



1  
2 **TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
3 **NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

4 **December 11, 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,  
9 Selectman James Maggiore

10 **ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Michael Tully, Police Chief Robert LaBarge

11  
12  
13 Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of December 11, 2023 and  
14 called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

15  
16 Selectman Maggiore said the Board had just come from two Non-Public Sessions and needed to seal the  
17 minutes of Non-Public Session II.

18  
19 **Motion:** To seal the minutes of Non-Public Session II of December 11, 2023

20 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

21 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

23  
24 Selectman Maggiore also asked that the Board move New Business items 12.1 – Swearing in of Deputy  
25 Tom Scotti and 12.2 – Presentation of “524” Award up to next items of business.

26  
27 **12.1 Swearing in of Deputy Police Chief Thomas Scotti**

28 Police Chief Robert LaBarge said the Department has a new Deputy Chief, Thomas Scotti. As a Police  
29 Officer Scotti became a Detective Sergeant for 6 years, went to Litchfield and attained the rank of Captain,  
30 and has done everything necessary to run a police department. He said he is a great addition to the North  
31 Hampton Police Department, brings a great amount of leadership and experience, and we look forward  
32 to working with him. He thanked everyone for coming.

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

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

40  
41 Town Administrator Tully presented the Oath of Office to Deputy Chief Thomas Scotti, and his wife Christie  
42 Scotti did the pinning of the badge. The Board said they were very pleased to have him as part of the team  
43 and welcomed him to the community.  
44

45 **12.2 Presentation of "524" Award**

46 Police Chief LaBarge said he did not know Peter Cormier but heard he was a positive team player and  
47 everything a department would need. He said the Police Department came up with the 524 Award in  
48 memoriam and retired Pete's badge number. This year the Department was unanimous in giving the  
49 award to our Administrative Secretary, Erin Coker. He said she is up there every day, is a hard worker with  
50 a great work ethic, and has done everything this Department needs. She sits at the computer day after  
51 day without complaint and is the most deserving of the award for this year.  
52

53 **Erin Coker** said she is used to being in the background and has been around Emergency Services her whole  
54 life. She said her father was a firefighter and she started as a firefighter in 1999; when she had her children  
55 she moved into more administrative roles. She said in working with Police Officers you see their passion,  
56 dedication, and care for the community. She said though she did not work personally with Pete Cormier  
57 he was well-respected, a teacher, and an inspiration to her and her family.  
58

59 The Board congratulated Ms. Coker and said North Hampton is fortunate to have such a tremendous team  
60 of employees.  
61

62 *The Select Board took a 10-minute break then resumed the meeting.*  
63

64 **First Public Comment Session**

65 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

66 Chairman Pinette opened the first Public Comment Session at 7:28 pm; no Public Comments.  
67

68 **Consent Calendar**

- 69 6.1 Payroll Manifest of November 30, 2023 in the amount of \$74,005.91  
70 6.2 Accounts Payable Manifest of November 22, 2023 in the amount of \$1,331,077.15  
71 6.3 Payroll Manifest of December 7, 2023 in the amount of \$116,833.02  
72 6.4 Accounts Payable Manifest of December 7, 2023 in the amount of \$1,337,486.39  
73 6.5 Cemetery Deeds  
74

75 **Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar items 6.1 through 6.5 as presented.

76 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

77 **Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

78 **Vote:** Motion approved 3-0  
79

80 **Correspondence**

81 7.1 Correspondence from Jim and Nancy Bergeron  
82

83 Chairman Pinette said the Board received a letter, responded to by Vice-Chair Sununu, from Jim and Nancy  
84 Bergeron regarding the tax rate and assessment and read the letter in full. Their property tax increased  
85 to \$4,000/yr and they felt they were being punished for living on the Seacoast with market rates forcing  
86 people out of their homes.

87  
88 Vice-Chair Sununu said there is a similar discussion going on online regarding the tax rate, tax bills, and  
89 assessments. Information has been posted online for clarity on why the tax bills worked out the way they  
90 did. He explained that the Fiscal Year starts in July and the Budget is passed in March, but the tax rate is  
91 not set until November. The first tax bill is an estimate based on last year's taxes, multiplied by  
92 assessment; for total taxes this year subtract out what was paid in June. This year all properties were re-  
93 evaluated, and assessments were changed.

94  
95 Vice-Chair Sununu said with revaluation some taxes go up more than others, and this year there was an  
96 overall increase in the Town assessment of 50%; any assessments that went up more than that will see an  
97 increase in their tax bill, and this property had an above-average increase in property value. He said Bonds  
98 for the Library and Safety Center are now hitting the Budget and healthcare and payroll costs are up.  
99 Overall the Town Budget has gone up 3-4% less than inflation over the last 4 years, not counting the debt  
100 service. He said the goal is for everyone's property to be fairly assessed.

101  
102 **Committee Updates**

103 Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* has not met and will not meet this month; *Water*  
104 *Commission* met before the last Budget Committee meeting to discuss impact of PUC decision against the  
105 agreement in place and the effect of that on our budgets.

106  
107 Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* has not met; *Budget Committee* met last week and did a  
108 second review of Library and Town Budgets and approved both unanimously.

