



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

FEBRUARY 8, 2021 7:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jim Maggiore, Vice Chairman James Sununu, Selectman Larry Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Wilson, Conservation Commission Easement Sub-Committee Chair Andrew Vorkink, MRI Assessing Agent Scott Marsh

AGENDA

Chairman Jim Maggiore welcomed everyone to the February 8, 2021 Regular Select Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To seal the minutes of Non-Public Session I and Non-Public Session II of February 8, 2021.

Motioned: Selectman Miller

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

First Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447; Email: jmaqqiore@northhampton-nh.gov

No public comments.

Consent Calendar

- 6.1 Payroll Manifest of January 28, 2021 in the amount of \$67,269.04
- 6.2 Payroll Manifest of February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$82,479.97
- 6.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$64,119.02
- 6.4 Cemetery Deed
- 6.5 Timber Tax

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.

Select Board Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

Chairman Maggiore said Consent Calendar item 6.5 raised some questions and asked that they take the item off and add to New Business. Selectman Miller said item 6.5 has no description of before and after and no reason why the trees will be cut down on public land. He asked that the item be postponed for a clarification and executive summary of what is there and what will be left.

Motion: To move Item 6.5 Timber Tax to New Business. (*Note: there were 2 items numbered 6.3*).

Motioned: Selectman Miller

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar items 6.1 to 6.4 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Miller

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Correspondence

Correspondence from Kelsey Dumville, Public Affairs Office, Environmental Protection Agency, Received February 3, 2021 – Date for next EPA Coakley Superfund Site Public Meeting Wednesday, March 3, 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams accessible via internet browser.

Correspondence from Lisa J. Wilson, Chair, North Hampton Conservation Commission, dated February 4, 2021 – Requesting purchase of 39 acres of Conservation Land to be donated to the Town by Walter E Nordstrom and placed in Conservation and managed by the Conservation Commission, subject to pending approval by ZBA for variance to sub-divide the 42-acre lot, Map 17, Lot 17. Also request the Select Board approve abating the current-use tax penalty.

Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Wilson said this was an important acquisition in the headwaters of the Little River to conserve a piece of land that provides flood attenuation and is important for recharging the aquifer and purifying water from Little River. Town Administrator Tully asked that the Select Board schedule a Public Hearing for their February 22, 2021 meeting.

Conservation Commission Easement Sub-Committee Chair Andrew Vorkink explained that the entire red area of the map is the 42 acres and the square at the bottom is the 2.6-acre buildable lot; to the right of the lot a 1,000 ft strip remains as part of the Conservation Land to allow access from North Road.

Vice-Chair Sununu asked about the current-use penalty tax and how it is calculated. Mr. Vorkink explained that when land goes into current use the tax is reduced for a period of time. If the property comes out of current use in sense of being developed, a current use penalty of 10% of appraised value would be on the buildable lot only, not the 39 acres in Conservation; if entire property came out of current use and into Conservation there would be no current use tax. The Tax Assessor estimates approximately \$25,000 for current use tax on the buildable lot once it comes into existence; the penalty tax goes 100% to the Conservation Commission for future land acquisitions; would be an abatement of the current use penalty.

Mr. Vorkink said the Planning Board approved the subdivision of the property and waivers for the buildable lot: (1) to approve the 50-foot setback, and (2) variant for building a driveway to the upland acreage; both accepted by the Planning Board. He said the ZBA has 2 issues: (1) amount of frontage required to have a potential back lot, and (2) requires the buildable lot to have 60% of wetlands; current

Select Board Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

zoning is 50% maximum. Select Board approval after the Public Hearing would be conditional on ZBA final action.

Selectman Miller asked if the Conservation Commission believes the 39 acres of land is worth the \$25,000. Mr. Vorkink said absolutely for water preservation, as a possible additional recreation area, and as a bridge in future to the Rail Trail. Chairman Maggiore said the Conservation Commission asks the Public Hearing to be held at the next Select Board Meeting with Conservation Commission presentation and supply materials. Select Board members agreed by consensus.

Correspondence from Joseph Fitzgerald, Received February 3, 2021 – Strongly supports Mr. Nordstrom's subdivision application to donate Conservation Land off North Road, and recommends the Zoning Board approve the variances.

Selectman Miller said Joe Fitzgerald has been generous with land donations to the Town, he is in the area and approves the application, and the subdivision would be financially beneficial to the Town as well as conserving land.

Committee Updates

Selectman Miller said the *Economic Development Committee* will meet tomorrow to vote on what to recommend to the Select Board regarding the Ironwood Proposal; no rendering is available at this time.

Chairman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* has not met and the *Water Commission* continues to work on legal cases.

Selectman Miller said the *Budget Committee* held the Deliberative Session and the Budget is now in the form of a Warrant Article; there will be no more Budget Committee meetings until next budget season.

Vice-Chair Sununu said the *Rails to Trails Committee* met last week and attempted to talk to property owners about access and it is slow getting responses; nothing yet in terms of a primary access point; working on a map of all existing side trails to make sure of access. Turnover from State likely to be latter half of 2022.

Report of the Town Administrator

A copy of the Report of the Town Administrator will be attached to these minutes.

Report from January 23 through February 5, 2021 – Financial: 41% of Budget remaining with 21 weeks left in the fiscal year; Police Department fingerprint scanning machine to be delivered by March 9, 2021; new Ambulance delivered to the Fire Department and in service with approximately \$30,000 returned to Budget; COVID vaccine rollout continues with pods staffed by firefighters and paramedics; Director Manzi planning summer camp; Stone Hill currently doing research for PFAS investigation.

Items Left on the Table

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Discussion and Approval of Vision Government Assessing Software – Scott Marsh

Town Administrator Tully said this upgrade will have to be done anyway and it is best to complete the project in this Budget Year. The upgrade will cost approximately \$10,000 plus \$3,000-\$4,000 for PCG to upgrade our equipment to house it on site.

MRI Assessing Agent Scott Marsh said the upgrade will switch to a Windows base and most other towns have already converted over from Oracle. He said the cost was \$15,000 and is now \$10,000 and it is the best option for the Town. Town Administrator Tully said the server is housed in our building and remotely backed up off site.

Motion: Move to approve up to \$15,000 for implementation of the Vision 8 Assessing Software.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Miller

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

11.2 Discussion of School Funding Issue and House Bill 504

Town Administrator Tully said years ago the State had Donor Towns which was taken to court and determined unconstitutional. House Bill 504 came forward out of a Study Commission report, which will essentially bring back a donor town type of system. SWEPT funds are given from the State and collected on your tax bill (School Tax); currently North Hampton keeps all those monies and HB 504 would require all monies be sent back to the State for redistribution and return only what they deem to be “the amount of a fair education”; the second part of HB 504 the State determines what they think a fair education should cost and punishes communities that spend more.

Vice-Chair Sununu said the second part of the bill, which not only affects how Statewide property tax is collected, also affects the adequacy formula used to determine what that adequacy grant should be. To maintain the same level of education for North Hampton Schools would require a significant increase in property tax on the local tax line; North Hampton would be facing \$4 Mil more of additional tax to keep our School spending at the same level we are now. He said he felt this is not the way to go about this and there are other means the State can take to look at revenue sources from the General Fund that could supplement what towns pay to help alleviate property tax burdens.

Vice-Chair Sununu said there is discussion of putting together a Coalition of Communities to advocate against this. Town Administrator Tully said there was discussion of coming back into Coalition 2.0, and if all 50 donor communities join it would be approximately \$3,000 for North Hampton’s share. Vice-Chair Sununu said the Legislative Session is underway and this is happening now.

Motion: That the Select Board enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for professional services between Coalition Community 2.0 and the Town of North Hampton and authorize the Town Administrator to proceed with necessary documents to execute the agreement on behalf of the North Hampton School Board.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Miller

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Chairman Maggiore said House Bill 504 will be heard February 17, 2021 and the Legislature is providing more opportunities for the public to participate. On NH General Court Website click on the date for HB 504, select the Education Committee, and click on the bill to comment.

11.3 Discussion of Deliberative Session

Vice-Chair Sununu noted that one Warrant Article was amended: *Article 5-Operating Budget*. Chairman Maggiore said the Budget Committee met afterward and a \$12,000 increase was added to the line item for the Library Budget and was supported by the Budget Committee.

11.4 Timber Tax – Item 6.5 from Consent Calendar

Chairman Maggiore said Mr. Miller pointed out that additional information should be gathered on that and be conveyed to the applicant.

Motion: To put Item **11.4 Timber Tax** on the table until the next meeting.

Motioned: Chairman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Selectman Miller said he is looking for what is there, why is this being done, what is the impact and what is left and the overall purpose of this.

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

MINTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Miller

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Approval of the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021

Motion: To approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2021 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Miller

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447; Email: jmaggiore@northhampton-nh.gov

No public comments.

Next Regular Meeting: February 22, 2021

Adjournment

Chairman Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 8:24 pm.

Select Board Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary