

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 12, 2015
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Chairman Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Rick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Darwin Clogston and James O’Hearn

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Wayne Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval (additions/deletions completed by Board consent): Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Rick Ladd made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

Scheduled Public Appearance(s): There were no scheduled appearances, but Mr. James O’Hearn was attending to discuss unresolved issue with the Animal Control Officer. Mr. O’Hearn presented information (timeline, e-mails, RSAs concerning dogs, and ideas for resolution) he had obtained regarding a dog issue. He contacted the Animal Control Officer on December 2, 2014 with his complaint. This was the only time he actually spoke with her. He e-mailed TM English several times about his issue and TM English responded via e-mail that “She said she would get in touch with you”. As of this meeting, he had not heard anything from the Animal Control Officer. Chairman Fortier commented that Mr. O’Hearn did an excellent presentation and had done his homework. Robert Roudebush asked Mr. O’Hearn if he had spoken face-to-face with the Animal Control Officer and Mr. O’Hearn stated that he had not. TM English stated that Mr. O’Hearn’s information was absolutely correct and he would get to the bottom of the issue. Rick Ladd asked Mr. O’Hearn if the issue had been a one-time thing or if it was an ongoing issue and Mr. O’Hearn responded that it was ongoing. Mr. O’Hearn also stated that this was an everyday, day-time occurrence. TM English would do an investigation with the Animal Control Officer and then report back to the Selectboard. The Selectboard would report back to Mr. O’Hearn with their recommendations.

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager’s Report: TM English stated that he was a little concerned about some of the numbers on the road survey conducted by North Country Council. They found that an incorrect width had been used on some of the roads, which inflated some of the numbers. James Steele of North Country Council re-ran the data with more accurate road widths and came up with better numbers. These new numbers would change the 2015 spreadsheet that he had previously handed out to the Board. The new total was \$1,695,000 compared to the previous \$1.8 million. He also upgraded the \$500,000 and \$1 million breakpoints. The new numbers allowed for more roads at each breakpoint. Chairman Fortier asked about the status of the three individuals who called

regarding the inspector position. TM English stated that he had received an actual application and had forwarded it on to the three Fire Chiefs. Chairman Fortier also asked TM English if he had met with the Town Attorney and Mr. Robbins and TM English responded that he had. He had also given the Board some correspondence regarding the meeting. The letter that Mr. Robbins wanted to send to the owner was inadequate and TM English and the Town Attorney made specific recommendations to what should be in a letter. Mr. Robbins did submit a proposed letter to TM English and the Town Attorney, but it was not adequate. Robert Roudebush asked if it was a matter of the Fire Chiefs learning the proper procedure of letter sending in these instances or was it something the Town should be doing on their behalf. TM English responded that it should be a consistent practice. Rick Ladd commented that there cannot be any assumptions such as "I know the statute so I don't have to reference it to make sure I'm in compliance". Chairman Fortier asked TM English if the one applicant for inspector had insurance and TM English responded that he did not know. Lynn Wheeler asked how many other enforcement letters were already "out there". TM English stated that there were probably less than ten.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **2015 Budget:** Chairman Fortier wanted to get an idea on what the Board is thinking on budget matters that have been approved by the Advisory Budget Committee so far. There have been comments on the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building and on what sort of Highway truck to purchase. Government administration went through pretty easily. He wanted to be sure that if any of the Board members had any concerns with any part of the budget that has been approved so far, that they address those concerns and let the Budget Committee know as well. He also wanted to know if any of the Board had any questions. Tom Friel had a few questions on salaries and would be getting together with AA Lacaillade before the next Advisory Budget Meeting on January 14th. Both Tom and Rick Ladd had questions about the wording at the end of the salary budget, specifically "Individual salaries are calculated for budget projections however actual 2015 salaries are determined by performance evaluations". Rick asked if department heads were given the option of giving one or more of their employees more of a percentage increase than others based on their performance reviews. TM English responded that as long as the department head stayed within their own budgets, they had that discretion. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board hadn't addressed how they would make any changes to ease the burden on the taxpayer. The final decision on any budget would be made at Town Meeting. Robert Roudebush noted that attendance at Town Meetings across the Northeast has been decreasing. Rick Ladd asked if taxes were being paid at the same level as previous years or are people holding back for some reason. Lynn Wheeler stated that she had spoken with the Tax Collector and the tax bills were pretty consistent with previous years. The only thing that the Tax Collector noticed was that some residents, who had set up a payment plan for back taxes, were paying their 2014 taxes and not paying their arrears. It appeared that they seemed to be confused on that issue. Rick asked how many people were on payment plans and AA Lacaillade believed the Board had agreed to about ten (10) payment plans. AA Lacaillade commented that there were very few complaints about assessments this year, which was unusual.

New Business:

- **IRS 2015 Mileage Rates:** AA Lacaillade presented to the Board the new 2015 IRS mileage rate of 57½ cents per mile. Tom Friel made a motion to accept the 2015 IRS recommended mileage rate of 57½ cents per mile; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.
- **Use of Clifford Building Request:** Chairman Fortier had received an e-mail from Lory Grimes, who indicated that she and others were starting a new church and wanted to know if they could hold their church services at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building. TM English had done some research on this issue and discovered this might be a constitutional issue. He would feel uncomfortable having church services in a government building. He handed out to the Board some confidential advice from the Town Attorney. Rick Ladd commented that he had run into a similar issue when he was a school administrator. He was advised that they could not say no; they had to charge the same amount of money to that organization as they would to any other organization. Tom Friel agreed, without reading the

confidential advice from the Attorney, that if the church was given a set rate for organizations, that they should pay the same as everyone else. TM English commented that this was not an RSA issue; it had to do with the constitution. Robert Roudebush asked Chairman Fortier if the Board wanted to discuss the specifics and then have Lory and her people attend the meeting. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board could have the discussion at the next meeting on January 26, 2015 and have Lory come to the meeting on February 9, 2015. Robert Roudebush also asked for guidelines on how far they can discuss this publicly, given the nature of the request. Lynn Wheeler asked about contacting the Local Government Center to see if this has come up in other towns.

- **Pole License:** AA Lacaillade presented a request from Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) to replace a pole on French Pond Road. Robert Roudebush made the motion to allow PSNH to replace the pole on French Pond Road; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.

Commission/Committee Reports: Lynn Wheeler reported that the Recreation Commission had a whole series of events coming up; everything from snowshoeing at night to Penny Sales. Jo also reported that there will be a “Turkey Dunk” in the fall.

Correspondence: AA Lacaillade presented the annual engagement letter from the Town’s auditors, Vachon, Clukay. Robert Roudebush asked if this was a standard renewal of an existing contract that the Town does once a year and AA Lacaillade responded that it was. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the engagement letter; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received a list of names of possible candidates for dedication in the Town Report. The Board would look over the list and discuss again at the next meeting on January 26, 2015.

Comments of the Public: Darwin Clogston asked who the new member of the Advisory Budget Committee was and was told that it was Peter Conrad, a Haverhill resident, who had just missed the first two meetings.

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

Comments of Selectboard Members: Robert Roudebush commented on the letter from TM English to Wells River Chevrolet. He asked if TM English had received a response and TM English stated that he had. Wells River Chevrolet was very apologetic. TM English told them that he would be willing to pay the labor costs, but absolutely not the parts as they should have been under warranty. Rick Ladd asked if there was any update on PSNH from Attorney Chris Boldt. TM English stated that he had sent the Board members an e-mail concerning this issue.

Adjourn Meeting: Tom Friel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde