



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

DECEMBER 12, 2022 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved January 9, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

Chairman James Sununu welcomed everyone to the Select Board Meeting of December 12, 2022 and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion: To seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session of December 12, 2022.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Vice-Chair Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

First Public Comment Session

Call 603-758-1447 or email: jsununu@northhampton-nh.gov

No Public Comments.

Consent Calendar

5.1 Payroll Manifest of December 1, 2022 in the amount of \$99,126.85

5.2 Payroll Manifest of December 8, 2022 in the amount of \$258,260.02

5.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of December 8, 2022 in the amount of \$1,823,798.90

Motion: To approve the Consent Calendar items 5.1-5.3 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Maggiore

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 0386.

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Seconded: Jonathan Pinette
Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Correspondence - None

Committee Updates

Vice-Chair Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* met but he was unable to attend; discussion of potential Planning Board Case, preliminary conversation; *Water Commission* has not met.

Chairman Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* met last week and reviewed presentations given by DOT and RPC with National Park Service regarding trailhead development with timetable. *Budget Committee* met last Monday for 2nd review of Library Budget and Town Budget; Library Budget cost increases revised down; both budgets were approved with final number for Warrants; meeting next week for 2nd School Budget Review.

Report of the Town Administrator

Period November 29 – December 9, 2022: Finance at 57% of Budget remaining with 29 weeks left in fiscal year; new Police Cruiser delivered to be in service in January 2023; additional traffic patrols throughout December through grant funding; Fire Department new Utility Vehicle being outfitted in next few weeks; maintenance issues brought up by John Savastano for Town Hall; Rec: Holiday Vacation Camp scheduled for Christmas week; Highway auctioned off 1999 6-wheel Dump Truck for \$8,800; MRI began town revaluation process; Seacoast Private Well Initiative January 11, 2023 at Exeter High School; Route 1 Culvert flow restricted by debris collecting against grate, State to check.

Town Administrator Tully asked the Board to reconsider the next meeting date of December 26, 2022 and only schedule a meeting if something urgent comes up; the Board was in agreement. Town Administrator Tully said there would be a Workshop Meeting scheduled for Warrants before Christmas.

Items Left on the Table – None

NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Discussion of Coalition Communities 2.0

Chairman Sununu said a letter was received from Chairman of Coalition Communities Mark Decoteau, a group of towns that got together to monitor legislation potentially affecting Statewide Property Tax (SWEPT), with a potential for North Hampton to collect more in Statewide Property Tax than they get back in State Adequacy Aid (formerly “donor towns”).

Chairman Sununu said the new MOU is a 2-year agreement with the allocation for North Hampton to be \$6,991 with potential additional legal costs, and voiced concerns that the increase may not be justified in terms of what needs to be done and said the budget is going up too high too fast with underlying costs the Town may incur which are not budgeted for.

Selectman Pinette said the new amount is not feasible and not within our Budget and recommended pulling out of the coalition. Vice-Chair Maggiore agreed with Board members that it was not a good investment at this time for North Hampton. Town Administrator Tully said he brought this up last month with numbers which the Board approved and suggested a motion be made to withdraw from Coalition

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Communities 2.0. Chairman Sununu said the Board will still be monitoring for this but it is an unbudgeted amount the Town cannot afford.

Motion: To withdraw from Coalition Communities 2.0.

Motioned: Chairman Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

10.2 Building Update

Town Administrator Tully said Town Offices are coming along nicely with move-in date set for week after Christmas; 4 days are needed for power and computers to be changed over and files moved starting December 27, 2022; looking at possibility of tearing down Fire and Police first week of January; asking public for leeway during move into a new system in that building. He said a lot of construction is going on around the complex right now with the entry/exit changing daily.

10.3 Consideration of Public Petition for Cellular Communications Facility

Chairman Sununu provided background saying Cellular Service is a big issue in Town growing more significant as time goes on, with lack in cell coverage in North Hampton due to lack of cellular towers. Per Zoning Ordinance, any towers east of I-95 have to be located on municipal property which restricts available options; to locate on private property requires waivers.

Chairman Sununu said in 2000 a piece of property was donated to the Town for locating a cell tower but it has no access; a property is needed with access, road frontage, and buildable area for a tower without restrictions. As the Town has been unable to locate any other property, they need to pursue some sort of eminent domain proceedings to get the property needed as a safety issue for Police & Fire. The donated property is the best option to pursue under the Zoning Ordinance to enter into a lease with a tower company to put up a tower; process of eminent domain begins with a petition.

Chairman Sununu read the Petition to North Hampton Board of Selectmen pursuant to RSA Chapter 498-A and RSA Chapter 231 to take private property for public use signed by petitioners. He said the petition does not actually take a piece of land but takes an easement over the land (a property right), with owners compensated for damages for surrendering said easement. The access road will run from Mill Road through woods to the piece of property, Map 12, Lot 62. The Board starts by accepting this petition and scheduling a Public Hearing within 30 days.

Town Administrator Tully reiterated that this piece of land fits all requirements with an easement already over the property. Chairman Sununu said this is not ideal but is the best option to address the Public Safety need. Selectman Pinette said this has been ongoing for a long time and most people are in favor of moving forward on this. Vice-Chair Maggiore agreed with everything heard so far and said he was glad the Town was moving forward with this.

Chairman Sununu asked Board Members if the public could address this now.

Mike Golden of 15 Squire Drive said this is an imperative and the Town is at risk of bad things happening. He said the Town is building a new state-of-the-art facility for Police & Fire, yet some residents are unable to contact them, and the North Hampton School needs to be able to contact the outside world in the event of an emergency. He urged the Select Board to consider this and push it forward.

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Doug Miles of 17 Squire Drive said that area is a massive dead spot in Town and agrees with all the Select Board has said this evening and thrilled they are moving forward with this as it is well overdue. He said his wife was in an accident in town and was unable to call 911 on her cellphone, and with technology today there is no reason this should be happening.

Motion: To accept the Petition and instruct Town Administrator Michael Tully to schedule a Public Hearing.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Vice-Chair Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Town Administrator Tully said he was looking at the second Select Board Meeting in January (23rd) for the Public Hearing.

10.4 Discussion of Tax Rate

Chairman Sununu said the Select Board had a Workshop last week to set the Tax Rate, reviewed Overlay and what needs to be appropriated in terms of funding. The new Tax Rate was approved at \$17.17, up \$0.60 for a 3.6% increase.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

11.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2022

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2022 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Vice-Chair Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Call 603-758-1447 or email: jsununu@northhampton-nh.gov

Janet Larson of Post Road asked if home rates are being reevaluated this year in conjunction with the new tax rate. Chairman Sununu said not for this tax bill.

Next Regular Meeting: January 11, 2023

Adjournment

Chairman Sununu adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary