



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

JULY 26, 2021 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved August 9, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Police Chief Kathryn Mone

AGENDA

Chairman Jim Maggiore welcomed everyone to the July 26, 2021 North Hampton Select Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Public Comment Session

For comments please call 603-758-1447.

No Public Comments.

Consent Calendar

- 3.1 Payroll Manifest of July 15, 2021 in the amount of \$266,957.15
- 3.2 Payroll Manifest of July 22, 2021 in the amount of \$83,222.66
- 3.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of July 22, 2021 in the amount of \$1,383,073.34
- 3.4 Cemetery Deeds
- 3.5 Fire Permit Billing

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar as presented (items 3.1-3.5).

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 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

Copies of all Correspondence will be attached to the minutes.

4.1 Correspondence from Comcast - Dated July 16, 2021 from Jay Somers, Senior Manager Government Affairs. Chairman Maggiore read the letter in full: Comcast supports School Districts and Libraries eligible for Federal E-Rate Funding connecting households to internet at home through SCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) administered by Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Schools and Libraries may be eligible to seek reimbursement through ECF to sponsor internet service as part of Comcast's Essentials Partnership Program. There is a 45-day window for applications from June 29th through August 13, 2021.

4.2 Correspondence from Laurel Pohl – dated July 13, 2021. Chairman Maggiore read the letter in full. Ms. Pohl stated that her house started shaking around 7:00 am in the morning and a framed picture was knocked to the floor with glass shattering. She said she saw a large construction vehicle in the vicinity of the Recycling Center and contacted town administrators and could only reach Jan Facella who told her paving work was going there. She then walked over to the Recycling Center and spoke with Director Hubbard who said they were removing existing pavement and there would be some shaking. She pointed out the time of day and said the area was zoned residential and not for industrial or municipal use and residents should have been notified.

Town Administrator Tully said they were working within the framework of the established Noise Ordinance and said Director Hubbard started at 7:20 am and had notified all residents on Cherry Road but unfortunately not on North Road. He said as far as we know we are following policies that are in place.

Committee Updates

Chairman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* met last week with updates on things currently in progress; next meeting will be next month. The *Water Commission* is also under new business and will be addressed at that time.

Vice-Chair Sununu said the *Rails to Trails Committee* had a meeting scheduled which had to be postponed due to summer schedules to be rescheduled in mid-August after Seacoast Greenway Committee meeting in a few weeks.

Selectman Pinette said the *Budget Committee* has not met. The *CIP Committee* had their first meeting and Chief Lajoie, Chief Mone, and Director Hubbard presented their departments; next meeting Friday July 30, 2021 at 8:30 am.

Report of the Town Administrator

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

Report July 13 through July 23, 2021: Finance reviewing preliminary numbers for FY2021/FY2022 Budget; current surplus \$160K and anticipate final surplus at \$100k plus monies from Warrant Articles not spent. Fire received donations of an ice machine, portable water cooler, and 10 cases of water; Town offices public input meeting scheduled for tomorrow at 6:00 pm with facilities tour followed by public ideas on beginning designs. PFAS report being finished; rep from Stonehill Environmental will be at the August 23rd meeting; North Hampton's share for Coalition of Communities paid; Public Works Household Hazardous

Select Board Regular Meeting

July 26, 2021

Waste Day July 31st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm; Philbrick Pond working group preparing bid documents to fund contractor, Wetlands Permit approved by DES; GIS Tax Mapping to be completed by September.

Items Left on the Table – None

NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Bid Selection for 1984 Ladder Truck

Town Administrator Tully said there were 3 bids on the vehicle: highest \$4,017 from Chandler Hutchins, second highest from Barry Moses for \$3,984.84, and lowest from Robert Mulholland for \$3,525.

Motion: To accept the high bid of \$4,017 for the 1984 E-One Hurricane 110-ft Ladder Truck as is.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Chandler Hutchins of Hampton, NH said he started collecting pieces of apparatus as a hobby and wanted a Hampton truck but could not find one and jumped at the chance for a North Hampton truck.

Town Administrator Tully said this truck was a ladder in Boston before it came here, then a back-up piece, then North Hampton's Ladder Truck refurbished. He said all markings would be removed but ask the Board if "North Hampton" and markings can remain. The Board agreed by consensus to leave all old seals and lights on vehicle.

8.2 Discussion of Car Carriers on Route 1

Chairman Maggiore said the Town has had issues where deliveries to automotive dealers are loaded and unloaded in the center turning lane or the breakdown lane on Route 1, a clear violation of New Hampshire Statutes. Town Administrator Tully is working with Police Chief Mone trying to get resolution as it is a danger to all vehicles travelling on Route 1.

Town Administrator Tully said he has seen it with 3 different dealerships in town and provided pictures of various incidents. He showed an example of a truck in the breakdown lane dropping off a vehicle and a truck stopped in the center lane with vehicles passing on both sides. These vehicles are bought at auction and the owner/dealer has no immediate control over deliveries coming in. There are also issues with line of sight and difficulty for vehicles trying to exit their properties, as well as being a dangerous safety issue.

Town Administrator Tully said Businesses have provided directions which are not followed, or trucks are too big to turn into the business, as well as language difficulties with drivers and insulting behavior. He said by the time Chief Mone arrives the car carriers are gone. They have moved a sign to Route 1 where car haulers stop and have seen some improvement, but tickets are probably the next step. He said they are seeing carriers in the center lane, breakdown lane, and actually in travel lanes unloading vehicles and asked the Board for suggestions.

