



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

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Police Chief Robert LaBarge, Fire Chief Jason Lajoie, and Police Sergeants Paul Yanakopulos and Kyle Manlow

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of September 25, 2023 and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, then turned the floor over to Police Chief LaBarge.

Police Chief Robert LaBarge said in his 34 years of policework he has witnessed immeasurable tragedy and said Fire Fighters, Police Officers, and EMTs are forever changed by their experiences in their careers. He Sergeant Paul Yanakopulos and Sergeant Kyle Manlow responded to an accident where Barbara MacDonald of Greenland did not survive, and he expressed his sincere condolences to the family for their loss on behalf of the Town of North Hampton and the Department.

Police Chief LaBarge said the unwavering commitment to duty of Sergeants Yanakopulos and Manlow, and their remarkable response to this incident on September 14, 2023, deserve the Town's heartfelt recognition. Both were immediately engaged in CPR with Mrs. MacDonald and continued to provide support collaborating seamlessly with fellow first responders. He said he cannot express how proud he is of these two officers and said they are a shining example of the high standards that are upheld in the Police Department.

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.

Vice-Chair Sununu thanked Chief LaBarge for coming here tonight and said he appreciated all the work they and Firefighters do every day for the community; Selectman Maggiore expressed his sincere condolences on behalf of the Board and himself and said the Town should appreciate them in any small way they can.

Pam Hathaway, eldest daughter of Barbara MacDonald thanked the officers and expressed her deepest gratitude on behalf of herself and her sister for their actions.

Chairman Pinette recessed the meeting for 5 minutes.

Chairman Pinette said the Board just came from 2 Non-Public Sessions and asked for a motion to seal those minutes.

Motion: To seal the minutes of Non-Public Sessions I and II.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

First Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447

Chairman Pinette opened Public Comment at 7:17 pm.

Brian Goode of Willow Avenue asked for clarification on whether there would be time for additional comments from the public during the discussion of the utility poles along Atlantic Avenue. Chairman Pinette said there was a second Public Comment Session at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Pinette closed Public Comment at 7:19 pm.

Consent Calendar

6.1 Accounts Payable Manifest of September 14, 2023 in the amount of \$2,027,279.64

6.2 Payroll Manifest of September 14 2023 in the amount of \$76,061.86

6.3 Payroll Manifest of September 21, 2023 in the amount of \$78,771.54

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar items as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Correspondence – Town Administrator Tully said he was working with Public Works Director Hubbard on correspondence he received.

Committee Updates

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* met last Thursday and reviewed routine and ongoing issues; no update from *Water Commission*.

Vice-Chair Sununu said he had nothing for *Rails to Trails Committee* or *Budget Committee*.

Report of the Town Administrator

Period September 12 –22, 2023: Finance running at 82% of Budget with 43 weeks remaining; Police Chief LaBarge moving forward with Cruiser Project, has candidate interview next week; Fire: 2 conditional offers out to fill 2 FF vacancies, hopefully at full staff by next month; Rec: 1st Annual Golf Tournament October 4, 2023; Highway inspecting vehicles and completing MS4 Report, Lovering Road sinkhole near culvert scheduled for spring; Community Power Aggregation met twice, work continues for fall Warrant; Cell Tower balloon tests last week at 150 ft and 180 ft, working with Planning Board; Walkway Project adjusted and out to bid; Channel 22 received equipment for feedback. Next Select Board meeting is Columbus Day October 9, Board may want to reschedule.

Vice-Chair Sununu had an emergency and had to leave the meeting.

Selectman Maggiore said there is no problem cancelling the October 9 meeting unless there is something that must be done. He said in the Police section the Board has not discussed possible costs for cruiser designs. Town Administrator Tully said he only approved the new cruiser and has not approved any funds for the design project.

Items Left on the Table

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Building Update

Clerk of the Works Marc Jobin said work continues at a steady pace with milestone coming up tomorrow to apply base coat for pavement in parking lot and driveways; inside work continues with painting and interior finishes and ceilings going in; exhaust system in apparatus bays with wall tiles later this week. Project is still on schedule for completion end of November and still on budget.

11.2 Presentation of Capital Improvements Plan

CIP Chairperson Nancy Monaghan presented the highlights of the CIP Committee Report for this year. She said CIP met in July and reviewed 32 projects from departments for FY2025-2030, no capital needs from the Library. She said the primary responsibility of CIP is to prioritize upcoming projects for the year, and 8 projects were presented:

(1) Number one priority: purchase of a new Forestry Water Rescue Truck for Fire Department, approved unanimously; (2) Police Cruiser on a cruiser per year schedule to be continued; (3) Town Server presented by Town Administrator, purchase approved by Select Board; (4) AC in Public Works/Highway Department Building \$12,000 (5) Annual Road Maintenance Program \$300,000; (6) New Zero-Turn Riding Mower for all town-owned properties; (7) New Automated Door System for School for \$60,000; (8) New PA System for North Hampton School.

