



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

NOVEMBER 13, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved November 27, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of November 13, 2023, and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To seal the minutes of Non-Public Session of November 13, 2023

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

First Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447

Chairman Pinette opened the first Public Comment Session.

Deborah Sillay of 218 Atlantic Avenue said the Friends of the North Hampton Public Library are doing their annual appeal with mailers out this week. So far this year Friends have spent over \$10,000 funding children's programs and \$5,000 on Museum Passes, and she asked that residents give generously.

Cynthia Swank of 19 Hobbs Road said she is encouraging people to support the North Hampton Historical Society through purchasing the 2024 historical calendar or an ornament depicting the depot and trolley.

Chairman Pinette closed the First Public Comment Session.

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.

Consent Calendar

- 6.1 Payroll Manifest of October 26 2023 in the amount of \$77,384.74
- 6.2 Accounts Payable Manifest of October 20,2023 in the amount of \$7,450.00
- 6.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of October 26,2023 in the amount of \$1,289,273.93
- 6.4 Payroll Manifest of November 2, 2023 in the amount of \$222,537.00
- 6.5 Payroll Manifest of November 9, 2023 in the amount of \$78,619.79
- 6.6 Charitable Exemptions

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar items 6.1 through 6.5 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Selectman Maggiore asked that the Board discuss Item *6.6 Charitable Exemptions*. He said North Hampton has 3 charitable exemptions: Fuller Foundation, NHYA, and One Sky Communications whose applications were received in October without all necessary paperwork, which has since been provided.

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar item 6.6 Charitable Exemptions for Fuller Foundation, NHYA, and One Sky Communications.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Correspondence – None

Committee Updates

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* had a demo review last week which was approved; official meetings will continue Thursday, also doing Sub-Committee work. *Water Commission* is looking for a meeting date and should have update at next Select Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* has not met; *Budget Committee* to meet November 20 and November 29, 2023.

Selectman Maggiore reported that the Planning Board approved an application to put up a wireless communications facility and Cell Tower on private property with a number of waivers and CU Permits, allowing access by First Responders to the top of the tower.

PUBLIC HEARING

To present information and receive comments about the proposed North Hampton Electric Aggregation Plan prepared by the North Hampton Electric Aggregation Committee.

Chairman Pinette opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

Stuart Ormsbee of Colonial Power Group said they are working with the Town of North Hampton on a Community Choice Aggregation Program for electricity by aggregating residents together to form a large buying pool from those currently taking power from the local utility. Consumers already under a third-party contract are not affected but can opt in; program is opt-out with consumers auto-enrolled unless

they opt out. Net-metered customers will not be auto-enrolled and may be better off with the local utility company.

Mr. Ormsbee said benefits provide choice, focusing on price stability and product options; program is entirely self-funded with administrative costs included in program rates. Colonial Power has been engaged by the Town to be administrators with all decision-making done by Town public officials; local utility company continues to be poles and wires and should be contacted in the event of power outage. Billing remains unchanged with a single bill and a line-item change in "power supply"; those on energy assistance or budget billing services continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Ormsbee said he cannot guarantee savings from the program but the intention is to be more strategic in buying power supply on behalf of residents. He said this is the second required public hearing and if the Town votes to move forward, lots of information will be sent out and a dedicated program website set up. The next step is for Select Board to vote to move forward with a Warrant Article to be placed at Town Meeting in March and voters to approve program; if approved there is a State oversight process and once plan is approved at State level (mid 2024) the Town is then free to go out to competitive bid from suppliers later in 2024, if market is a good time to buy.

John Sillay of 218 Atlantic Avenue said he was surprised to now hear that there may be times when rates are higher than local utility, and asked for expectations for how often and by how much. Mr. Ormsbee said utility companies go out every 6 months to procure their power supply in spring and fall; the Town can be more strategic and look for buying opportunities to lock in low prices. He said the Town will lock into a 2- or 3-year contract when prices are low; consumers can also opt in and out at any time without penalty. Vice-Chair Sununu said it is impossible to predict how often that will happen and will depend on market conditions.

Chairman Pinette closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 pm.

Report of the Town Administrator

Report October 24 – November 10, 2023: Finance: 67% of Budget remaining with 35 weeks left in FY; Police: New Deputy Police Chief Tom Scotti (experienced from Hudson and Litchfield); Fire: Deputy Fire Chief position in final part of approval process, public hearing at next meeting to accept equipment donated from North Hampton Fireman's Association; Town Hall prepped to connect to Town Server; final grading done at Stone Building with walkways, seeding in spring; REC: accepted resignation of Danielle Strater from Recreation Commission, programming listed online; Walkway Project completed made possible by generous donations; Elementary School made time capsules for new Safety Building.

Items Left on the Table

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Aquarion Water Quarterly Update

Carl McMoran highlighted operations and explained Hydrant Flushing done routinely as maintenance; involves shutting down some valves to ensure water pressure in one direction only to flush out sediments and reduce discoloration; Aquarion flushed 230 hydrants this year. PFAS update shows the same slide as last time as there has been no official movement on this yet; if numbers stand, probably looking at adding more treatments.

12.2 Discussion of Scheduled Power Outage of Town Campus

Town Administrator Tully said Eversource notified the Town that transformers were ready to be installed and set up a schedule: 11/9 Pole to be set on Atlantic Avenue 11/9 (not done due to wrong size); 11/15 setting pads; 11/16 Eversource crews from 8 am-4 pm onsite to install transformers with an all-building outage.

12.3 Discussion of Tax Rate Setting

Town Administrator Tully said Little Boar's Head recently submitted tax information; as soon as review complete Select Board will need to hold a workshop to discuss overhead on tax rate which will go back to DRA to set final rate; one week needed to prepare all tax bills to residents due 30 days after it goes out; target would be to receive tax bills by December 1, 2023 and running late.

12.4 Building Update

Town Administrator Tully said the Safety Building is coming along, working on interior finishes, irrigation finished next week; a lot of exterior site work done with final paving in spring using base coat for winter; many inside floors complete, some carpeting, initial painting done, dropped ceiling installed. Chief Lajoie's personnel helped build out a training wall inside Fire House bay. Tentatively scheduled move-in for November 13th and 15th; asked Board for permission to hold Open House for resident walkthrough on November 12, 2023 and Board agreed.

The Board discussed final costs as compared to other towns, with a lower cost per square foot and good timing for Bonding. Vice-Chair Sununu said the Town did everything they could to keep prices down. Town Administrator Tully said Ritchie Construction took care of many things to be a little ahead of schedule and on budget; Chief Lajoie brought in \$100,000 in grant funds for generator and set up EOC. Vice-Chair Sununu said there is also the cost for the temporary stations.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

13.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 23, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2023, as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

13.2 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meetings of October 23, 2023

Motion: To approve the Minutes of Non-Public Meeting of October 23, 2023.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

13.3 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meeting of November 7, 2023

Motion: To approve the Minutes of Non-Public Meeting of November 7, 2023.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Select Board Regular Meeting
November 13, 2023

Phone: 603-758-1447

Chairman Pinette opened Second Public Comment at 7:51 pm; no Public Comments.

Next Regular Meeting: November 27, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary