



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

MAY 22, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved June 12, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Fire Chief Jason Lajoie, Recreation Director Joe Manzi

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of May 22, 2023 and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Public Comment Session

Janet Larsen of 121 Post Road said in a March 6th email to Mr. Tully she offered to chair a Citizens' Committee to brainstorm ideas for a Cell Tower and asked for an update. Chairman Pinette said the Board is currently still in the process and there is nothing to add to previous comments; Town Administrator Tully said they are still expecting that to come sometime soon.

Consent Calendar

- 3.1 Payroll Manifest of May 11, 2023 in the amount of \$78,289.05
- 3.2 Payroll Manifest of May 18, 2023 in the amount of \$72,334.77
- 3.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of May 11, 2023 in the amount \$81,875.36
- 3.4 Cemetery Deeds

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

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, and a DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.

Correspondence

From Commander Berk Bennett, Jr of Hamptons American Legion Post 35: Chairman Pinette read the correspondence in full; invitation to Town Administrator and Select Board to attend the rededication of “The Lady of the Sea” marine memorial, Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 8:00 am at the Marine Memorial on Hampton Beach; ceremony to honor New Hampshire Sailors: RD2 Ronald Thibodeau and QM3 Gary Vigue, lost at sea in June 1969 on the USS Frank E. Evans.

Committee Updates

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* will have an update later on in the agenda; no update from the *Water Commission*.

Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails* has not met; *Budget Committee* met last Monday and appointed new member Andrew Raucci, presented Economic Review about economy and things facing the Town moving into budget season; also discussed Public Safety wages and wages in general facing municipalities.

Public Hearing

To Consider the Discretionary Barn Easement Application of Tax Map 001, Lot 120, 48 Ocean Boulevard; Owner: LBH LLC

Chairman Donna Etela read the Heritage Commission Memo in full stating that 6 members of the Heritage Commission visited the site at 48 Ocean Boulevard and inspected and considered conditions the Commission may recommend for a preservation easement at 75% reduction of assessment: (1) Scenic Enjoyment from a public way; (2) Structure is historically important: Barn lies in Village District of Little Boars Head on National Registry of Historic Places; (3) Structure’s physical or aesthetic features contribute to historic or cultural integrity of a property on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Ms. Etela said the Barn/Carriage House at 48 Ocean Boulevard fits all three of the above requirements and the property owners are committed to restoring the 1650 sq ft structure and maintaining its historic features. Repairs are in progress now and additional work is planned for 2024 with anticipated costs of \$50,000 plus maintenance expenses. Ms. Etela stated that in the opinion of The North Hampton Heritage Commission the structure will continue to contribute to the Historic District.

Selectman Maggiore said the structure is amazing inside and restoration will be significant; he said the relief is reasonable and he fully supports it.

Chairman Pinette opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm.

Joan Ganotis, Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, said the AG Commission fully supports the granting of the preservation easement provided by RSA 79-D to help save old North Hampton barns. She said the Bell-Sullivan property at 48 Ocean Boulevard is an 1896 Carriage Barn in excellent condition and well maintained and was confident the owners would provide exemplary repairs to the water damage.

Chairman Pinette closed the Public Hearing at 7:22 pm.

Vice-Chair Sununu said a memo was received from Town Assessor Scott Marsh confirming the application meets all requirements under the statute and saw no reason the Board should not approve it.

Motion: Move that for the Barn/Carriage House located at 48 Ocean Boulevard, Tax Map 001, Lot 120, the Select Board grant the preservation easement at full 75% reduction to the square footage of the structure resulting in an easement of \$540 to taxes.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Report of the Town Administrator

Period: May 9 – May 19, 2023: Finance at 13% of Budget with 7 weeks left in FY; Chief Kurz is working on expanding search capabilities for new Police Chief and officer positions, resumes collected with 5 passing physical fitness tests; Fire Department received a resignation; 2 FFs enrolled in Water Rescue Instructor summer class; High School intern shadowing FFs graduating in June has shown interest in studying Fire Science; work on Stone Building to be completed this fall; Recreation: Director Manzi will give rundown of Memorial Day events; Old Home Day, 2nd Saturday in August with 5K race; Highway crew removed graffiti at Dearborn Park; Police negotiations begun with dates to be set for Firefighters Union; Grant of \$12,000 to update Flood Plain Regulations; DOT working quickly on Rail Trail.