Selectman Pinette asked if there could be a destination spot where property owners can agree to use as a drop-off location. Town Administrator Tully said the dealer on Route 1 has a spot that can be used for car deliveries but cannot get companies to use it. Selectman Pinette asked if that was a pull-through and Town Administrator Tully said it could be, but other vehicles are parked there. Chairman Maggiore said if

they had a designated spot for drop-off the vehicles have no license plates, and Chief Mone said they could use dealer plates.

Selectman Pinette asked if State Police patrol along Route 1 and share responsibilities. Chief Mone said the State Police and Rockingham County Sheriffs do some patrols. Vice-Chair Sununu asked what the fine is for car carriers parking in the middle of Route 1, and Chief Mone said probably \$120 and if we cite the business on the other end fines could go up. Chairman Maggiore said the Police and Town are working on this and have some cooperation from business owners and asked for regular updates.

8.3 Discussion of Upcoming Police Department Negotiations

Chairman Maggiore said they are entering a contract year for the Police Department (3-year contract) and need to assign a Board member to negotiate. Typically there is a Select Board member, the Town Administrator, and the Town Attorney; they reached out to us, and labor attorneys are aware.

Motion: To nominate Mr. Sununu for that role.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Chairman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

8.4 Update of Aquarion Water Rate Case

Chairman Maggiore said the rate case is a standard operating procedure for the utilities and is a long process of typically 18 months with most involvement from attorneys; Water Commission is involved in all rate cases. He said it is on the agenda to make sure the Board is in favor of moving ahead with those efforts; costs for attorneys can be substantial and seems appropriate to have Board consensus to move ahead with efforts.

Vice-Chair Sununu said it is a very substantial item and comes up yearly in Budget discussions and felt the Board should stay as involved as possible. Selectman Pinette agreed and asked if we are piggybacking with other towns or on our own, and Chairman Maggiore said they normally partner with Hampton. There was a consensus of the Select Board to remain involved.

8.5 Legislative Update from State Representative/Chairman Maggiore

Chairman Maggiore thanked the Town for their support as their Representative in Concord. He said the Legislature can receive 1,000 bills in a year with 25 or 50 usually signed. He said the State Budget is a biennium or 2-year budget of \$13.5 Billion of which the rainy-day fund is an important part and will go up from \$121 Mil to \$158 Mil by 2023. He said the Budget overall is fairly good, but he did not vote in favor of it due to riders added in that Budget, some of which were of grave concern. He felt policy actions should not be included in the Budget especially those with no financial component to them.

Chairman Maggiore said the Business Enterprise Tax will go down from 0.6-0.55% and the Business Profits Tax drops from 7.7-7.6% which helps businesses. The 5% tax on interest and dividends will be phased out over 5 years. Rooms & Meals is a long-standing issue where the State has never met their obligations and it drops in this Budget from 9%-8.5%, which is \$188 Mil coming back to communities over the 2% which will go into a dedicated fund. There will be increases in Block Grants of \$34.3 Mil and \$35.4 Mil for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for highways and road maintenance.

Chairman Maggiore said in the Budget is the School Choice Program for funding (\$3,300-\$9,000) for parents to enroll children in a school of their choice. SWEPT (Statewide Education Property Tax) was

reduced by \$100 Mil; the State has a perpetual problem with adequate funding for Education. The money comes back to communities proportionately to be used to offset property taxes to be paid for Schools.

Vice-Chair Sununu said there is a perpetual conflict between predominance of local property taxes funding Education versus what is required constitutionally in New Hampshire. He said for North Hampton SWEPT will be mostly an accounting issue and will not have an affect on us as a Town; they will still raise the amount of money budgeted for North Hampton School and Winnacunnet High School. Selectman Pinette asked if it had been decided whether we will have donor-recipient towns, and Vice-Chair Sununu said at least not for this coming year. He said he was very supportive of School Choice and vouchers.

Chairman Maggiore said he serves on the House Municipal & County Government Committee which deals with housing, property taxes, and things related to municipalities. He said this year most issues affecting municipalities were rejected, especially with housing, which is frustrating because New Hampshire has a problem with the ability for people to be able to afford to buy. He said the Committee is working to figure out what will be proposed this year and a small bipartisan group is meeting weekly to come up with housing bills.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

Approval of Non-Public Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021

Motion: To approve the Non-Public Meeting and Regular Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2021 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Approval of Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2021

Motion: To approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2021 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved by a vote of 3-0

Town Administrator Tully explained that there is a Workshop every year for the Select Board to set their goals for the coming fiscal year. He said those goals were approved at this meeting by vote of 3-0.

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Town Administrator Tully said he needed to correct something discussed in New Business about the Car Carriers on Route 1, and said it also has a financial aspect to it for the Town. Police are getting multiple calls and paying for employees as well as vehicles and he thinks about the financial ramifications of solving this; Police are called to Route 1 and have other duties they are not performing which cost the Town.

Selectman Pinette asked if there was a cost estimate and Town Administrator Tully said there was not. Selectman Pinette said it is not only their time but the Town Administrator's as well. Chairman Maggiore asked if they could require a detail, and Chief Mone said if they knew when the cars would be delivered. If the onus were put on the dealership, they would be responsible to pay for a detail to direct traffic. Town

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Administrator Tully said the Town does have an Ordinance that requires a detail if working in the road with equipment.

Second Public Comment Session

For comments please call 603-758-1447.

No Public Comments.

Next Regular Meeting: August 9, 2021

Adjournment

Chairman Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary