



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

MARCH 27, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

APPROVED MINUTES

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

EXCUSED: Chairman James Sununu

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Fire Chief Jason Lajoie, Clerk of the works Marc Jobin

Chairman *Pro Tempore* James Maggiore welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of March 27, 2023, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He said the Board is coming from Non-Public Session where a unanimous vote was taken and the Town Administrator will act on its intentions.

First Public Comment Session

George Chauncey of Hobbs Road said he was surprised when he heard Police Chief Mone was retiring as she said she loved her job and people liked her. He said he was disgusted by an article he read online reporting statements made about her by other officers, and a Hampton Union article reported an issue with one of her sergeants regarding a decision she had made on handling a situation, which was overruled by this Board. He said the information in the paper came from MRI who was hired by the Board to investigate her department; she was then forced to sign a nondisclosure agreement for a retirement package. He said the Board should lift that gag order so the Town can hear her side of the story, and said she deserves a great deal more respect than she was given.

Kathleen Kilgore of 220 Atlantic Avenue said given recent events in Town there is an environment of eroding confidence, trust, and transparency in the Town Administrator and the Select Board: (1) the eminent domain petition, requested by the Town Administrator and Select Board with the Town Attorney, was not a citizen's petition; (2) the sudden resignation/retirement of Police Chief Mone of which the Town Administrator and Select Board claimed not to know the reason, only to later learn of their interference in her department; (3) the lack of transparency around the departure of several police officers in the department; (4) a huge increase in the number of non-public meetings and decrease in the length of regular Select Board meetings. She said changes need to be made to restore public confidence and trust; for a start, Fire and Police should present their reports at regular Select Board public meetings from now on as is standard procedure in other towns.

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.

Consent Calendar

- 5.1 Payroll Manifest of March 16, 2023 in the amount of \$80,390.76
- 5.2 Payroll Manifest of March 23, 2023 in the amount of \$75,095.12
- 5.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of March 16, 2023 in the amount of \$1,428,614.46
- 5.4 Elderly Exemption
- 5.5 Veterans Tax Credit
- 5.6 Blind Exemption

Motion: To accept Consent Calendar items 5.1 - 5.6 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Pinette

Seconded: Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Correspondence

6.1 Correspondence from Chris Ganotis: Thanking Director John Hubbard and his crew for excellent snow removal services; read in full by Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore.

6.2 Correspondence from Jane Currivan: Resignation from the Heritage Commission; read in full by Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore.

Committee Updates

Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore said there were no updates from the *Heritage Commission* or the *Water Commission*; *Rails to Trails Committee* is Mr. Sununu who is not here this evening.

Town Administrator Tully said Mr. Sununu apologizes for not being present; he had an accident and will be down for a while. *Rails to Trails Committee* has not met.

Public Hearing

To consider the acceptance of \$51,900.00 through the State of New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of a generator for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the new Police and Fire facility.

Fire Chief Jason Lajoie said the grant is from the State of New Hampshire for Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The cost of a generator for the entire Public Safety Complex is \$103,800, and this is a 50/50 match grant. He said he was here to ask the Board for permission to accept the funds.

Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore opened the Public Hearing for acceptance of the grant at 7:26 pm. As no one from the public came forward, Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore closed the Public Hearing at 7:27 pm.

Motion: To consider acceptance of \$51,900 from the NH Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of a generator for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the new Police and Fire facility.

The Select Board in a unanimous vote accepted the terms of the Emergency Management Performance Grant as presented in the amount of \$51,900 for the generator for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the new Police and Fire Safety Center and furthermore the Board acknowledges the total cost of this project will be \$103,900 in which the Town will be responsible for a 50% match, and authorize the Town Administrator Michael Tully and Fire Chief Jason Lajoie as signatories to the Grant.

Select Board Regular Meeting
March 27, 2023

Motioned: Selectman Pinette
Seconded: Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore
Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Fire Chief Lajoie stated that the generator will arrive before the completion of the new safety facility and the cost includes installation.

Report of the Town Administrator

Period: March 13 – March 24, 2023: Finance at 28% of Budget with 15 weeks remaining in the fiscal year; Police working on filling vacant officer positions; introduction of new temporary Police Chief Kurz on agenda; Fire made a candidate offer; Director Hubbard changing cleaning agents after reports of strong odor in Town Hall; Rec still looking to fill Summer Camp positions; Easter Egg hunt April 1st; Highway prepping for spring cleanup; Community Power Aggregation, idea to group people together to work with a third party to sign contract for cheaper rates; Route 95 Bridge Exit 2 project will restart to replace deck.

Items Left on the Table – None

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Election of Select Board Officers

Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore stated that James Sununu did win reelection to the Select Board for another 3 years.

Select Board Chair:

Motion: Chair *Pro Tem* Maggiore nominated *Jonathan Pinette* as *Chairman of the Select Board*.

Seconded: Selectman Pinette accepted the nomination.

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Select Board Vice-Chair:

Motion: To recommend *James Sununu* as the *Vice-Chair of the Select Board*.

Motioned: Chairman Pinette

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

11.2 Discussion of Committee Assignments:

Budget Committee, Planning Board, Heritage Commission, Water Commission, Capital Improvements Plan Committee (CIP), Any other committee.

The following Committee Assignments were approved:

Budget Committee: Vice-Chair Sununu

Planning Board and Heritage Commission: Selectman Maggiore

Water Commission: Selectman Maggiore

CIP Committee: Chairman Pinette

11.3 Introduction to Police Administrator Chief David Kurz

Police Chief David Kurz said he retired two years ago and had been working with MRI for 21 years as a consultant. He said he looked forward to meeting everyone as MRI assists the community in identifying the next Police Chief for North Hampton.

Chairman Pinette welcomed him and said he appreciated all the work he has done so far and is looking forward to working with him. Selectman Maggiore said he also looks forward to working with Chief Kurz.

11.4 Building Project Update

Clerk of the Works Marc Jobin stated that the structural steel has been erected, elevator towers erected, and wall framing started. He said exterior walls were panelized offsite and just need assembly. Next will be floor framing, interior-walls framing will take around 6 weeks. Electricians and plumbers working underground doing all utility work; slab for administrative offices to be poured in next 4-5 days; working on details with Lieutenant Russell and Fire Chief Lajoie on procuring needed equipment. He said the project continues to be on-budget and will be completed by the end of the year.

Chairman Pinette asked if with the mild winter conditions they were a little ahead of schedule. Mr. Jobin said they had a “winter conditions fund” which covered needed winter operations, and to date they are on target for completion.

11.6 Appointments to Heritage Commission

Motion: To nominate *Susan McCullom-Bary* as a Regular Member of the Heritage Commission for one year to complete the term of Jan Curriuan to expire in 2024.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: To nominate *Vicki Jones* as a Regular Member of the Heritage Commission for a 3-year term to expire in 2026.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: To nominate *Donna Etela* as a Regular Member of the Heritage Commission for a 3-year term to expire in 2026.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: To nominate *Jane Robie* as an Alternate Member of the Heritage Commission for a 1-year term to expire in 2024.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: To nominate *John Sillay* as an Alternate Member of the Heritage Commission for a 1-year term to expire in 2024.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

11.5 Approval of Deputy Firefighter Wardens

Fire Chief Jason Lajoie said this is appointments of Deputy Fire Wardens though the NH Division of Forest & Lands. He said any new hires need to be updated that they were trained properly and requires Select Board approval under my recommendation to become Deputy Firefighters in the Town of North Hampton with the ability to write outdoor burning permits. He said his position is Town's Forest Fire Warden.

Motion: To appoint Firefighter *Christopher Gallant*, Firefighter *Steven Milata*, Firefighter *Kevin Levine*, Firefighter *Corey Greaney*, Firefighter *Luke Denio*, and Firefighter *Thomas Pidgeon* as permanent Deputy Fire Wardens for the North Hampton Fire Department.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

11.7 Planning Board Appointments to RPC, CIP, and Heritage Commission

Motion: That the Select Board approve the nomination of *Lauri Etela* as a representative of RPC for a 3-year term.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: That the Select Board approve the nomination of *Nancy Monaghan* to serve as Planning Board Representative to CIP.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Motion: That the Select Board approve the nomination of *Nancy Monaghan* to serve as Planning Board Representative to the Heritage Commission.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

12.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 13, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

12.2 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meeting of March 13, 2023

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Meeting of March 13, 2023.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Chairman Pinette

Vote: Motion approved 2-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Select Board Regular Meeting
March 27, 2023

Amy Bucklin Faley of 3 North Road asked for explanation of what just happened with the changing of the Select Board Chair.

Selectman Maggiore said after each election, boards and committees reorganize and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair, which is at the discretion of the board. Ms. Faley asked if most things are at the discretion of the Board. Chairman Pinette said that depends on what we are discussing, but appointing the recommendations for Chair and Vice-Chair are the discretion of the board or committee.

Next Regular Meeting: April 10, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary

DRAFT