(a). No minutes will be kept.

11. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Facella

Administrative Assistant