

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday October 12, 2010
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Rick Ladd, Wayne Fortier, David Joslin, and Lynn Wheeler. Peter Heilemann was excused.

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Members of the Public Present: Gary Scruton, Janice Scruton, Richard Clifford, Ray Rhaeume, Suzette Smith, Lisa Charles, Esther Freeman, Aaron Palm, Martha Trott, Lori Petersen, Janet Surette-Mills, Heather Batchelder, P. Steven Carroll, Jennifer Collins, Pete Blanchard, Byron Charles, Phil Blanchard, Wally Trott, Ron Fournier, Brandon Alling, Greg Collins, Todd Eck, Dana Huntington, Chief Cecil Smith, Tom Friel, Mike Lavoie, , and Ed Ballam from the Journal Opinion etal.

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: David Joslin made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

David Joslin made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Public Hearings: None

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **HPD Commendation:** Chairman Fortier said that it was an honor for him to present “The Meritorious Unit Citation” to the Haverhill Police Department for outstanding Police work done in the course of a murder investigation. He read the citation to the public. There was a standing ovation for the Department. Chief Smith stated how proud he was of this department. Chairman Fortier thanked the department for their professionalism, and their loyalty to their profession and this town.
- **Recreation Commission Appointments:**
 - **Dana Huntington:** After a brief interview Lynn Wheeler made a motion to approve the appointment of Dana Huntington to the Recreation Commission; the motion was seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.
- **Tom Friel-Planning Board Appointment:** Mr. Friel was not in attendance so this item was tabled until later.

Town Manager's Report:

TM English stated that the bid for the repairs to the Haverhill/Bath covered bridge was accepted and it was lower than the amount received from the insurance to fix it. That work was scheduled to start today.

TM English stated that the paving of Business Park Road was started and should be completed soon. This is being done with a USDA 80% grant. There is also some paving being done on a small section of Briar Hill Road and another small section of Brushwood road as funds allow. These projects are being done through the Town budget.

TM English said that the landscaping project at the Robert E Clifford Memorial Building in Woodsville is also complete. It will be paid for out of the Winifred Moran Fund. There is one stump close to the building that will be ground down.

TM English said that an RFP has been released for the caboose windows. The award of bid for the roof of the caboose has been accepted and that project is scheduled for repair.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Mildred Page Fund request from Haverhill Corner Precinct and Maintenance of Haverhill Common:** Rick Ladd recused himself from the table to join the audience and represent the Haverhill Corner Precinct for this subject and the maintenance item. Rick Ladd said there are really 2 issues to deal with; one being the annual cost of the maintenance of the common and the other is the bandstand. He said that that bandstand is structurally not sound and needs replacement. The Haverhill Precinct Commissioners plan to replace the structure in the same design that is there since it is part of the historical district. With that in mind they are looking at approximately \$24K. That is an estimate from several contractors that have looked at it. He further stated that the cost of maintaining the Haverhill Common is becoming too expensive for the 196 people that live in that precinct; they are maintaining something that is Town property. He said they have been told by TM English that the Precinct controls all scheduling of the common so that is why the Town does not pay for maintenance. TM English said that he just stated what has been in place for many years, the deal has always been that since the Precinct controls the area, they pay for the costs to maintain that area. Rick Ladd said that there is fencing that has to be replaced; painting that needs to be done and lawn maintenance and they would like the Town to take over those expenses. Lynn Wheeler said that when someone wants to use the common at Haverhill they have to arrange it with the Precinct; if the Precinct is looking to not bear the costs of maintenance, the Town should have control of events at the common. Rick Ladd said that is fine with them. She also feels that more research needs to be done on who owns the land that the common sits on. There was more discussion as to whether some of the repairs of the bandstand could be done with volunteers under the direction of a carpenter. Rick Ladd said that they were not looking to go that way; they want to hire a professional to do the job. They are looking at liability issues. Mike Lavoie said they do not plan any changes to the structure; they want it to be an exact replica of what is there now. There are pictures to scale of what is there

now. Wayne stated that there are two issues; the general maintenance of the common and the money needed for repair of the bandstand. The request on the table from the Mildred Page fund is \$8,000 and he asked what the Board's pleasure was regarding that request. Lynn Wheeler stated that she believed there was not money available to withdraw. AA Lacaillade gave a status of that account and projections for what might be available next year. There is a pending request from the Haverhill Heritage Inc for \$6,000 which was tabled earlier in the year due to lack of funding which ties to a "Memorandum of Understanding" that the Town has with Haverhill Heritage in support of Alumni Hall. There was further discussion regarding the funds used by Alumni Hall. Rick said that he supports Alumni Hall, he wants to make that perfectly clear but they are talking about a situation here which is dangerous and a liability to both the Precinct and the Town because it is on Town property. It is used daily but kids waiting for the school bus; there are always people having picnics and it is available to everybody at no charge. There was discussion as to the LCHIP funds that might be available for the project. TM English said that if this is a dangerous structure it should be closed right now until funding can be obtained. Mike Lavoie said it is not dangerous to the point of needing to be shut down. TM English said that he was just repeating what Rick Ladd had said, either it is dangerous or it isn't. Rick said that there are parts that it is; there is flooring that has holes in it, siding that has holes, the steps. TM English asked if it could be patched? Rick said they could put money into it but it would be like pouring good money after bad. TM English said that he was just trying to work with them until a time when there would be funding available. There was more discussion about LCHIP money. Mike Lavoie said that he did not think the Town would want a building on their property that might be a hazard. Lynn Wheeler suggested a memorandum of agreement with the Precinct regarding the common area. Mike Lavoie said that he wanted to clarify "dangerous"; it is not like somebody is going to fall through the same but there are some concerns. Rick Ladd will bring a powerpoint presentation to the next meeting so the Selectboard will be able to see better the needs of the bandstand. TM English said that he thinks the smartest way to handle this is for the Precinct to deed the bandstand to the Town and the Town take ownership of all of that property and the Town look at the bandstand immediately and either close it or make temporary repairs to keep it going until there is money. The Town would also cover all costs of maintenance but they would manage the property also. The Town has offered to help at the common before and got a lot of static when that happened. More discussion ensued about some of the maintenance that will be necessary in the near future to the fence. Ray Rhaeume said that given the age of the bandstand he believes that it also qualifies as a historical landmark so is there funding from other sources also? Rick Ladd said that the LCHIP funds are the best funds to access for this project. He said that there are a lot more children in the area then there used to be and a lot of them play at the common. Lynn Wheeler is going to do some research regarding ownership of the common property. Rick Ladd said there are some things that are dangerous and need to be addressed right now; the steps going into the bandstand for one. Mike Lavoie said that the steps have not changed in years, they are just not built in a good way. There are some rot to them. Chairman Fortier asked if the Precinct couldn't do a repair to the steps while waiting to see if the Town will be deeded the bandstand so that the Town can assume the maintenance of the area. Mike Lavoie said they could do that. Chairman Fortier allowed 15 minutes at the next meeting for the powerpoint presentation.

Rick Ladd returned to the table.

- **Tom Friel-Planning Board Appointment:** After a brief interview Rick Ladd made a motion to approve the appointment Tom Friel to the Planning Board; the motion was seconded by David Joslin and carried unanimously.

Rich Clifford and Ray Rhaeume were in attendance to discuss the sign design that was presented at the last meeting. Ray gave an overview of the construction of the sign. Rick Ladd said that at the previous meeting there was discussion involving the landscaping, where the sign would be placed, recognition of others that served in that building and he thought that there was a process decided upon that included forming a committee to look into this. TM English said that his memory is that they just deferred the decision at the last meeting. Lynn Wheeler wanted to know why there was a tank on the proposed sign. Ray said because it is the artillery building but none of that design is set in stone at this point. There was more discussion about the design as presented and future expansion on the sign post for tenants to advertise their businesses. Rich Clifford said that it is important to have a sign out front of that building that identifies that building because now there is nothing when people are trying to find it. The plaque for the inside memorializing all that served there can come at a later date. Chairman Fortier asked what the pleasure of the Board was. Lynn Wheeler felt they needed to make a decision and not leave it hanging. The proposed sign will be in the same spot as the previous signage and the posts can be reused. Chairman Fortier asked for a motion to approve the design. Rick Ladd asked what the sign was going to be made out of to which Ray said PVC. Rick asked how the lettering would be done and Ray responded. There was discussion as to the colors and Ray said that it is all up for discussion. Rick Ladd said he would like to see the sign after the design has been changed before they say yeah or nay; Lynn Wheeler asked for the sign to be presented with different color options also which Ray said he would do. Rich Clifford asked if that meant that they were approved to do it just that the design needed final approval. Chairman Fortier asked if that was what the Board was saying. Rick Ladd said no, they had not taken any action.

- **Life Safety Inspection program:** Chairman Fortier said that he has had a conversation with Dick Guy, Woodsville Precinct Commissioner and at their last meeting the Woodsville Commissioners met and voted to go ahead with their own inspection program using their Fire Chief, Brad Kennedy, and they will pay him a stipend and they will not be charging a fee. Wayne then met with Mike Lavoie and discussed the program; it appears that there are two precincts and their chiefs on board but one precinct is not. Chairman Fortier felt that again, there is inconsistency within the Town. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the meeting that was held on June 17th with all of the Precinct Commissioners regarding the issue. Wayne is disappointed that this issue cannot be resolved so that all inspections within the Town are done in a fair and consistent manner. Mike Lavoie said that they have tried to make this work but it seems that it can't. There was discussion regarding the original adoption of the Life Safety Code at Town Meeting and what the intent was at that time. Rick Ladd said that he has a problem with the Town being the middleman by collecting the fees and turning them over to the precincts when they have no jurisdiction over the person doing the inspection. Also at issue is the inconsistency from department to department. Further discussion. Chairman Fortier is going to approach the other Woodsville Precinct commissioners to see if this is

