

**MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, January 14, 2013**  
**Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting**

**Board Members Present:** Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Roderick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

**Town Manager:** Glenn English

**Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer:** Jo Lacaillade

**Selectboard Clerk:** Karen Hyde

**Members of the Public Present:** Leslie Ramsay and Alex Nuti-de Biasi – Journal Opinion

**Call Meeting to Order:**

Wayne Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:** Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

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

**Public Hearing:** None

**Scheduled Public Appearance(s):**

- **Richard Guy:** TM English stated that Mr. Guy was not going to make the meeting as he was sick. TM English said that he would give a briefing on the issue, which is RSA 31:18. The statute gives the Selectboard and Town Meeting, working together, the authority to purchase certain properties and rehab them to re-sell them. There are a number of buildings in Town that are vacant and in poor condition, which makes this a mechanism for the Town to deal with this situation. This will be added to an agenda in the future when Mr. Guy is able to attend.

**Town Manager's Report:** TM English stated that Lime Kiln Road and Court St. Ext. were in very bad condition due to mud. The other roads were not as bad, but getting there. The problem is that it is going to get cold again near the end of the week and any damage that has been done will be hard to repair. Road Agent McDanolds and his crew were going to be out putting down stone on these roads. The section of County Road that was done last year looks great. This would be a section that would be bad along with Lime Kiln and Court St. Ext., but it is good. Rick Ladd stated that Lummoxtown Road was also bad. Mr. Ladd asked if it was possible to divert traffic. TM English stated that his instructions to Road Agent McDanolds were to post the roads if they got too bad.

**Pending (Old) Business:**

- **2013 Budget:** Lynn Wheeler gave a brief overview of the first Budget Advisory Committee. She stated that they really hadn't gotten into the nuts-and-bolts yet. TM English stated that they had received a budget from the North Haverhill Fire Department and also from Woodsville, which was very thorough. Chairman Fortier stated that the Budget Committee would be meeting Monday, January 21, Tuesday, January 22, and Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 7:00 PM each night. He also stated that the Budget Committee would like to put in their recommendations at

the January 28, 2013 Selectboard meeting. Rick Ladd questioned the status of the elderly exemption as being a warrant article. Robert Roudebush asked how the Selectboard goes about increasing the police pay rate. TM English stated that the Selectboard would not increase the pay per se; the Selectboard would approve the budget and TM English is limited to what the budget will allow. The Selectboard is given a personnel sheet that shows what the TM would like to do with rates of pay in the new year. The standard cost-of-living increase was budgeted at 2%; in the case of the police officers, the Chief did a study of comparable departments and came up with a mean for each grade of officer. What the Chief originally proposed was for the Town to be beyond the mean by 1%, which has since been amended by adding another \$1 on top of that; the starting salary was also addressed. The starting salary would be increased to \$19.50/hr. When TM English submitted the budget, there were 6 filled positions, including the chief. There were two existing officers looking at other possibilities; one of them was not successful in finding other employment. It was the consensus of the Selectboard that it was much better to increase salaries than to train new officers.

### **Scheduled Public Appearance(s):**

- **Leslie Ramsay-Welfare Administrator:** Leslie distributed a packet of information to the Selectboard. Chairman Fortier stated that at a previous meeting, Mr. Ladd had requested an update on the job function – some of the ins-and outs, the difficulties and the highlights. In the packet of information, Leslie had included the budgets for the last 3 years so the Selectboard could see where the increases were. There was also information on the Fuel Assistance program that would show how the funding for fuel assistance has decreased. Leslie went on to explain the different groups in the age range of 20-40. There is the “entitlement group”, which frequents all resource areas and has learned from their families how to do this. The second group is the “disability seekers”. This group needs welfare assistance while they are waiting for their decision from Social Security, which could take up to a year. Chairman Fortier asked what group that we serve was the largest and Leslie responded that it was the 20-40 group, which is the single parent and multi-children group. Rick Ladd asked whether the group seeking disability had to have a doctor’s note. Leslie replied that they did and usually it came from their primary care physician. Lynn Wheeler asked Leslie about the Venezuelan Fuel Program. Leslie replied that they could still utilize that program, but it was a one-time use of 100 gallons. Leslie then went on to explain the steps she takes when someone is applying for assistance. She asks for pay stubs, child support orders, assistance forms from the state, and bank statements. If someone needs help with their rent, they need to show Leslie a copy of their lease and rent receipts. Chairman Fortier asked Leslie if most of her clients had a means of transportation. She responded that many of them do not have cars, do not have licenses and rely on others to get where they want to go. Leslie remarked that every day was a challenge, but there was something different happening every day. Rick Ladd asked Leslie how many clients were repeats and she responded that about 25 of the 149 clients were repeats. TM English asked Leslie how they were doing on investigating fraud. Leslie responded that she did everything in her power to double-check. She talks to the police department, other welfare administrators that may have dealt with these people, and department of health and human services. AA Lacaillade stated that Leslie asks a lot of questions of her clients. Chairman Fortier stated that it sounded like a lot of time was devoted to checking information that is provided. Tom Friel personally thanked Leslie for enlightening him on what her job entails. Chairman Fortier and the Selectboard thanked Leslie for coming in and answering the questions that they had.

### **Pending (Old) Business:**

- **2013 Budget:** AA Lacaillade asked if the Selectboard was going to have another budget meeting before the budget hearing. Tom Friel stated that he felt they needed to see what the recommendations were from the Budget Advisory Committee. Rick Ladd suggested a work

session before the next Selectboard meeting. It was decided that the Selectboard would have a work session about the budget at 5:00 PM on January 28, 2013.

**New Business:**

- **Mileage Rate Reimbursement Review:** AA Lacaillade presented the IRS recommendation for mileage rate reimbursement. It has increased to .565 cents per mile, up from .555 cents per mile. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the new mileage rate reimbursement; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.
- **Letter of Resignation-Airport Commission:** AA Lacaillade presented a letter of resignation from Dan Fowler of the Airport Commission. Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the letter of resignation with regret; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously. TM English stated that he would be happy to draft a letter of thanks to Mr. Fowler on the Board's behalf.

**Commission/Committee Reports:** Rick Ladd reported that there was an Economic Development Committee meeting on January 16, 2013, with the survey people from PSU. He was going to be at that meeting. Both TM English and Chairman Fortier could not attend the meeting as they had prior commitments. Tom Friel stated that he would attend the meeting. AA Lacaillade reported that Sherri Sargent, Director of the Recreation Department, would be out on medical leave for another week. Chairman Fortier reported that the New Year's Eve ball was a success. TM English thanked Chairman Fortier for chairing the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee and making the New Year's Eve ball a first-class event.

**Correspondence:** None

**Comments of the Public:** None

**Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer:** AA Lacaillade presented the certificate for Future Business Leaders of America for the Board's signature. The Board decided to have the Future Business Leaders of America plaque presentation on February 11, 2013.

**Comments of Selectboard Members:** Rick Ladd stated that he was called to be a sponsor on a bill that would impact the North County; this would be a gas tax. He was hesitant about doing this because of the difference of gas prices between towns. Lynn Wheeler stated that she would like to know why New England is paying so much more for gas than the middle of the country is. AA Lacaillade asked Mr. Ladd how the new bill would affect their road money. Mr. Ladd stated that he didn't have all the specifics yet.

AA Lacaillade stated that she would get the list of dedications for the Town Report to the Board as soon as possible. AA Lacaillade also asked about the status of the formation of the Fire Department Equipment Committee. Rick Ladd stated that that hadn't been done yet. TM English stated that the Selectboard needed to appoint members to the Committee and it needed to be done rather quickly as there were new fire trucks under consideration for this budget cycle. They had heard from one person who was interested in being on the Committee. Chairman Fortier asked if any of the Board members knew of someone who would be an at-large member of the Committee. There were a few names suggested. TM English stated that they needed to do this before Town Meeting. The Board decided to think on it and in the next few days, possibly come up with more names.

**Adjourn Meeting:** Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. Chairman Fortier adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde