

# TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON

PO BOX 710  
NORTH HAMPTON, NH 03862



## Water Commission

Henry Fuller, Chairman  
Richard Bettcher, Vice Chairman  
Robert Landman, Secretary  
Tim Harned, Commissioner

## North Hampton Water Commission Meeting

(Approved April 24, 2007)

Date: May 4, 2006  
Location: Mary Herbert Conference Room  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:	Guests:	Absent:
Henry Fuller, Chairman	Penny Kidd, Scribe	Don Gould, Selectman
Richard Bettcher, Vice Chairman	Jenifer Landman	Terry Conklin
Bob Landman, Secretary		Michael Pardue
Timothy Harned		David Peck

### I. Call to Order

Henry Fuller, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

### II. Administration/Business

#### A. Approval of Minutes

Bob Landman, Secretary, read the minutes for October 27, 2005. Mr. Landman moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion. With the abstention of Mr. Harned, who was not present at the meeting of 10/27/05, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Silent review of the closed session minutes of October 27, 2005 was undergone. Mr. Fuller made a motion to accept the non-public meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Landman seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved, with the exception of Mr. Harned's abstention due to absence.

#### B. Election of Officers

Mr. Harned nominated Henry Fuller as Chairman. Mr. Bettcher seconded the motion. Mr. Fuller was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

Mr. Harned nominated Richard Bettcher as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Landman seconded the motion. Mr. Bettcher was elected Vice-Chairman by unanimous vote.

Mr. Harned nominated Bob Landman as Secretary. Mr. Bettcher seconded the motion. Mr. Fuller was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

### III. Current Issues

#### A. North Hampton Board of Selectmen, correspondence and participation.

Mr. Harned referred to Mr. Pardue's e-mail question, inquiring about how many Selectmen are to be members of the Water Commission. There are to be five members of the North Hampton Water Commission: the four Commissioners and one representative from the North Hampton Board of Selectmen, who was Donald Gould.

The Commissioners discussed the e-mail from Mike Purdue, summarizing the Water Commissioners report to the Selectmen and the Commissioners' involvement with the PUC. The PUC assures a profit to the water company. Rate payers bear the costs of attorney and other costs associated with rate increases. The PUC does not evaluate the capability of management in their process of rate adjustments. David Peck was invited to this meeting of the Water Commission, but did not attend.

B. #2021 Mill Road

Well #8 brought in ~1937? Took out and moved down the road? The water company bought 3 acres where well was? Cheaper to tear down building and drill new well. Company was going to put a building there without site plan approval. Councillor Ruth Griffin and Henry Fuller met with Rene Pelitier of DES on Tuesday.

Department of Environmental Services every 3 years inspects wells, maintenance, etc. Who monitors hydrants? What's been the record between 1979 to 1989 on hydrants? Who is responsible for fire safety and water hydrant service?

Mr. Landman had talked with Atty. Robert Ciandella. It is the PUC's job to take complaints and assure action is taken upon those concerned. The Commissioners concurred that this was their understanding. The Water Commissioners have the responsibility to note problems with the water supply and report it to the PUC any time—not just at the time of rate increase reviews. To be more prompt with voicing concerns facilitates the PUC's option to take action throughout the year.

When the rates are placed upon the hydrants, every tax payer bears the burden. If the rates are placed upon water usage, then the costs are borne by the users of the resource. Mr. Bettcher reported there are 2,600 bills in North Hampton. It was estimated that this is about \$75 per resident. According to recent statistics, the average water cost per year per resident is \$453. The charge for hydrants is about \$1,176 per year per hydrant.

C. Letters to the North Hampton Planning Board

Mr. Fuller made a motion to write a letter to the North Hampton Planning Board to pass an ordinance to prohibit unregulated withdrawal of water from our ponds and rivers for the purpose of water protection and sanitation by any party, including contractors, with the exception of water needed for fire fighting. Mr. Harned seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Landman made a motion to send a letter to the North Hampton Planning Board to pass an ordinance to establish a standard of 5¼ inch or large hydrants for the town for all new or replacement hydrants at any site or new subdivision. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

D. Mr. Landman briefly introduced the Nashua case, an interesting study of private to publicly owned water companies. The state doesn't appear to have a law for multi-town cooperatives—only single towns, not group of towns. Mr. Fuller talked to Marsha Thunberg PUC Atty, who indicated a buyout would have to be all three towns.

**IV. Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:311: (d,e)**

Chairman Fuller declared the meeting to be in closed session at 8:00 p.m. No action was taken. Mr. Harned made the motion to seal minutes, Mr. Landman seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.