



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

APRIL 10, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved April 24, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully, Fire Chief Jason Lajoie

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of April 10, 2023, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance; Board is coming from two Non-Public Sessions.

Motion: To seal the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2023

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

First Public Comment Session

Janet Larsen of 121 Post Road requested the Select Board purchase necessary sound equipment for inside Town Hall to improve communications with the public. Town Administrator Tully said the issue has been recognized and a speaker system has already been priced out by Channel 22 Director Savastano.

Consent Calendar

- 6.1 Payroll Manifest of March 30, 2023 in the amount of \$155,327.02
- 6.2 Payroll Manifest of April 6, 2023 in the amount of \$243,025.39
- 6.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of March 30, 2023 in the amount of \$46,498.46
- 6.4 Abatement Recommendations
- 6.5 Elderly Exemption

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.

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- 6.6 Veterans Exemption
- 6.7 Cemetery Deed

Vice-Chair Sununu said one abatement request was received after the due date, but because of a particular hardship to the affected family he was in favor of its approval; Board agreed.

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar items 6.1 – 6.7 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Correspondence – None

Committee Updates

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* discussion was routine, next meeting in 2 weeks; *Water Commission* has not met.

Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails* has not met.

Public Hearing

To consider the acceptance of \$21,176.00 through the State of New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of equipment for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the new Police and Fire facility.

Fire Chief Jason Lajoie said this is the second of two grants to help offset the cost of outfitting the new Public Safety facility and EOC with audio-video equipment, it is a 50/50 grant; looking for Select Board approval to accept funds. He explained to the public why municipalities each have their own EOC Centers and said department heads need to convene the governing body under emergency circumstances in a dedicated place. He said North Hampton is also in the radio planning zone for Seabrook Power Plant.

Chairman Pinette opened the Public Hearing at 7:13 pm.

Amy Bucklin Faley of 3 North Road thanked Chief Lajoie for applying for the grants to add to the pot.

Chairman Pinette closed the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm.

Motion: To accept \$21,176 through State of New Hampshire Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of equipment for EOC in new Police and Fire facility as a 50% match and authorize Town Administrator Tully and Fire Chief Lajoie to sign all paperwork necessary to receive such funds.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Report of the Town Administrator

Period: March 28 – April 8, 2023: Finance at 25% of Budget with 13 weeks remaining in the fiscal year; Community Power Aggregation: met with Mr. Sununu and a 3rd-party supplier of electricity, a viable option with considerable savings for the Town.

Vice-Chair Sununu explained the default provider is Eversource but town can choose a competitive supplier for the actual electricity; Eversource will still be the provider and customers will still get a bill from Eversource with delivery charges and supply charges. Community Aggregate Power was just passed last year and enables a municipality to enter into an agreement to have a different default service other than Eversource; process involves coming to an agreement with a provider/supplier; on Warrant next year to put in front of Town with potential for significant savings; Exeter is using Community Coalition.

Town Administrator Tully said on the Hampton/North Hampton town line a site is being prepped for the Rail Trail and material already being taken out; Route 95 Exit 2 Bridge project running through November with covered detour signs up for lane changes.

Questions: Vice-Chair Sununu said he was asked about revaluation forms going out to businesses, same forms that went out in 2013 and 2018; Town Administrator Tully said there was a misunderstanding about the question asking how much money businesses made; all for DRA regulations for revaluation.

Selectman Maggiore said regarding Coakley Landfill, the Commission to study environmentally triggered chronic illnesses and the chair of Coakley Landfill Subcommittee have invited all State Representatives and Senators for a tour of the landfill Wednesday, April 12 at 1:00 pm with DES.

Items Left on the Table – None

NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Aquarion Water Quarterly Update

Aquarion Operations Manager Carl McMorran said the rate increase is effective March 1, 2023: average residential bill of \$48.00; \$9/month increase; \$6 per 1000 gallons/week; increase mostly due to capital expenses.

Director of Community Relations George Logan said as far as the drought the entire State is doing well now and this is the time for water conservation. He said Aquarion attempts to incorporate programs that help individuals, one program being the Rain Barrel Program, \$80 for a recycled 60-gallon barrel. Also have Environmental Champions Award and are currently seeking nominations; \$5,000 for organizations, \$1,000 for students; celebration will be held at Great Bay Stewards Discovery Center in Greenland on June 20, 2023 and public is invited.

Mr. McMorran spoke about main replacements and said there are 3 projects in Hampton; next year replacing Route 1A bridge across Hampton River between Hampton and Seabrook and Aquarion has 2 small lines across the river bottom which will have to be temporarily moved, ending with a single main under the bridge. Treatment upgrades were made to the Winnicutt Road Plant; replacing Exeter Road Water Tank; looking to build a new treatment plant off Little River Road to serve Wells 7 and 22; will upgrade disinfection and corrosion control and address arsenic in Well 22; now need to address PFAS in Well 7 and waiting to hear on grant money.

Mr. McMorran said proposed EPA PFAS regulation are very low for both PFOA and PFAS, 4 parts/trillion, and said North Hampton is just above the proposed rate in 2 locations: Jenness at 4.4 ppt, Mill Road at 4.5 ppt and Little River Road just below at 3.8 ppt, requiring Aquarion to take a closer look at options for treatment.

Questions: Selectman Maggiore asked if the new regulations were per well or an aggregate of the entire system that has to be below 4 ppt. Mr. McMorran said at the point of entry; 16 wells all come together at those 4 points of entry; other wells could be diverted or they could try blending.

Vice-Chair Sununu said there is a project coming up next year for State to replace the bridge by North Road and a culvert that cuts across Route 1, and asked if Aquarion had any infrastructure in that area; Mr. McMorran said yes there is a pipe 2 feet from the roadway and they will need to figure out a go around. Chairman Pinette asked if there was a limit to the number of rain barrels a resident could purchase; Mr. Logan said no limit but company does not want residents reselling the barrels.

12.2 Beach Sticker Rate Setting

Town Administrator Tully said the State was quite late getting beach parking information to the Town. He explained that the State of New Hampshire sends a contract with price of cost to lease the 20 spaces allocated to the Town yearly; the spaces are now secured with the State and the Board needs to decide on a price for the beach stickers; price has been \$35.00 for 7 years, the monies go to the Rec Fund, and Beach Stickers will be on sale tomorrow.

Selectman Maggiore said he would not object to raising the price to \$37.00; Vice-Chair Sununu felt with the dramatic uptick in the number of permits being sold more money is being taken in historically and recommended keeping the price to \$35.00; Chairman Pinette was fine with keeping the rate to \$35.00.

Motion: To set the price of 2023 North Hampton Beach Stickers at \$35.00.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

12.3 Building Project Update

Town Administrator Tully said walls are up, foundations poured, some floors up, and drainage added in the new Fire and Police facility. Construction is going exceptionally well due to the mild winter. He said some people are upset about telephone poles in Town and the aesthetics of the complex; there is a new pole on Town property at the corner of town offices and the new library property. He said the Town had 3 choices for placement of that pole dictated by Eversource: current location, in front of Stone Building near the monument, or in front of houses on the other side of the street. He said by putting in that one pole we are getting rid of 8 poles on the campus (utilities to go underground from pole) and said it was the best alternative.

Chairman Pinette said it seems current location was a good decision; Selectman Maggiore thanked Mr. Tully for all the policy decisions he has had to make concerning this project and said folks do not always have all the information; Chairman Pinette agreed.

12.4 Discussion of Electric Aggregation Program

Chairman Pinette asked if there was any further discussion on this issue.

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

13.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 27, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023 as presented.

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Motioned: Selectman Maggiore
Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu
Vote: Motion approved 2-0, with 1 abstention

13.2 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Meeting of March 27, 2023

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Meetings of March 27, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore
Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu
Vote: Motion approved 2-0, with 1 abstention

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Selectman Maggiore said the House just passed the State Biennium Budget and asked the Board if they would like an update on that or preferred waiting until the State Budget comes out. Vice-Chair Sununu suggested waiting for the final Budget.

Second Public Comment Session

Chairman Pinette opened the second Public Comment Session at 7:59 pm.

Janet Larsen asked Mr. Tully where the search for the new Police Chief was posted and the typical time needed to hire. Town Administrator Tully said the job has gone out nationwide to all job sites and posted by MRI; as for average time to hire he did not expect the process to be completed until at least August, and said he was expecting very qualified candidates.

Amy Bucklin Faley of 3 North Road thanked DPW Director Hubbard, School Board, and Mr. Tully for addressing her concerns about safety at the School. In reference to an earlier comment that Mr. Tully wears many hats, she said each person wears many hats. She said she was curious about all the talk in the newspapers; one article mentioned (and misspelled) her name affiliating her with others and she wanted to know who leaks all that stuff to the papers. She said she is *not* affiliated with anyone and stands alone; she did not want her name used at all and did not say the things quoted. She said she did not want to be rude or disrespectful but would like to be respected in return.

Ms. Faley said she is a concerned citizen, is for this community, and wishes they could all work together as a team. She said she wishes more people would volunteer and show up at Board meetings. She thanked the Board for not raising the price of the Beach Stickers as people are struggling financially, and said she hoped the community could move forward together with honest, open conversations and did not want the community to fall apart.

Next Regular Meeting: April 24, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary