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

4 **FEBRUARY 8, 2021 7:00 PM**

5 ***DRAFT MINUTES***

6
7 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jim Maggiore, Vice Chairman James Sununu, Selectman Larry Miller

8
9 ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Conservation Commission Chair Lisa Wilson,
10 Conservation Commission Easement Sub-Committee Chair Andrew Vorkink, MRI Assessing Agent Scott
11 Marsh

12 **AGENDA**

13
14 Chairman Jim Maggiore welcomed everyone to the February 8, 2021 Regular Select Board Meeting and
15 called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

16
17 **Motion:** To seal the minutes of Non-Public Session I and Non-Public Session II of February 8, 2021.

18 **Motioned:** Selectman Miller

19 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

20 **Vote:** Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

21
22 **First Public Comment Session**

23 *Phone: 603-758-1447; Email: imaggiore@northhampton-nh.gov*

24
25 No public comments.

26
27 **Consent Calendar**

28 6.1 Payroll Manifest of January 28, 2021 in the amount of \$67,269.04

29 6.2 Payroll Manifest of February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$82,479.97

30 6.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of February 4, 2021 in the amount of \$64,119.02

31 6.4 Cemetery Deed

32 6.5 Timber Tax

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

37
38 *A recording of the meeting can be found at: http://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/north_hampton_nh, and a*
39 *DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North*
40 *Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.*

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

45

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

47 **Motioned:** Selectman Miller

48 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

49 **Vote:** Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

50

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

52 **Motioned:** Selectman Miller

53 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

54 **Vote:** Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

55

56 **Correspondence**

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

60

61 *Correspondence from Lisa J. Wilson, Chair, North Hampton Conservation Commission, dated February 4,*
62 *2021 – Requesting purchase of 39 acres of Conservation Land to be donated to the Town by Walter E*
63 *Nordstrom and placed in Conservation and managed by the Conservation Commission, subject to pending*
64 *approval by ZBA for variance to sub-divide the 42-acre lot, Map 17, Lot 17. Also request the Select Board*
65 *approve abating the current-use tax penalty.*

66

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

71

72 Conservation Commission Easement Sub-Committee Chair Andrew Vorkink explained that the entire red
73 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
74 the lot a 1,000 ft strip remains as part of the Conservation Land to allow access from North Road.

75

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

83

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

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

90
91 Selectman Miller asked if the Conservation Commission believes the 39 acres of land is worth the \$25,000.
92 Mr. Vorkink said absolutely for water preservation, as a possible additional recreation area, and as a
93 bridge in future to the Rail Trail. Chairman Maggiore said the Conservation Commission asks the Public
94 Hearing to be held at the next Select Board Meeting with Conservation Commission presentation and
95 supply materials. Select Board members agreed by consensus.

96
97 *Correspondence from Joseph Fitzgerald, Received February 3, 2021* – Strongly supports Mr. Nordstrom’s
98 subdivision application to donate Conservation Land off North Road, and recommends the Zoning Board
99 approve the variances.

100
101 Selectman Miller said Joe Fitzgerald has been generous with land donations to the Town, he is in the area
102 and approves the application, and the subdivision would be financially beneficial to the Town as well as
103 conserving land.

104
105 **Committee Updates**

106
107 Selectman Miller said the *Economic Development Committee* will meet tomorrow to vote on what to
108 recommend to the Select Board regarding the Ironwood Proposal; no rendering is available at this time.

109
110 Chairman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* has not met and the *Water Commission* continues to
111 work on legal cases.

112
113 Selectman Miller said the *Budget Committee* held the Deliberative Session and the Budget is now in the
114 form of a Warrant Article; there will be no more Budget Committee meetings until next budget season.

115
116 Vice-Chair Sununu said the *Rails to Trails Committee* met last week and attempted to talk to property
117 owners about access and it is slow getting responses; nothing yet in terms of a primary access point;
118 working on a map of all existing side trails to make sure of access. Turnover from State likely to be latter
119 half of 2022.

120
121 **Report of the Town Administrator**

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

123
124 Report from January 23 through February 5, 2021 – Financial: 41% of Budget remaining with 21 weeks left
125 in the fiscal year; Police Department fingerprint scanning machine to be delivered by March 9, 2021; new
126 Ambulance delivered to the Fire Department and in service with approximately \$30,000 returned to
127 Budget; COVID vaccine rollout continues with pods staffed by firefighters and paramedics; Director Manzi
128 planning summer camp; Stone Hill currently doing research for PFAS investigation.

129
130 **Items Left on the Table**

131
132 **NEW BUSINESS**

133
134 **11.1 Discussion and Approval of Vision Government Assessing Software** – Scott Marsh

135

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

139

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

144

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

146 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

147 **Seconded:** Selectman Miller

148 **Vote:** Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

149

150 **11.2 Discussion of School Funding Issue and House Bill 504**

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

159

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

167

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

172

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

177 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

178 **Seconded:** Selectman Miller

179 **Vote:** Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

180

181 Chairman Maggiore said House Bill 504 will be heard February 17, 2021 and the Legislature is providing
182 more opportunities for the public to participate. On NH General Court Website click on the date for HB
183 504, select the Education Committee, and click on the bill to comment.

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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.

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232
233 Respectfully submitted,
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235 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary
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DRAFT