109  
110 **PUBLIC HEARING**

111 To Consider the Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue, and Special One-Time Highway Payment in the  
112 amount of \$28,737.14 awarded to the Town of North Hampton from the State of New Hampshire in  
113 Accordance with House Bill 2 for Maintenance, Construction, and Reconstruction of Class IV and V  
114 Highways in the Town of North Hampton for Fiscal Year 2024.

115 Chairman Pinette opened the Public Hearing.

116  
117 Public Works Director John Hubbard said this is periodically voted on in the legislature to release  
118 additional funding as part of our Block Grant for road reconstruction; can be used for drainage but not to  
119 reduce budgets. This addition goes a long way toward covering our expenses and allows us to stick to our  
120 road plan despite inflation; they are looking at replacing a 6-ft metal culvert on Lovering in Spring.

121  
122 Selectman Maggiore said it is part of House Bill 2; every two years there are House Bills 1 and 2; HB-1 is  
123 all the numbers and HB-2 all the language to back it up. Public Works Director Hibbard said North Hampton  
124 budgets a certain amount to cover money spent on roads, but always has a Warrant Article that exceeds  
125 it by 2-3 times.

126  
127 Chairman Pinette closed the Public Hearing at 7:46 pm.

128  
129 **Motion:** To accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$28,737.14 awarded to the Town of North  
130 Hampton.

131 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

132 **Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

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

134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179

**Report of the Town Administrator**

Report November 28 – December 8, 2023: Finance: 50% of Budget remaining with 30 weeks left n FY; Police: preparing for Dec 13 move to new facility, great results in Cruiser re-design project; Fire: Jake MacGlashing appointed Deputy Chief, prepping for final move; Town Hall: meters/equipment removed from front corner and underground electrical installed, having problems with boiler; New Building on budget and on time; REC: new program adopted for over 55 social activities, holiday and vacation camp open for registration; Highway ready for winter operations; no SB meeting Christmas Day.

**Items Left on the Table**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**12.3 Consideration of Electrical Aggregation Plan**

Vice-Chair Sununu said it was passed by the legislature 2 years ago to allow towns to collectively go out and seek better default electrical service rates. An Aggregation Committee was formed to draft a plan and 2 Public Hearings were held as part of the process. The plan will be adopted by the Select Board, a Warrant Article will be crafted for voter approval, and the plan will be submitted to PUC for final approval, after which the Town can begin shopping for rates. This is just the next step in the process.

**Motion:** To approve the Community Choice Aggregation Plan prepared by North Hampton Energy Aggregation Committee as presented.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**12.4 Discussion of Request from Town of New Castle**

Vice-Chair Sununu said the Town of New Castle is facing some challenges with their town administration on how to provide growth and organize their town services and it was suggested they contact someone in North Hampton; the two boards met to better understand the needs. Mr. Tully agreed to assist in a part-time capacity, and we are confident he can provide that help without taking away from his duties here. Mr. Tully has developed a close collaborative partnership with department heads that has created one of the finest town administrations around. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with another community and add more resources.

**Motion:** To approve the request from New Castle to allow Mr. Tully to provide some part-time assistance.

**Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

**Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

**Vote:** Motion approved 3-0

**12.5 Appointment to Seacoast Community Drinking Water Commission**

Selectman Maggiore said in 2018 the legislature created through RSA the Seacoast Commission on Long-Term Goals & Requirements for Drinking Water and the current member, David Cicalone, is no longer able to serve. Valerie Gamache has volunteered and has a background in natural resources and policy, and I recommend her to replace David on the Commission.

180 **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Valerie Gamache to replace David Ciccalone as representative  
181 on the Seacoast Commission on Long-Term Goals & Requirements for Drinking Water.

182 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

183 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

185

186 **12.6 Discussion of Safety Complex Open House**

187 Chairman Pinette said tomorrow North Hampton will be celebrating the Grand Opening of the Town's  
188 new Safety Complex, with Fire and Police moving in this weekend. Town Administrator Tully said this is an  
189 opportunity for taxpayers to see the new building, paid for with their tax dollars, before the building is  
190 occupied. Open House will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm tomorrow, December 12, 2023.

191

192 **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS**

193

194 **13.1 Approval of Minutes of Workshop Meeting of November 27, 2023**

195 **Motion:** To approve the Workshop Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2023, as presented.

196 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

197 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

199

200 **13.2 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 27, 2023**

201 **Motion:** To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 27, 2023, as presented.

202 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

203 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

205

206 **13.3 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meetings of November 27, 2023**

207 **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Non-Public Meetings of November 27, 2023, as written.

208 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

209 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

211

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

213

214 **Second Public Comment Session**

215 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

216 Chairman Pinette opened Second Public Comment at 8:08 pm

217

218 **John Savastano**, Channel 22 Director, said Channel 22 will provide all visuals for tomorrow to have  
219 historical documentation of the event. He said he is finishing up the time lapse for the construction project  
220 which will be displayed in one of the Fire bays. He said at 9:30 am on Wednesday, December 13, HD  
221 Channel 22 goes on the air; HD channel number is not yet known.

222

223 **Next Regular Meeting:** January 8, 2023

224

225 **ADJOURNMENT**

226

227 Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Select Board Regular Meeting  
December 11, 2023

228  
229 Respectfully submitted,  
230 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary

DRAFT