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

4 **JUNE 12, 2023 7:00 PM**

5 **NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL**

6 ***DRAFT MINUTES***

7  
8 SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan Pinette, Vice-Chairman James Sununu, Selectman  
9 James Maggiore

10 ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully  
11

12 Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of June 12, 2023 and called  
13 the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board just coming from Non-Public,  
14 no need to seal minutes.  
15

16 **First Public Comment Session**  
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18 **Lori Cotter** of 168 Mill Road raised two issues: (1) Response to request to form Citizens Committee for  
19 Cell Tower; (2) Dire situation of North Hampton Police Department. Ms. Cotter requested an outside  
20 police survey and did not believe wages were the issue.  
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22 Town Administrator Tully said the Board has not determined that a committee should be set up and is  
23 waiting on a piece of property coming forward with an application for a Cell Tower. Vice-Chair Sununu  
24 said for the Police Department the main concern voiced was wages, which had fallen behind surrounding  
25 communities, and he did not see the need for a company to come in and do an anonymous survey.  
26

27 **Ann Marie Banfield** of 7 Highland Drive stated that the Police situation has caused a lot of people to lose  
28 confidence, and suggested providing documentation showing that the concern was wages to the public.  
29 She also asked who the Police Chief reports to. Chairman Pinette said the Police Chief reports to the Town  
30 Administrator who reports to the Board.  
31

32  
33 ***Disclaimer –These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by***  
34 ***NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Select Board.***  
35

36 ***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***  
37 ***DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North***  
38 ***Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.***

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**Consent Calendar**

- 5.1 Payroll Manifest of June 1, 2023 in the amount of \$100,956.29
- 5.2 Payroll Manifest of June 8, 2023 in the amount of \$205,304.05
- 5.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of May 25, 2023 in the amount of \$1,833,057.19
- 5.4 Accounts Payable Manifest of June 8, 2023 in the amount of \$228,479.26
- 5.5 Abatement Applications
- 5.6 Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber

**Motion:** To approve Payroll Manifest item 5.1 as presented.

**Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

**Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Motion:** To approve Payroll Manifest item 5.2 as presented.

**Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

**Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Motion:** To approve Accounts Payable Manifest item 5.3 as read.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Motion:** To approve Accounts Payable Manifest item 5.4 as presented.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar item 5.5 Abatement Applications as presented.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Motion:** To approve item Consent Calendar item 5.6 Notice of Intent to Cut Wood or Timber as presented.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**Correspondence** – None

**Committee Updates**

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* will be meeting this Friday; the last meeting was routine. *Water Commission* no updates.

Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* has not met since last meeting, nor has the *Budget Committee*.

87 Chairman Pinette said the *Capital Improvements Committee* (CIP) met briefly last week; will be meeting  
88 6/23/2023, 7/14/2023, and 7/21/2023.

89

90 **Report of the Town Administrator**

91 Period: May 23 – June 9, 2023: Finance at 7% of Budget with 3 weeks left in FY; Police Department has  
92 given 2 conditional offers of employment; Dylan Spence to graduate from Police Academy June 16 and  
93 begin field training; Fire Department running process to fill FF position and Deputy Fire Chief position;  
94 Rochester Fire Truck being stored in extra bay and will be returned when new engine arrives; Rec  
95 organizing a Golf Tournament fund raiser; first Family Fun Night June 23 at Dearborn Park; Old Home Day  
96 second Saturday in August with 5K race; Highway Hazardous Waste Day tentatively scheduled for  
97 September 16, with roadwork to start in July; Town Revaluation in final review stage (MRI).

98

99 **Items Left on the Table**

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101 **NEW BUSINESS**

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103 **10.1 Discussion of Police Department and Department of Public Works Negotiations**

104 Vice-Chair Sununu said Police Union and DPW employees are covered under the same contract; Warrant  
105 for contract passed in 2022 and took effect July 1, 2022. With the recent departure of officers for better  
106 wages, and sign-on bonuses for experienced officers, an agreement was made to reopen negotiations.  
107 Negotiations over last 3 weeks focused on 3 particular items: (1) Wage scale which was bumped up by  
108 \$4.81/hour; monitoring to continue; (2) Retention Bonus of \$4,000 for current employees with agreement  
109 to stay at least 1 year; (3) Referral Bonus of \$2,000 to an employee who refers a qualified officer. Town  
110 Administrator Tully said there will be an amended agreement to the original contract.

111

112 Selectman Maggiore asked about the one year of service required with the retention bonus; Vice-Chair  
113 Sununu said if they do not stay, they will have to pay it back. Town Administrator Tully said the Board will  
114 be seeing this again with the Fire Department and said they are looking to keep employees in the middle  
115 of the wage scale; may also offer referral bonuses for Paramedics. Vice-Chair Sununu said even getting  
116 applicants is difficult in this very competitive environment.

117

118 **Motion:** To approve the Police Union Agreement as stated for the wage increases, retention bouses, and  
119 recruiting bonuses.

120 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

121 **Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

122 **Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

123

124 **10.2 Discussion of Rail Trail**

125 Vice-Chair Sununu said the Committee has not met but a lot of progress is being made on the trail with  
126 DOT ahead of schedule; met with DOT at trail to address questions; DOT asked to remove all remaining  
127 railroad ties and complete State right-of-way as requested due to physical and environmental hazard  
128 concerns; discussed whether or not properly grading shoulders will cause drainage issues. North Hampton  
129 will take over maintenance once the State has finished trail construction per MOU; trail to be raised near  
130 Coakley to put in drainage structures due to water concerns.

131

132 Selectman Maggiore said he imagines Primex would agree with the terms of removing any liabilities; Town  
133 Administrator Tully said the land will belong to the State but the Town will be in charge of maintaining it.

134 Selectman Maggiore said 4 years ago the Heritage Commission met with DOT and got permission to put  
135 in a pocket park. Town Administrator Tully said he spoke with Donna Etela and as soon as DOT has a date  
136 and time, they will take out that piece of the bridge; might want to speak with Director Hubbard about  
137 any work needing to be done there. He said the Town will have first refusal of property which may be  
138 needed for maintenance of the trail, and he has gotten inquiries from businesses who wish to purchase  
139 property.

140

141 **10.3 Building Project Update**

142 Town Administrator Tully said the siding is being done, trim is done, and they are pushing to the inside;  
143 sprinkler system, electricity, and plumbing conduits being directed to different grass areas; first course of  
144 paving to hopefully start soon; roofs are done and project is going well. Marc Jobin will provide an update  
145 at the next meeting.

146

147 **10.4 Discussion and Update on Police Chief Process**

148 Town Administrator Tully said MRI received 32 applications/resumes for the position of Police Chief,  
149 narrowed it down to 12, had phone interviews with 8, and narrowed down to 4 left in the process. A panel  
150 was instituted for Wednesday made up of employees and members of the public (10 people) to review  
151 candidates, reporting back to the Select Board.

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153 **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS**

154 **10.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 22, 2023**

155 **Motion:** To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2023 as presented.

156 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

157 **Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

158 **Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

159

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

161 Town Administrator Tully said there are 2 very large, beautiful trees on the other side of the Tax Collector's  
162 building with one back toward Town Offices. Some branches fell and damaged a vehicle last year and  
163 there are concerns of branches possibly breaking a window in the Stone Building. He said Director  
164 Hubbard would like to see that one tree removed and wanted to warn the Board of that possibility in the  
165 future.

166

167 Selectman Maggiore asked if Tree Warden John Cafarella could look at the tree; Town Administrator Tully  
168 said he is not the Town's official tree warden but he did look at the tree and suggested pruning certain  
169 areas and said there is still some life left in the tree, but there are distressed areas.

170

171 **Kirstin Larsen Schultz** asked about members of the public being on the hiring panel for the Police Chief  
172 and asked who the members were and how they were selected. Vice-Chair Sununu said the Police Chief  
173 and the Town Administrator put a list of people together and asked them to be on the committee after  
174 the Board agreed to let them select the panel. He said members of the public selected were Cheryl  
175 Kasztejna, Joe LeClaire, Lisa Paquette, and Steve Burns.

176

177 **Second Public Comment Session**

178 No Public Comments.

179

180 **Next Regular Meeting:** June 26, 2023

- 181 Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.  
182  
183 Respectfully submitted,  
184 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary

DRAFT