a final decision. Rick Ladd stated that the added problem is that the Precinct Commissioners do not have authority over the Fire Chiefs so if one does not want to participate, he does not have to. Lynn Wheeler said that just the fact that Woodsville is going to continue to do this and not collect a fee that they are sending a message to the Town to keep their nose out of their business. Chairman Fortier said that the Selectboard announced first that they were suspending the program and then when the commissioners did not hear from the Town they took the steps that they did and they are not charging a fee for that. AA Lacaillade said that she believed that the reason the precinct was not charging a fee is that they are not allowed to by statute, and that is why the move was made by the Fire Chiefs to do this through the Town so that they could get paid for the time needed to do the inspections. Chairman Fortier asked where we go from here? Rick Ladd felt we discontinue the process. We can't have 2 precincts doing it one way and another doing it differently within the same town. TM English said that this Town does not function like a Town because there are so many separate entities within the Town. Further discussion. David Joslin felt that this was too important of a decision to not have a full Board present when a decision is made. TM English was directed to discuss the issue with the Town Attorney to see what the status of this agreement is now that Woodsville has voted to withdraw from it.

New Business:

- **Raffle Permits per RSA 287-A:** Grafton County Home Association has applied for a raffle permit. Rick Ladd reviewed with the Board his proposed changes to the Statute that he will be introducing at the next Legislative session. On a motion by David Joslin and seconded by Lynn Wheeler the Board unanimously approved the permit for the Grafton County Home Association.

Commission/Committee Reports: David Joslin said that at the last Recreation Commission meeting they reviewed their programs and Sherri is looking at several new ones; most do not require a lot of additional money although added advertising money may be necessary. David Joslin said that the Commission would also like to give a 3 month trial period to Sherri and at the end of that time give a recommendation to the Town Manager as to whether they felt she should be made a permanent full time Recreation Director. The Selectboard felt that it would not be wise to bypass the process as it is currently which requires advertisement. They felt that she would be gaining experience during that time that would help her with being more familiar with the program. David Joslin said that the Commission felt that it would be an inhouse hiring and promoting from within but the Selectboard did not agree. Rick Ladd asked if the job description had been reviewed and David Joslin said that it has been revised but the final revisions were not available tonight. There was more discussion as to whether, in this particular case, if it is hiring from within and it was again stated that it was not because she was not the assistant director or anything like that when Glenn Hatch was here. TM English asked if the Board was confident that they were going to support a full time position in next years budget? That decision needs to be made before any advertising for the position is done. Rick Ladd said that they asked for a comprehensive review of the program be done and a written report be given to the Selectboard so that they can make decisions regarding area wide needs. David Joslin said that the commission can come up with ideas but determining the costs of that program is a

different matter. Jo Lacaillade, as a recreation commission member, said that she was confused; when the Recreation Commission met right after Glenn Hatch left and made a decision that they would go back to a part time director, they heard loud and clear from the Selectboard that no, that wasn't what they wanted. So now, they are working with plans for a full time program and now Rick is asking them to prove that they need a full time person. As a rec commission member she is really unsure what it really is that they want. Rick Ladd said that he feels she is not reading what he is saying; he values recreation 125%; he sees a definite need, but he wants the committee that is in charge of recreation to present him rationale that supports that need; he wants a comprehensive review. Jo said that he is talking about a group of volunteers that meet once a month and all have full time jobs. TM English said he gets what Rick is asking for and he will help. Lynn Wheeler said that as they get closer to budget time they are going to have to look at all programs and they may have to make cuts just based on budget. AA Lacaillade said that they understood that completely and that is why, for budget sake, they talked about going back to the part time. TM English said that a cost out of the program will be done with Sherri and perhaps a representative of the commission such as the chair. Rick Ladd asked if there was any response to the survey he put together regarding recreation. David Joslin said that every person on that commission is employed full time and they do as much as they can in their monthly meeting. TM English said that he would suggest putting a survey on the website if that can be accomplished.

Correspondence: None

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: None

Comments of Selectboard Members: Lynn Wheeler asked where they were at on the Real Estate agent issue. TM English said that the RFP is out.

David Joslin asked about a rumor he heard on the street regarding a police officer leaving. He asked that the Selectboard be notified of these kinds of events so that they are better informed when members of the public asked them about it. Lynn Wheeler thought that an exit interview might be something that needs to be looked at as a standard routine when somebody leaves their employment with the Town.

Adjourn Meeting: Rick Ladd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Joslin and carried unanimously. Chairman Fortier adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Jo Lacaillade