Ms. Monaghan said the total amount of money on the 2024 Warrant, less the Town Server and including money from various Capital Reserve Funds to offset costs with no taxation to residents: Town \$341,929; School \$80,000 on Warrants. All Fire Department Capital vehicle proposals, this year just under \$1 Mil, paid from Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund with no taxation to residents; purchases all Fire apparatus yearly. Fire Department: lists nothing for FY2030, approximately \$250,000 currently in fund from Ambulance receipts; post-Covid supply chain delays affecting Fire and Police most.

Ms. Monaghan said the 15-Year Road Plan developed by Public Works Director Hubbard expires in FY2027 with a new 15-year plan in FY2028. She said for the first time in 10 years the appendix for history of Town

Complex is not included in the CIP Report and is retired to the archives. Police Department has a place holder in 2026 for body-worn cameras, and has 2 more vehicles: new ambulance in 2028 and new tanker truck in 2029. DPW has 2 vehicles to purchase: a medium-duty truck and a heavy-duty dump truck, in addition to \$1.5 Mil annual road maintenance:

Ms. Monaghan said the Town included \$20,000 for Phase II of Philbrick Pond restoration; School has annual maintenance program and new roof over gym lobby, kitchen, café and school offices for \$115,000; Library has no projects coming for the next 6 years. She thanked all the members of the CIP Committee by name and thanked department heads for all their work.

Motion: To approve Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee as has been presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

11.3 Discussion of Utility Poles in Little Boar's Head

Town Administrator Tully said he was contacted by Jeff Jackson at Eversource Public Education and discussed project to take down and replace telephone poles in the area of 29 Atlantic Avenue and move them to front of residences. Site Walk was held with Eversource, Vice-Chair Sununu, and residents; solution needs to be found for failing poles in a wet area. Local residents are not in favor of poles on Atlantic Avenue in front of their homes; would also block the beautiful view down to the ocean. He said he reached out to Brian Goode, Commissioner of LBH, who told him this issue is not new and started 5 or 6 years ago; he had tried to put a discussion group together then for a plan which was never followed through on.

Town Administrator Tully said Eversource agreed they would put together a group to sit down and talk with LBH to discuss options; considered putting underground but Eversource said PUC would not allow them to spread out the costs to all ratepayers in that case. Chairman Pinette pointed out that the area is historic; Town Administrator Tully said right now Eversource has no easements, but residents are amenable to that discussion. Selectman Maggiore suggested talking with the Conservation Commission about the wet area and Town Administrator Tully said probably also need to talk with DES.

Brian Goode said he had a conversation with Eversource 5 or 6 years ago to discuss power in LBH not being up to proper level and looking for a new plan as the whole system is antiquated. He said the agreement with Eversource was that that they would not put in new poles in LBH and said our position is that poles above ground is not a solution but detrimental due to winds and climate in that region which will be problematic for Eversource. Town Administrator Tully said the poles would be on Atlantic Avenue like the others.

Selectman Maggiore asked who is creating the urgency here and asked why the Select Board needed to be involved as Eversource has no easements and the poles are on private property. Town Administrator Tully said the Select Board needs to be involved because Eversource came to them and there is a possibility a pole license could get refused. He offered the Town Hall meeting space to Mr. Goode and LBH to meet with Eversource. Mr. Goode said he intended to keep the Town involved and updated.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

12.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 11, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447

Chairman Pinette opened Public Comment at 8:01 pm.

Janet Larsen of 121 Post Rd asked for clarification of costs for Cruiser Project. Town Administrator Tully said at this point the Select Board has approved the concept and not any funding, and he okayed the cruiser being delivered. Ms. Larsen asked about the balloon test for the Cell Tower and asked about requirement in North Hampton for any new development to have underground electrical lines. Selectman Maggiore said it seems Eversource has a responsibility to do the same in LBH.

Allison Aboody of 18 Atlantic Avenue said most of the community is very concerned and residents are in discussion about having a community meeting, and asked how they can stay informed about when those meetings will take place.

Town Administrator Tully said meetings would be determined by LBH and Brian Goode, and if informed he will post it on the website. Mr. Goode said at any meeting with Eversource we will have at least 2 LBH Commissioners there for a Public Session and he will schedule a Commissioner's meeting with Eversource. Town Administrator Tully said Eversource would first have to apply to the Town for a pole license and poles would not go up overnight.

Roy Aboody of 18 Atlantic Avenue said at the site walk Eversource said they are going to do an analysis and present 2 options: (1) cost for underground poles and (2) what the poles would look like placed on Atlantic Avenue to give LBH an opportunity to negotiate. He said he wants to make sure Eversource sticks to that agreement and LBH has opportunity to look options and discuss easements with Eversource, who has a responsibility to keep LBH the way it is and not have us foot the bill.

Next Regular Meeting: September 23, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary