

**MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, March 11, 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 -- Excused

**Selectboard Clerk:** Karen Hyde

**Members of the Public Present:** Sherri Sargent, Homer May, Brad Hickox and Diana Cogger from Lyndon State/Channel 7 News and Ed Ballam – JO

**Call Meeting to Order:**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Fortier added the status of the Business Survey to Pending (Old) Business. Lynn Wheeler added airport agricultural lease to New Business. Rick Ladd made a motion to accept the amended Agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

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

**Public Hearing:** None

**Scheduled Public Appearance(s):** None

**Town Manager's Report:** TM English stated that he had communicated with the Town of Newbury on the recycling budget. The budget number can be reduced from \$18,000 to \$16,500. When this Warrant Article comes up at Town Meeting, it should be amended to reflect the new number. He also talked about the February 28, 2013 public information meeting about the Mill Street Bridge. The state came down and gave a proposal for a ten-year plan project, scheduled to be done in a couple of years. They originally wanted to take out the bridge and not put anything back and dead-end the road at each end. It's a road maintained by the Fire District. The general public mood, which was very strong, was that the State put a crossing back. The road is important to the School, who are very concerned about losing that access to the School site. The State brought an alternate plan to replacing the bridge, which was a concrete box culvert to carry the trail traffic and a large, earthen embankment over that and a paved road on top with guardrails. The State wanted the Town to submit a letter asking what the Town wanted, which TM English has drafted, and then commit that the Town will take ownership of whatever structure is put back there, which is an issue between the Town and the Fire District because the Fire District maintains that road. TM English would like to suggest a culvert that is large enough

to take a train. If it ever becomes an active rail again, the State-suggested culvert would have to be pulled out and done over again. Lynn Wheeler asked if it became an active rail again, wouldn't the railroad company have to maintain it. TM English responded that it would be a battle for that to happen. It wouldn't cost that much more to make the culvert bigger now and it would avoid a battle at some future point.

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

- **Cat Licensing:** Chairman Fortier stated that some time ago, Ms. Green brought the issue of cat licensing to the Board. There was a public hearing held on the issue and it was close to 50% either way. At that time, the Board did not take a position on the cat licensing issue. There was some anticipation that there would be a Warrant Article put together by Ms. Green to be on this year's Town Meeting schedule, but that did not happen. She has made another inquiry about cat licensing. He stated that the Board needed to come to some decision on the cat licensing issue. It is Chairman Fortier's understanding that this does not require a vote at Town Meeting. By statute, the Board, if it so desires, could enact a cat licensing ordinance within the Town. His question is "Are we ready to make a decision on that?" Lynn Wheeler stated that she thought it was a little strange, after coming to the Board several times, that Ms. Green dropped the issue about bringing this to Town Meeting. Chairman Fortier stated that he felt strongly, as one Board member, that they needed to make a decision on this issue. He asked TM English if there had been any other concerns from other residents about this issue and TM English stated that there were none. TM English stated that he had been to the site recently and that the yard had been totally fenced in. TM English also stated that Ms. Green had sent him a statute about rabies that he had forwarded to the Town Attorney, which implied that selectmen or town managers were responsible for determining rabies in animals. He thought that that statute had been taken out of context. The Animal Control Officer deals with rabies cases and there are policies in place for it. Rick Ladd stated that he thought it would be premature to make a decision at the meeting. They had no costs related to this issue. There is no ordinance in place. He also stated that Ms. Green not showing up at the meeting was a clear message. Tom Friel and Lynn Wheeler both stated that the general consensus from people was that they didn't want a cat ordinance. The consensus of the Board was that there would be no decision on this issue at this point in time.
- **Business Survey:** Chairman Fortier stated that the recommendations for changes made at the last meeting were given to Kevin Shelton and Connie Smith the next day. The changes were made and sent to PSU for adoption. PSU would like to start the amended survey prior to spring break. On Friday, March 15, TM English and Kevin Shelton are going to be on the radio at 8:30 to talk about the survey.

### **New Business:**

- **REC Building Fee Schedule:** Rec Director Sherri Sargent handed out copies of the policy for use of the RECM Building. She would like the Board to review this policy. She has received a lot of inquiries about the use of the building. The question she has is about fundraisers for non-profits that want to utilize the building and not pay a fee. She stated that a lot of the non-profits do not have the \$400 fee required to rent the building. She would like the Board's opinion about charging a smaller fee for the non-profits. She also wanted to discuss resident/non-resident fees for the building. Chairman Fortier asked

Sherri if it was her opinion that by lowering the fee, they would get more use of the building. She replied absolutely. Rick Ladd stated that residents are already paying taxes and should not pay the same fee as a non-resident. He suggested getting in touch with LGC for other examples before changing the policy.

- **HCMS Grant:** Sherri Sargent handed out the Memorandum of Understanding, which ties into the grant, a draft of the grant, and project goals and objectives. TM English explained that this is an arrangement they have had for several years, which involves the HARP program. It is a partnership that they have with the Middle School, where the Rec Director provides some instruction time at the School and the School sends a number of children to the HARP Program coupled with the Math and Science programs. The Grantor has requested that the cooperative agency, the Town, co-apply for the grant. There is no additional obligation on the Town. Sherri stated that the difference between the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed last year and the one this year is that she has asked that any costs that she incurs while instructing the children for the 8 weeks will be reimbursed by the school. There will be no cost to the Town. Chairman Fortier asked how many children this involved. Sherri stated that last year, she had 6 science and 8 math students. Rick Ladd asked about supervision of the children. Sherri stated that she ran a “pretty tight ship” and she suggests to parents that if their child had an aide in school, they should have the aide for HARP. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to approve the memorandum of understanding; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. The Board authorized TM English to sign the grant when it is ready.
- **Airport Agricultural Lease:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received correspondence to Howard Hatch dated 2/28/2013. Lynn Wheeler stated that Mr. Hatch had called her and asked her to come forward with information that he had as he was unable to attend the meeting. She stated that about seven years ago, the Town attempted to lease the land around the airport for farming purposes and at that time, there were no takers. Shortly after that, Mr. Hatch went to TM English and they had a discussion about him putting some effort to fertilize and seed and upgrade the overall conditions of the land and in turn, he would keep it mowed and brush-hogged back. It would be a benefit to him and to the Town. It was a five-year agreement and it has gone past the five years by about two years. Mr. Hatch is concerned because it’s going to be put out to bid again and he has already expended time and energy in the fall putting fertilizer on it. He received a letter saying that the bid would be going out again and he would have to bid on the use of the land. TM English stated that the Airport Commission informed him that they had someone who would put in a legitimate bid with a good price. He also stated that what Mr. Hatch has invested is part of the agreement. Rick Ladd made a motion to continue with the current agreement until December 31 of this year as is, when there will be notification that it will go out to bid; seconded by Lynn Wheeler. Tom Friel and Robert Roudebush opposed; Lynn Wheeler, Rick Ladd and Chairman Fortier voted for the motion. TM English stated that he would put copies of the lease in the Selectmen’s folders in the AM.

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

- **Town Meeting Assignments:** Robert Roudebush would respond to questions about police issues, Burch House, Tri-County Cap, and Ammonoosuc Community Health Services. Tom Friel would respond to questions about police issues. Lynn Wheeler would

respond to questions about the change in funding for Newbury recycling and Article 8, which is the Blind Exemption. Rick Ladd would respond to questions about Article 9, which is the Elderly Exemption and any questions regarding the Fire Recommendations and the Town budget overall. He also would be back-up to Article 12, White Mountain Mental Health. TM English would respond to questions about the Tire Recycling.

- **Homer May:** Mr. May handed out some print-outs about Lyme's list serves. He explained that list serves are free to set up. Town residents could then sign up for them and receive e-mails about storm warnings or unusual meetings that were coming up. The e-mails would be sent out by the Town Clerk, the Police Department or the Moderator and be received immediately. He would like to see this sort of thing happen in the Town. He stated that he had submitted this information before, but had received no response, so he is resubmitting the information to see if the Town could get this going. Chairman Fortier stated that this would be a good idea.

**Commission/Committee Reports:** Lynn Wheeler stated that there were many events coming up for the spring, like Paddle-the-Border and outdoor concerts, so check the Town website. Chairman Fortier stated that they were gearing up for the next big 250<sup>th</sup> event, which is Founder's Day on May 18 at 9:30 at the RECM Building for a combined ceremony from both states with political figures. There will also be festivities at 1:30 at the Haverhill Common and 3:00 at the Newbury Common. The following Wednesday, May 22, the American Veterans Traveling Tribute will arrive at the North Haverhill Fairgrounds.

**Correspondence:** Chairman Fortier received a letter from Community Health Services about new programs. Lynn Wheeler and TM English gave the Board an editorial from the Journal Opinion concerning the fire departments. They also received a nice note from Lois Henson about the Town Report dedication. He also stated that they had received an adjustment from the Haverhill Highway Block Grant Aid. TM English stated to ignore the figure on the adjustment; they would be getting the amount that was in the proposed 2013 budget.

**Comments of the Public:** None

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

**Comments of Selectboard Members:** None

**Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 (a) Personnel Issue**

Lynn Wheeler made a motion to go into non-public session at 7:35 pm; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved.

Robert Roudebush made the motion to come out of non-public session at 8:35 pm; seconded by Tom Friel. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

**Adjourn Meeting:** Lynn Wheeler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 8:37 pm

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde