



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

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 7:00 PM**

**NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL**

***Approved September 25, 2023***

**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

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of September 11, 2023 and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Pinette called a moment of silence for 9/11. Town Administrator Tully said all flags under Town control are at half-staff today until sunset.

**First Public Comment Session**

*Phone: 603-758-1447*

No Public Comments.

**Consent Calendar**

- 3.1 Payroll Manifest of August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$75,561.80
- 3.2 Payroll Manifest of September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$249,672.94
- 3.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of August 17, 2023 in the amount of \$214,127.70
- 3.4 Applications for Abatements

**Motion:** To accept Consent Calendar as presented.

**Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

**Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

***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](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.***

**Correspondence** – None

**Committee Updates**

Selectman Maggiore: *Heritage Commission* did not meet in August and will meet in September; one demo review approved and another coming up. *Water Commission* has not met.

Vice-Chair Sununu: *Rails to Trails Committee* met last week and reviewed construction update with Rail Trail proceeding on schedule, still targeting October 2024 completion; reviewed final signage plan from Rockingham Planning Commission and National Park Service (grant) and posted on webpage. *Budget Committee* will start regular meetings for Budget Season in early October.

Chairman Pinette: *CIP Committee* meeting this Friday at 8:30 am to finalize recommendations.

**Report of the Town Administrator**

Period August 29 – September 8, 2023:

Finance: 84% of Budget remaining with 44 weeks left in FY; Police: Officer Spence started Patrol Duty, Chief Labarge prepping for another applicant, Deputy Chief Daly welcomed back as parttime officer; Fire: conducting interviews for FF positions; New Building: new fence at rear of property installed, bay doors ready for installation; Rec: Golf Tournament rescheduled to October 4; Highway: Routine maintenance on town properties, town complex prepped for paving, repaired LBH oceanside sidewalk; Community Power Aggregation met August 31; Vertex Towers met with PB September 5 re Cell Tower, continuing to October PB meeting; Coakley: asked for additional signage on Rail Trail. Plan to hold community TA meetings with Rye, Stratham, and Greenland.

Selectman Maggiore provided further input on Cell Tower: More abutters to be notified within radius of 500 meters; considering increasing height of tower from 154 ft to 180 ft for better area service which creates issue with FAA requiring light on top. Vice-Chair Sununu said Vertex will also be at the ZBA meeting this month for additional requests; Balloon Test scheduled for September 19 depending on weather.

**Items Left on the Table**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 Discussion of Final Revaluation Summary**

Scott Marsh, of Municipal Resources Contract & Assessing Services, said the Revaluation was completed, they held 206 scheduled meetings and met with others, roughly 8%; most questioned large increase in property assessments and asked about tax rate. Goal is to bring the assessments back to market value to maintain equitable distribution of tax burden. Current ratio is estimated at 60% of value, values run until today are now at 96% and still slightly increasing. All who attended hearings will receive a notice of how much their assessment changed; in total, Town's taxable values went up \$600 Million; saw an approximately \$10 Million decrease as a result of housing.

Vice-Chair Sununu asked if MRI was seeing similar 50% increases in other communities and mentioned the particularly large increase on mobile homes. Mr. Marsh said all communities were in the 50-60% range and increases on mobile homes were due to affordability; 30 people with manufactured homes came in

for meetings. Town Administrator Tully reviewed the formula for determining the tax rate and said the process will start end of November and hopefully finish by December 1, 2023.

**Motion:** To accept the final Revaluation Summary and values as presented.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

## **8.2 Discussion by Police Chief LaBarge on Community Cruiser Project**

Police Chief Robert LaBarge said he was bringing up a proposal to redesign the police cars, and said the Police Department should be trusted, be accountable and transparent, and have a relationship with the community. He said he spoke with officers and they unanimously agreed they do not like the police cars as design is outdated.

Chief LaBarge said they came up with the idea to work with Winnacunnet High School Graphic Design students and the school was ecstatic. He said this will make a bond and build trust with students who will have a say in what a police car is. When completed it will be brought over to North Hampton School for grades K-8 to vote on the design, a great idea for outreach and creating relationships; may attract new people to law enforcement or STEM-related fields with experience in a hands-on project.

Selectman Maggiore felt it was a great idea for chief engagement with SAU and cooperation with North Hampton School which will filter through to parents and families. Vice-Chair Sununu agreed totally and was looking forward to it. Chairman Pinette asked if there would be guidelines for students to adhere to; Chief LaBarge said he would keep it open at the beginning and was thinking of wrapping each vehicle.

## **8.3 Discuss Channel 22 High Definition – John Savastano**

Channel 22 Director John Savastano said he started broadcasting here in December of 2007 and tried to progress over the years buying the best equipment to stay up to date with technologies, broadcasting in 480 fiberoptic connection to Exeter to do broadcast. He said Comcast only ever had a few HD stations but he received a call from Comcast government affairs installation saying they were getting ready to upgrade his station; everything is already in place in their setup to accept HD and plan is to have installation by 9/30/2023. New station number will be 1122 or 1022 and lacking a Xfinity box you will still be able to access the old Channel 22.

Town Administrator Tully said the whole story is that Mr. Savastano has been in his office every other week for past 3 years about bringing his channel to high definition and frequently calling Comcast. He said Mr. Savastano and his crew are also working on building a sound system for Town Hall.

## **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS**

### **9.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 28, 2023**

**Motion:** To accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023 as presented.

**Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

**Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

### **Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board**

Select Board Regular Meeting  
September 11, 2023

Town Administrator Tully said there was a fire down by Atlantic and Sea Road with primaries, secondaries and poles running behind residences in that area. An older pole in poor condition came down and started a fire in a barn. He said Eversource is looking at replacing those poles to the front of the houses on Atlantic Avenue and he would like to set up a site walk with a Select Board representative taking part and will add to next agenda for discussion; Vice-Chair Sununu volunteered. Selectman Maggiore asked they also reach out to Little Boars Head.

Vice-Chair Sununu said with regard to the Rail Trail that DOT and the Government Council do a 10-year highway plan every 2 years and there will be meetings held locally. He said the stretch of the Rail Trail that comes up from MA to Salisbury at the State Line is not planned to be completed until 2032 and local residents may want to attend one of the meetings to express their concerns.

**Second Public Comment Session**

*Phone: 603-758-1447*

Chairman Pinette opened Public Comments at 7:43 pm; no Public Comments.

**Next Regular Meeting:** September 11, 2023

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary