



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

JANUARY 13, 2022 6:30 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jim Maggiore, Vice Chairman James Sununu, Selectman Jonathan Pinette

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

AGENDA

Chairman Jim Maggiore welcomed everyone to the January 13, 2022 North Hampton Special Meeting of the Select Board and called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Public Comment Session

For comments please call 603-758-1447; email jmaggiore@northhampton-nh.gov

No public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Discussion of FY2023 Proposed Warrant Articles

Town Administrator Tully said the Board has 3 remaining Warrant Articles to go over, and this is not the order they will appear on the Ballot: (1) Purchase of a Library outdoor security camera; (2) Purchase of Broadcast equipment for the Library Building; (3) Citizen's Petition.

Chairman Maggiore said the Board sent questions to the Library and received responses Monday afternoon.

Disclaimer –These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Select Board.

A recording of the meeting can be found at: http://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/north_hampton_nh, and a DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.

(1) *Warrant Article for Purchase of Library Outdoor Security Cameras*: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of \$14,498 for the purpose of purchasing outdoor security cameras for the North Hampton Public Library; listed in CIP plan.

Vice-Chair Sununu suggested that this is not the time to put this Warrant Article forward because of the pending Building Warrant Articles as most significant on the Ballot; they should wait to see if the Building Warrants pass then take a broader look at the overall Town Campus and security cameras. Selectman Pinette agreed. Chairman Maggiore also agreed and said the Board is not voting to put this on the Ballot, so it does not go to the Budget Committee.

(2) *Warrant Article for Purchase of Broadcast Equipment for the Library Building*: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate through taxation the sum of \$31,770 for purchasing Broadcast Equipment for the North Hampton Public Library, approved by CIP.

Vice-Chair Sununu said he has similar thoughts on this Warrant even after receiving information from the Library. He said there were discussions over the course of the Library construction about broadcasts which would need AV wiring specifically for that put in the floors and walls and it was rejected, so the wiring is not there. Since use patterns for the new Library are not yet known and there is already AV equipment in all the rooms there is no real need for Channel 22 in the Library at this point.

Selectman Pinette asked if there was any feedback from Channel 22 regarding this; Town Administrator Tully said he spoke with Mr. Savastano several times before the Library decided not to go ahead at the time of construction who tried to set them up with a vendor; the Library went with a different vendor and put in a different type of system which does not transmit live on Channel 22. Chairman Maggiore agreed that he would like to see data usage and continue discussions on this.

(3) *Citizen's Petition In support of Discontinuance of old Public Library Building located at 237A Atlantic Avenue*: To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the use of the old Library as Town Library; affirmation vote with permission of Commissioner of Natural & Cultural Resources, the Library Trustees shall turn over control of 237A Atlantic Avenue building and immediate adjacent property to North Hampton Select Board. Nothing in this action shall relinquish any of the authority of the Trustees pursuant to RSA 202A; confirmed 25 valid signatures.

Vice-Chair Sununu said he found this petition very confusing for several reasons: The Town Administrator had a number of conversations with Library Trustees about how to handle the transition of the building, came to an agreement, with opinion by Town's Legal Counsel that since the Library was no longer using the building the Trustees could vote to turn over responsibility for ongoing maintenance to the Select Board or Town Administration and not have to carry those costs; the Trustees voted unanimously at a December meeting to do that and sent a letter to the Select Board saying they were prepared to return responsibility to Town Administration, which we accepted and have been maintaining the building ever since.

Vice-Chair Sununu said he does not understand the purpose of the petition and further feels the people who drafted and signed this petition are woefully misunderstanding RSA 202A, because discussion of "discontinuance" refers to discontinuing the Library all together as an institution and not as a building. The language was crafted from the discontinuance RSA into relinquishing control of a building which is misinformed, and actually creates great risk for the Town, because this now has to go to a vote of the Town. If the Town *rejects* this Warrant the Library will have to take this building back and be financially

responsible for its upkeep for the foreseeable future until the Town votes to reverse that decision which would be at least a year away; should the Town Warrant pass for new buildings we would not be able to renovate the old library for Town Offices.

Vice-Chair Sununu said he finds it completely baffling that people would drop a petition like this without any notice or discussion with anyone about whether this was the best way to proceed. Selectman Pinette asked what would happen if it did not pass, and Vice-Chair Sununu said he did not know especially with a Warrant to renovate that building. He said there would be 2 Warrants in conflict and the Town would probably have to go to Court and incur legal expenses plus lose time which would increase project costs.

Selectman Pinette asked if the Board knows why Trustees voted unanimously and then 1 Trustee did the opposite. Town Administrator Tully said he has not spoken to that Trustee but felt it was a misunderstanding of the Law, along with an issue in another Town in the area with a new library. He said Legal Counsel stated that return of the Library was implied in the Warrant Article of last year. He said an argument can also be made that since the Trustees are not utilizing the building as a Library, they have no custody and control over the building at all.

Selectman Pinette said this Petition is essentially just putting the Town at risk. Town Administrator Tully said it is also putting other Warrant Articles at risk and suggested the Board support this Warrant Article and hope that it passes. Chairman Maggiore added that there are going to be 100s of people who go to the Ballot in March who do not know this information and the Town and the Board need to make sure people understand everything. He said the Warrant talks about an old library and a new library which is easily confusing and could be misunderstood.

Town Administrator Tully said the Board should support this Petition, go on Warrant, and do what can be done to educate people and deal with repercussions afterward as there is unfortunately no way to solve this right now.

Motion: For the Board to accept the Citizens Petition (Warrant Article) and support discontinuance of the old Library building located at 237A Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Chairman Maggiore said as a Citizens Petition, petitioners will have to speak to this Warrant Article.

Town Administrator Tully said he will continue to work with Mr. Bennett in setting the order of the Warrants, then send an official document from the Select Board to the Budget Committee for their January 18, 2022 meeting for Budget Committee to vote on monetary items.

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

For comments please call 603-758-1447; or email jmaggiore@northhampton-nh.gov

No public comment.

Next Regular Meeting: January 24, 2022

136

137 **Adjournment**

138

139 Chairman Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

140

141 Respectfully submitted,

142 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary

DRAFT