Items Left on the Table

NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Discussion of Memorial Day Events

Recreation Director Joe Manzi said Memorial Day is Monday, May 29th and parade will be run by Hampton Legion; meeting at Library parking lot at 9:45 am then march to the School. A ceremony will be held to honor all our veterans followed by a barbecue with plenty of great parking.

Selectman Maggiore said will be unable to attend this year as he will be out of the country.

9.2 Building Update

Town Administrator Tully said building framing is just about complete, concrete slabs poured in bays, membrane across flat roof completed, asphalt shingles starting next week, windows started. Once the building is weather-tight can start siding; site work continues to progress; first course of pavement 2nd week of June, then start moving employee vehicles to back of complex.

9.3 Legislative Update

Mr. Maggiore, as one of North Hampton's State Representatives, he would provide an update on progress and said Committee work is largely over and there are a few outstanding things to be taken up on Wednesday. He said the largest issue is the Budget of around \$15 Billion and there will be changes.

Proposals: Fund for \$1.2 Mil in FY2024 and \$1.6 Mil in FY2025 for Cyber Security grants will be set up; full one-time State contribution to NH Retirement System mandate of 7.5% changed to \$50 Mil payment to reduce that debt; \$250 Mil proposal to roll back some pension reforms enacted in 2011 with \$50 Mil in appropriations in next biennium for retirement contributions for certain Group 2 (Police & Fire) with some effort to restore them to where they should have been with some net affect on municipal budgeting.

A Bill was tabled for \$2 Mil funding for PFAS/PFOA remediation; \$10 Mil in additional Highway Block Grants, \$10 Mil for municipal bridges; also tabled bill with language for a Housing Champions Program,

Municipal Grant Program, Housing Infrastructure Municipal Grant Program with a \$5 Mil appropriation to give communities that meet certain criteria a preference to grant opportunities for different housing initiatives; bill that would enable logging companies to begin a cut upon expiration of 15 days to the filing and the Select Board must sign the Intent to Cut.

Another item is a recommendation that would require an employer with over 15 employees to pay for unused earned vacation and paid time off. A new group formed through House Speaker called Braver Angels who sit and try to figure out conflict resolution during the legislative process. Amendments to the Parental Bill of Rights were supported but without agreement; bill neutered by unexpected amendments.

9.4 Discussion of Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Fire Chief Jason Lajoie said the Town of North Hampton recently received funding from a grant through Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in the amount of \$7,500 to update our Hazard Mitigation Plan; total cost is \$10,000 with Town responsible for 25%. Plan last updated in 2018 with updates required every 5 years; will receive assistance from Rockingham Planning Commission.

Chief Lajoie explained Hazard Mitigation Plans as affording communities the opportunity to lay down a foundation for mitigation with a plan that identifies long-term strategies to reduce future risk from natural hazards and create a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damage from future disasters. He said necessary changes and updates will be made over the next few months and will then be presented to the Board for Public Hearing for final approval.

9.5 Discussion of Police Chief Search

Town Administrator Tully stated that MRI received 32 resumes for Police Chief position, 13 were moved forward in process, and 12 were accepted. Essays were graded by MRI transferring into phone interviews; there are some really good candidates from across the country.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

10.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 8, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 2-0. with 1 abstention

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Janel Larsen shared her experience of working in Healthcare as Director of Surgical Services and another hospital severely short-staffed actually called her operating room and hired away her Ortho/Surgical team, offering a \$10,000 sign-on bonus. She said within 2 weeks one of the employees asked to come back and the other person was back within 6 months. She said she understands recruitment and retention bonuses but said other things come into play over the long term, and she asked that the Select Board and Town Administrator use creative ideas using different approaches that set North Hampton apart.

Town Administrator Tully said he reached out to Unions and asked for a comprehensive list of issues they were experiencing and it came back with one thing: wages. He explained that since the Police Contract

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was negotiated other communities have closed bigger contracts with higher raises which has left our officers down in the wage band for this area.

John Savastano followed up on Memorial Day activities and said he would do the setup for the event at the school with parking on left, parade vehicles on right, and ceremony in front; weather sunny and 72 degrees and sound system will be set up.

Next Regular Meeting: June12, 2023

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary