



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

AUGUST 28, 2023 7:00 PM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved September 11, 2023

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Michael Tully

Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of August 28, 2023 and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447

Town Administrator Tully asked that Item 8.4 be moved to first under New Business; Board agreed.

Ann Marie Banfield of 7 Highlander Drive said on August 1, 2023 she fell while walking in her neighborhood and dislocated her elbow and sprained her ankle. A neighbor called paramedics for her and they arrived within 5 minutes. She said they were excellent and very professional, and expressed her extreme gratitude for their invaluable assistance and said they are truly appreciated.

Consent Calendar

- 3.1 Payroll Manifest of August 17, 2023 in the amount of \$80,885.01
- 3.2 Payroll Manifest of August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$82,438.81
- 3.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of August 17, 2023 in the amount of \$2,253,289.25
- 3.4 Applications for Tax Exemptions

Vice-Chair Sununu said he would move items 3.1 – 3.3 and asked the Board to deal with 3.4. separately.

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.

Select Board Regular Meeting
August 28, 2023

Motion: To approve Consent Calendar Items 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 as presented.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Vice-Chair Sununu said there are a number of tax exemptions here for charitable purposes for which forms are missing or the application was not received back: North Hampton Youth Association, One Sky, and Fuller Foundation. He asked that the Board approve the abatements for completed forms and postpone voting on those 3 until the next meeting and sending another letter.

Town Administrator Tully said MRI asked for permission to go to the attorneys to discuss a few of the applications. Selectman Maggiore said MRI suggested going to the attorneys for Home Health VNA and Centennial Hall and recommended they also be tabled; Vice-Chair Sununu said MRI is asking to approve them for this year but do a follow-up in future regarding some technical details in qualifications.

Motion: To approve abatements and follow-up as recommended with exception of One Sky, Fuller Foundation, and North Hampton Youth Association, and table those 3 until the next meeting.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Correspondence

Chairman Pinette said correspondence was received from Mr. Joseph Fitzgerald dated August 25 regarding Coakley Landfill, 20 pages with pictures and report from Coakley Landfill Site State DES, expressing concerns.

Vice-Chair Sununu said Mr. Fitzgerald was very incensed about the Coakley Landfill and claimed the Board and the Town do not care and are doing nothing about it, which is absolutely not true. He said it happened in 1972 with hazardous waste being dumped for the 10 years it was open. He said Coakley Landfill Group (North Hampton, Greenland, Portsmouth and several private companies) is tasked with administering and monitoring the landfill with different percentages of responsibility. He said most years there is a Warrant Article to appropriate money for future expenditures.

Vice-Chair Sununu said the pictures show wetlands and orange runoff which is related to bacteria in the soil type and has no relation to Coakley toxic waste. Surface contaminants have been detected in waters around the landfill (PFAS, PFOA) and there is constant surface monitoring, ground well and shallow and deep bedrock, around the entire Coakley site for further leaching into water table; signs have been placed along the Rail Trail in that area. Selectman Maggiore agreed and said suggesting we have done nothing about it is completely erroneous and he hopes for some kind of solution for Coakley Landfill in future.

Committee Updates

Selectman Maggiore said the *Heritage Commission* has not met since last meeting. *Water Commission* has not met.

Vice-Chair Sununu said *Rails to Trails Committee* meeting will be September 6, 2023. *Budget Committee* met last week to approve Little Boar's Head Operating Budget and Warrant Article.

Chairman Pinette said *CIP Committee* has not met; CIP Report for FY2025-2030 is being prepared to be delivered to Select Board before October 1, 2023 deadline; report to be finalized September 15, 2023.

Report of the Town Administrator

Period August 15 - 25, 2023: FY2023 books will be closed at end of August, September Audit is being prepared; Police: Chief Labarge designed community project around cruiser design, reviewing candidate for officer position, seeking parttime officers to assist with shift coverage; Fire: Deputy Chief position to post soon, training equipment purchased for new building; Rec: planning after-school program and Golf Tournament at Sagamore September 13; Highway: equipment trailer totaled by motorist, new trailer being priced; PFAS work continues on easement for water line; MRI presentation to Board in September on new assessments; Community Power Aggregation Meeting August 31 at 6:00 pm in Town Offices.

Items Left on the Table

NEW BUSINESS

8.4 Building Update

Marc Jobin said drywall in building is nearly completed, painting started, railings going in, started acoustical grid in some offices, overhead doors in apparatus bay done later this week. Outside: last of drainage, paving later in September, new chain-link fencing in back on retaining wall, wood fence ordered; completion date in late November.

8.1 Discussion of Highway Block Grant

Director John Hubbard said DPW gets the Highway Block Grant yearly consisting of anticipated income from toll revenues and motor vehicle fees, determined by a town's number of road miles and population. This year anticipating \$102,000 which comes every 3 months with the last through State Audit figures. He said \$95,000 was budgeted in the Highway Department to cover pavement and drainage as well as yearly Warrant Article for paving and road reconstruction and said Block Grant Funds are required to be used for roadwork (paving, guardrails, drainage).

8.2 Discussion of Voting Machine Funding

Town Administrator Tully said both town voting machines are aged and need to be replaced but cannot be purchased until State decides what type is acceptable and no funding will be coming forward. He said some towns are sending letters to their representatives asking them to try to get State funding to communities; cost is approximately \$6,500 per machine which is a \$13,000 cost for North Hampton. He said he put together a draft letter for the Board to review.

Selectman Maggiore said he agrees with the direction and believes money should come from State and Federal funding and not from taxpayer funds. Vice-Chair Sununu said current machines are 15 years old and parts and service are difficult to come by; the sooner we can get these in the better if the State will step up and cover funding.

8.3 Discussion of South Road Cemetery Wall

Town Administrator Tully said a Warrant Article was put together to take care of the Post Road Cemetery wall and a donor contributed half the funds. The stone wall on South Road has been hit by vehicles due to a tight turn and is located close to the roadway where a stone recently fell, partially due to heavy rainfall. Cost to replace would be \$13,000 and Cemetery can come up with about \$3,000 - \$5,000.

Vice-Chair Sununu said this needs to be addressed given the age and condition of the stone wall and felt the Board should authorize the Town Administrator to go forward. Chairman Pinette asked about multiple estimates; Town Administrator Tully said they are hard to get at this time, and the current company did the estimate and are willing to start work soon. He said no capital reserve funds under the Town's control are available and Cemetery acts under control of Trustees.

Motion: To authorize the Town Administrator to work with Cemetery Commission and spend up to \$13,000 to repair the stone wall at the South and Post Road Cemetery.

Motioned: Vice-Chair Sununu

Seconded: Selectman Maggiore

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS

9.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 14, 2023

Motion: To approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

9.2 Approval of Minutes of Non-Public Session of August 14, 2023

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the Non-Public Session of August 14, 2023 as presented.

Motioned: Selectman Maggiore

Seconded: Vice-Chair Sununu

Vote: Motion approved 3-0

Any Other Item that may legally come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Phone: 603-758-1447

No Public Comments.

Next Regular Meeting: September 11, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pinette adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary