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

4 **SEPTEMBER 11, 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, Police Chief Robert Labarge, Fire Chief Jason Lajoie

11
12 Chairman Pinette welcomed everyone to the Select Board Regular Meeting of September 11, 2023 and
13 called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

14
15 Chairman Pinette called a moment of silence for 9/11. Town Administrator Tully said all flags under Town
16 control are at half-staff today until sunset.

17
18 **First Public Comment Session**

19 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

20
21 No Public Comments.

22
23 **Consent Calendar**

24 3.1 Payroll Manifest of August 31, 2023 in the amount of \$75,561.80

25 3.2 Payroll Manifest of September 7, 2023 in the amount of \$249,672.94

26 3.3 Accounts Payable Manifest of August 17, 2023 in the amount of \$214,127.70

27 3.4 Applications for Abatements

28
29 **Motion:** To accept Consent Calendar as presented.

30 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

31 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

33
34 ***Disclaimer –These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by***
35 ***NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Select Board.***
36

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

40

41 **Correspondence** – None

42

43 **Committee Updates**

44 Selectman Maggiore: *Heritage Commission* did not meet in August and will meet in September; one demo
45 review approved and another coming up. *Water Commission* has not met.

46

47 Vice-Chair Sununu: *Rails to Trails Committee* met last week and reviewed construction update with Rail
48 Trail proceeding on schedule, still targeting October 2024 completion; reviewed final signage plan from
49 Rockingham Planning Commission and National Park Service (grant) and posted on webpage. *Budget*
50 *Committee* will start regular meetings for Budget Season in early October.

51

52 Chairman Pinette: *CIP Committee* meeting this Friday at 8:30 am to finalize recommendations.

53

54 **Report of the Town Administrator**

55 **Period August 29 – September 8, 2023:**

56 Finance: 84% of Budget remaining with 44 weeks left in FY; Police: Officer Spence started Patrol Duty,
57 Chief Labarge prepping for another applicant, Deputy Chief Daly welcomed back as parttime officer; Fire:
58 conducting interviews for FF positions; New Building; new fence at rear of property installed, bay doors
59 ready for installation; Rec: Golf Tournament rescheduled to October 4; Highway: Routine maintenance on
60 town properties, town complex prepped for paving, repaired LBH oceanside sidewalk; Community Power
61 Aggregation met August 31; Vertex Towers met with PB September 5 re Cell Tower, continuing to October
62 PB meeting; Coakley: asked for additional signage on Rail Trail. Plan to hold community TA meetings with
63 Rye, Stratham, and Greenland.

64

65 Selectman Maggiore provided further input on Cell Tower: More abutters to be notified within radius of
66 500 meters; considering increasing height of tower from 154 ft to 180 ft for better area service which
67 creates issue with FAA requiring light on top. Vice-Chair Sununu said Vertex will also be at the ZBA meeting
68 this month for additional requests; Balloon Test scheduled for September 19 depending on weather.

69

70 **Items Left on the Table**

71

72 **NEW BUSINESS**

73

74 **8.1 Discussion of Final Revaluation Summary**

75 Scott Marsh, of Municipal Resources Contract & Assessing Services, said the Revaluation was completed,
76 they held 206 scheduled meetings and met with others, roughly 8%; most questioned large increase in
77 property assessments and asked about tax rate. Goal is to bring the assessments back to market value to
78 maintain equitable distribution of tax burden. Current ratio is estimated at 60% of value, values run until
79 today are now at 96% and still slightly increasing. All who attended hearings will receive a notice of how
80 much their assessment changed; in total, Town's taxable values went up \$600 Million; saw an
81 approximately \$10 Million decrease as a result of housing.

82

83 Vice-Chair Sununu asked if MRI was seeing similar 50% increases in other communities and mentioned
84 the particularly large increase on mobile homes. Mr. Marsh said all communities were in the 50-60% range

85 and increases on mobile homes were due to affordability; 30 people with manufactured homes came in
86 for meetings. Town Administrator Tully reviewed the formula for determining the tax rate and said the
87 process will start end of November and hopefully finish by December 1, 2023.

88

89 **Motion:** To accept the final Revaluation Summary and values as presented.

90 **Motioned:** Vice-Chair Sununu

91 **Seconded:** Selectman Maggiore

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

93

94 **8.2 Discussion by Police Chief LaBarge on Community Cruiser Project**

95 Police Chief Robert LaBarge said he was bringing up a proposal to redesign the police cars, and said the
96 Police Department should be trusted, be accountable and transparent, and have a relationship with the
97 community. He said he spoke with officers and they unanimously agreed they do not like the police cars
98 as design is outdated.

99

100 Chief LaBarge said they came up with the idea to work with Winnacunnet High School Graphic Design
101 students and the school was ecstatic. He said this will make a bond and build trust with students who will
102 have a say in what a police car is. When completed it will be brought over to North Hampton School for
103 grades K-8 to vote on the design, a great idea for outreach and creating relationships; may attract new
104 people to law enforcement or STEM-related fields with experience in a hands-on project.

105

106 Selectman Maggiore felt it was a great idea for chief engagement with SAU and cooperation with North
107 Hampton School which will filter through to parents and families. Vice-Chair Sununu agreed totally and
108 was looking forward to it. Chairman Pinette asked if there would be guidelines for students to adhere to;
109 Chief LaBarge said he would keep it open at the beginning and was thinking of wrapping each vehicle.

110

111 **8.3 Discuss Channel 22 High Definition** – John Savastano

112 Channel 22 Director John Savastano said he started broadcasting here in December of 2007 and tried to
113 progress over the years buying the best equipment to stay up to date with technologies, broadcasting in
114 480 fiberoptic connection to Exeter to do broadcast. He said Comcast only ever had a few HD stations but
115 he received a call from Comcast government affairs installation saying they were getting ready to upgrade
116 his station; everything is already in place in their setup to accept HD and plan is to have installation by
117 9/30/2023. New station number will be 1122 or 1022 and lacking a Xfinity box you will still be able to
118 access the old Channel 22.

119

120 Town Administrator Tully said the whole story is that Mr. Savastano has been in his office every other
121 week for past 3 years about bringing his channel to high definition and frequently calling Comcast. He said
122 Mr. Savastano and his crew are also working on building a sound system for Town Hall.

123

124 **MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS**

125

126 **9.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of August 28, 2023**

127

128 **Motion:** To accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2023 as presented.

129 **Motioned:** Selectman Maggiore

130 **Seconded:** Vice-Chair Sununu

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

132

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

134 Town Administrator Tully said there was a fire down by Atlantic and Sea Road with primaries, secondaries
135 and poles running behind residences in that area. An older pole in poor condition came down and started
136 a fire in a barn. He said Eversource is looking at replacing those poles to the front of the houses on Atlantic
137 Avenue and he would like to set up a site walk with a Select Board representative taking part and will add
138 to next agenda for discussion; Vice-Chair Sununu volunteered. Selectman Maggiore asked they also reach
139 out to Little Boars Head.

140
141 Vice-Chair Sununu said with regard to the Rail Trail that DOT and the Government Council do a 10-year
142 highway plan every 2 years and there will be meetings held locally. He said the stretch of the Rail Trail that
143 comes up from MA to Salisbury at the State Line is not planned to be completed until 2032 and local
144 residents may want to attend one of the meetings to express their concerns.

145

146 **Second Public Comment Session**

147 *Phone: 603-758-1447*

148 Chairman Pinette opened Public Comments at 7:43 pm; no Public Comments.

149

150 **Next Regular Meeting:** September 11, 2023

151

152 **ADJOURNMENT**

153

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

155

156 Respectfully submitted,

157 Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary