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

4 **NOVEMBER 27, 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; Fire Chief Jason Lajoie

11
12
13 Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of November 27, 2023 and
14 called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

15
16 Chairman Pinette said the Board just came out of Non-Public Session:

17 **Motion:** To seal the minutes of Non-Public Session of November 27, 2023

18 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

19 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

21
22 **First Public Comment Session**

23 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

24 No Public Comments.

25
26 **Consent Calendar**

27 5.1 Payroll Manifest of November 16, 2023 in the amount of \$82,479.32

28 5.2 Accounts Payable Manifest of November 15, 2023 in the amount of \$418,296.54

29 5.3 Cemetery Deed

30
31
32
33 ***Disclaimer –These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by***
34 ***NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Select Board.***

35
36 ***A recording of the meeting can be found at: http://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/north_hampton_nh, and a***
37 ***DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North***
38 ***Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.***

39
40 **Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar item 5.1 Payroll Manifest of November 16, 2023 in the amount of
41 \$82,479.32.

42 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

43 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

45

46 **Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar item 5.2 Accounts Payable Manifest of November 15, 2023 in the
47 amount of \$418,296.54.

48 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

49 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

51

52 **Motion:** To approve Consent Calendar item 5.3 Cemetery Deed as presented.

53 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

54 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

56

57 **Correspondence** – None

58

59 **Committee Updates**

60 Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* met last month; Chair asked to remind folks about
61 discretionary preservation easements, a tax benefit to preserve historic structures on their property per
62 RSA 79-E. *Water Commission* meeting tomorrow.

63

64 Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* has not met. *Budget Committee* met November 20, 2023
65 and did first review of School Budget; meeting November 29, 2023 for first review of Town Budget.

66

67 **PUBLIC HEARING**

68 To Consider the Acceptance of a Donation from the North Hampton's Fireman's Association in the amount
69 of \$85,241.19 to be used to Purchase a Lifepak 15 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator, a LUCAS Mechanical
70 Compression/CPR device, and Personal Bail-Out Kits for each individual Firefighter.

71

72 Fire Chief Jason Lajoie said the North Hampton Fireman's Association received a donation from the
73 Caroline C. Levine Charitable Trust Foundation of \$85,241.19. The donation enables purchase of another
74 defibrillator cardiac monitor and CPR mechanism device which will be added to a fire engine making it
75 paramedic-level ready and able to respond if ambulance out on another call. Also purchased personal
76 bail-out kits for each individual firefighter, a personal safety device for quick escape. All devices purchased
77 through this charitable foundation are still in use today.

78

79 Chairman Pinette closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 pm.

80

81 **Motion:** To accept the donation from North Hampton Fireman's Association in the amount of \$85,241.19
82 to be used to purchase a Lifepak 15 Cardiac Monitor/Defibrillator, a LUCAS Mechanical Compression/CPR
83 device, and Personal Bail-Out Kits for each individual Firefighter, and to have Chief Lajoie execute all
84 necessary documents.

85 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

86 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

88

89 **Report of the Town Administrator**

90 Report November 14 – November 24, 2023: Finance: 61% of Budget remaining with 32 weeks left in FY;
91 Police: Tom Scotti hired as Deputy Chief, Ryan Stevens undergoing field training, looking to hire other
92 experienced officers; Fire: two new Firefighters began probation (1-year), Chief advises caution with
93 winter driving; Eversource unable to complete work during shutdown last week, rescheduled for
94 November 20, 2023; Open House on December 12th from 4-6 pm for new building; REC lots of programs
95 coming up; Highway assisting with recycling materials and routine maintenance; Town Clerk's Office: loam
96 installed with seeding in spring; Warrant for Community Power Aggregation will be brought to Board in
97 December.

98

99 **Items Left on the Table**

100

101 **NEW BUSINESS**

102

103 **11.1 Building Update**

104 Marc Jobin said the New Building is in the finishing stages with power and gas; completing painting,
105 flooring and ceilings; elevator installed to be programmed and inspected; furniture deliveries have started,
106 close to finishing inside. Departments are moving December 13th and December 15th; building holding up
107 well and septic all set.

108

109 **11.2 Discussion of School Funding (SWEPT)**

110 Town Administrator Tully said there have been 2 court cases regarding towns keeping extra SWEPT
111 funding which were challenged and may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Vice-Chair Sununu said
112 SWEPT, Statewide Education Property Tax, is money collected at the local level and credited to the Town;
113 if funds exceed what Town is eligible for in adequacy grant (\$4,100), towns just keep those funds. One
114 court case ruled that SWEPT as currently utilized is unconstitutional and second that the amount the State
115 allocates for an adequate education is not enough and should be \$7,400.

116

117 Vice-Chair Sununu said North Hampton is one of the towns whose SWEPT collections exceed their
118 adequacy grant and said there is a resolution; judge indicated State Legislature only has until next spring
119 to come up with a solution to stop allowing towns to retain the SWEPT funds. North Hampton will need
120 to follow this closely over the next few months.

121

122 Selectman Maggiore said the Legislature does expect an appeal; meetings begin right after the first of the
123 year. Had a preliminary conversation with State Representative Peggy Balboni about having a local
124 meeting/presentation SAU-wide in the new year to discuss and address this issue.

125

126 **11.3 Discussion of Tax Rate Setting**

127 Chairman Pinette said the Board held a Workshop Meeting this morning for tax rate setting and set the
128 tax rate at \$12.45/1,000, with tax bills due in January. Town Administrator Tully said the Budget with
129 expenditures was entered in DRA Portal to determine what Town needs to collect in taxes; DRA sends
130 back a preliminary tax rate to Board and Board decides what they want to put down for overlay which is
131 money the Board feels should be kept if needed to offset claims (abatements) for people who think their
132 taxes are too high.

133

134 Town Administrator Tully said last year \$300,00 was held as overlay; cases are still pending, and Board
135 agreed to take the money back out of Fund Balance to offset the tax rate; brought out \$314,000 which
136 set tax rate at \$12.45/1,000 and sent back to DRA for approval. Selectman Maggiore said there are 6
137 general components: municipal, county, local and State school, and Little Boar's Head plus overlay and
138 there is a very small piece the Town has much control over.

139
140 Vice-Chair Sununu said the Town had a revaluation this year and the tax rate is an answer to a math
141 problem which takes into account Town/School spending and revenues, then looks at amount needed to
142 be raised in taxes, divided by valuation of Town. The valuation went up 50%; municipal, county, and local
143 education went up 5%; big difference in State education due to refund last year and tax rates will not hit
144 everyone evenly.

145
146 **11.4 Discussion of January 24, 2024 Primary**

147 Town Administrator Tully said the NH Primary should be held January 23, 2024 set by the State; election
148 will be held at North Hampton Elementary School as usual.

149

150 **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS**

151

152 **13.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 13, 2023**

153 **Motion:** To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2023, as presented.

154 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

155 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

157

158 **13.2 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meetings of November 13, 2023**

159 **Motion:** To approve the Minutes of Non-Public Meetings of November 23, 2023, as written.

160 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

161 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

163

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

165

166 **Second Public Comment Session**

167 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

168 Chairman Pinette opened Second Public Comment at 7:44 pm; no Public Comments.

169

170 **Next Regular Meeting:** December 11, 2023

171

172 **ADJOURNMENT**

173

174 Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

175

176 Respectfully submitted,

177 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary