

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 5, 2014

Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: 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: Chief Byron Charles, Sgt. Wallace Trott, Darwin Clogston, Joseph Webb, Martha Webb, Joseph Lagarto, Mike Conrad, Larry Boyce, David Pair, Linda Pair, Steve Robbins, Susan Brown, Notary Public Sandra Roy and Ed Ballam – Journal Opinion

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **Mike Conrad:** Mr. Conrad wanted to discuss the traffic count that was done on Lily Pond Road. He felt that the count that was done was not accurate. TM English explained that North Country Council would be doing another traffic count on Lily Pond Road. They were currently working on French Pond Road, but would be getting to Lily Pond Road. Mr. Conrad suggested putting the counter below his pool as there were about 30 plus families on Lily Pond Road that go down the hill, instead of up the hill. TM English stated that North Country Council would get a good count.
- **Susan Brown-250th Book Distribution:** Susan Brown discussed distribution of the remaining 250th Celebration Books. The 250th Committee had decided that the remaining books would be divided between Haverhill and Newbury, VT and distributed to school children. Susan had learned that there were 780 children in area schools. It was the consensus of the Board to distribute the books to all the children. Susan would make arrangements with the schools and TM English and Robert Roudebush would load and bring the books to the various schools.
- **Chief Charles-National Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week Proclamation Presentation:** Chairman Fortier stated that May 15, 2014 was National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week of May 11-17, 2014 was National Police Week for fallen police officers. He then told about the deaths of two state troopers in a small village of 238 residents in the state of Alaska. He stated that Haverhill has a very good police force and he thanked them for everything that they do. In recognition of this, the Board has signed a proclamation, honoring and recognizing National Police Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week. Chairman Fortier then presented the Proclamation to Chief Charles and Sgt. Trott on behalf of the entire police force.

Public Hearing:

6:15 RSA 31:95b NH Dept of Safety Grant: Rick Ladd made a motion to suspend the regular meeting and go into public hearing; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously. The public hearing began at 6:19 PM. Chairman Fortier read: "The grant was from the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. This is a 50-50 program of FEMA funds that is awarded to local communities on a first-come, first-serve basis. The reason for the public hearing is that amounts of funds received by the Town over \$5,000 must be discussed in a public hearing, according to RSA 31:95b. These grant funds are considered unanticipated revenue by the Department of Revenue Administration. The funds for the Haverhill Police Department's radios, which total \$10,318, have been earmarked for this project, pending approval by the Haverhill Selectboard and the Governor and Council. The Town of Haverhill will be contributing its 50% matching funds through \$10,318.00 in cash from the police department budget, for a total project cost of \$20,636.00. This grant agreement is the contract between the Town of Haverhill and the State of New Hampshire to receive these funds for the purpose herein. The terms and conditions are stated in Exhibits A, B, and C of the grant agreement. It is hoped that the grant will go before the Governor and Council for their approval to the end of June. The Town should not begin any work on this project until the agreement has been approved by Governor and Council." Chief Charles then spoke about the nature of the grant. He stated that the focus of the grant was that there are three cruisers that utilize radio systems and they have been notified by Ossipee Mountain Electronics that these radios are not any good any more, as the parts cannot be replaced. The console downstairs in the JRM Building that the secretaries use to contact the officers is also outdated and also needs to be replaced. This is the purpose for the grant. With the upgrade, the Police Department will also be able to communicate with the State of Vermont, which they cannot do now from their cruisers. Susan Brown asked how old the radios were and Chief Charles stated that he did not know the answer to that. There were no further comments from the public. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to move out of the Public Hearing; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously. The Public Hearing ended at 6:27 PM. They were back into regular session. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$10,318; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. The grant agreement was then signed by the Board and notarized by Sandra Roy.

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **Joseph Webb-Shute Trailer at Blackmount Acres:** Mr. Webb from Blackmount Acres addressed the Board about the empty Shute trailer. There is a gentleman interested in fixing up the trailer and living in it, but cannot pay the back taxes. Mr. Webb was wondering if there was something that could be worked out about the back taxes. AA Lacaillade stated that the Town Assessor had been out to the Shute trailer and had lowered the assessed value to \$6,600, due to the poor condition of the trailer. Chairman Fortier asked who owned the trailer and AA Lacaillade stated that it was the Shutes or their heirs. The Town has no legal authority over the trailer. Lynn Wheeler stated that regardless of what the trailer is doing, the heirs inherited the property and unless they sign it off, there was nothing Blackmount Acres could do. Chairman Fortier stated that the Town does not traditionally take over property of that nature because of the expense and liability to the Town. He also stated that the Town doesn't have the authority to take over the property of whoever the heir is. David Pair stated that the land the trailer was sitting on belonged to the Association and was wondering if they could declare the trailer as uninhabitable so that the Association could put something in there that would generate income for them and tax dollars for the Town. Lynn asked if the Association had a lawyer and stated that they needed one. Mr. Webb stated that they had been working with Gary Wood, the Town attorney and he has only been able to get in touch with one of the five heirs. TM English asked if the Association had some sort of procedure to remove people they no longer wanted on their property. Mr. Webb replied that they hadn't had to deal with that yet. Mr. Pair commented that the Association could petition the court or the sheriff's department for nonpayment of rent on the property. TM English stated that the Association should pursue that route and obtain title to the property. Mr. Pair then asked what would happen to the back taxes and TM English stated that the taxes are liable to the owner of record. Lynn and Rick thought that the Association could go to court with the one heir and try to obtain title and then deal with the Town for the back taxes. The

Board's advice was to seek more advice from an attorney and see if they could maneuver some sort of court action with the one heir that there has been contact with. TM English wanted to make it clear that the Town was not paying the Town Attorney for his advice to the Association. The Town Attorney was not charging the Association.

- **Steve Robbins-Health Officer:** Steve Robbins addressed the Board about the trash problem in Town. He stated that the Town does not have a good trash solution. The common answer he receives about trash is that "they don't have the money." Unfortunately, in this economy, trash is usually the first thing that is given up. TM English handed out the RSA that concerns trash and stated that there is no local ordinance to back up the RSA. Rick Ladd commented about the four-wheel type of trash that extends into the byway. Steve stated that that type of trash does not meet the RSA for trash. Chairman Fortier asked Steve if he could give the Board an example of what type and volume of trash he was talking about. Steve stated that there was a location on County Road that had about 75-100 bags of garbage in their backyard. There is another one on Airport Road that has equally as much, if not more. TM English stated that it was a little odd to hear that they don't have the money to clean it up. In his opinion, for \$5 a year, you can obtain a recycling permit and recycle 75% of your trash. It also costs \$3 a bag to get rid of the rest. Not having the money is not a good excuse. Robert Roudebush asked if the Town of Haverhill had an enforcement process for removing trash from someone's property. TM English stated that there was no local trash ordinance. Robert then asked if Steve had had face-to-face contact or written letters and Steve said that he had. Chairman Fortier asked Steve how many sites in Town concerned him as a health officer. Steve responded there were five (5). This issue would be put on the next meeting's Agenda, which is May 19, 2014. Rick Ladd asked TM English to seek out sample ordinances for the next meeting. Rick also asked about the unregistered cars in the Town right-of-way. TM English stated that he had spoken with the Police Chief about this particular property. There is a junk vehicle RSA, which states only one unregistered vehicle is allowed on a piece of property. The vehicles that Rick was talking about are in the Town right-of-way and TM English feels that it is a traffic issue and he is having the Police Department looking into it.

Town Manager's Report: TM English stated that the Board had received a survey from North Country Council asking the Board what their opinions were of regional and other issues. If the Board members completed the surveys and got them back to TM English, he would get them to the Council. TM English also stated that the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee had requested their annual \$50 contribution. Rick Ladd made the motion to contribute \$50 to the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously. TM English then stated that Randy Cassidy had complied with the Board's request for a letter of credit for his construction project in Haverhill Corner.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Rental Rates for Clifford Memorial Building and Storage Buildings:** TM English stated that he had sent the Board members an electronic draft revision to the policy for the use of the Clifford Memorial Building, which includes addressing the rates. He did not change the rates, but created the category "Non-Profit Charitable." TM English had received an application for use of the building from Janice Hatch, which he considered a non-profit charitable, as it was to benefit a person who was sick. Chairman Fortier asked if it was TM English's recommendation to waive the fee for Ms. Hatch. TM English responded that that was one of the Board's options with the current policy. Rick Ladd stated that he thought the Board should deal with the 3 applications that they had received as an exception and then work out the policy. AA Lacaillade then stated that 2 of the applications had a definite date and really needed to be dealt with right away. She went on to explain about the NH Fire Department Annual Super Raffle Dinner, which is a major fundraiser. The Fire Department was requesting the building on August 23 with the kitchen at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial building. Rick Ladd commented that certain levels of government in the Town that give a service, such as the fire departments, should get something back from the Town. Tom Friel made the motion to let the NH Fire Department use the RECM Building on August 23, 2014 for their fundraiser; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously. Robert

Roudebush made the motion to accept the application of Janice Hatch as a non-profit charitable; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously. This applicant would be required to pay a \$100 security deposit. The third application was for Ammonoosuc Valley Fish & Game on June 21, 2014. They are holding an annual dinner and fundraising raffle. The application stated that it was a nonprofit group with kitchen request, \$450 minus 10%. They have paid their security deposit of \$100. Robert Roudebush made the motion to accept the application of Ammonoosuc Valley Fish & Game as a nonprofit with a 10% discount; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board hadn't approved the policy because there wasn't the third category in the policy. He stated that the Board would put this policy on the next meeting as a second reading, since some of the members did not have the updated draft revision. TM English stated that he would send the revision again electronically and also get them a hard copy. AA Lacaillade asked what the Board wanted to do about the Storage Units. Chairman Fortier asked the Board to think about viable options for the units. He also asked TM English if he had spoken to anyone who might be interested in running the units. TM English stated that he would not do that unless it had been advertised. The Board and TM English will be working on options for the storage units.

New Business: None

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: The Board had received a thank you from the VT Historical Society for the 250th Celebration Books. They received an invitation from Hypertherm to join a reception in Lebanon, NH, on May 21st from 5-7 PM. They also received a thank you from Louise Bevin and family, who is the niece of Jeanette Wolff, which Chairman Fortier read to the Board. Chairman Fortier had also received an invitation to a Regional Prevention Summit, which Robert Roudebush would like to attend, along with any other members of the Board who would like to attend. This Summit has to do with Restorative Justice and reaching out to age 21 without smoking or abusing alcohol or drugs. The Summit is going to be held on May 23rd, 2014 from 8-11 AM at Plymouth State University.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade had received an e-mail from Governor Hassan's office concerning a Proclamation declaring Public Works' Week on May 18-24, 2014. Robert Roudebush made the motion to issue a Proclamation declaring May 18-24, 2014 as Public Works' Week; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Rick Ladd commented that on May 19, 2014, Grafton County Extension was doing some education from 1-2 PM with Dave Falkenham, County Forester. At 2:45 PM, Jim Oakes was doing a presentation on the Biomass Plant at the County. On June 7, 2014, Grafton County is having their Open Barn at 10:00 PM. This is usually a pretty good event. Also, on that same day, North Country Home Health & Hospice is having a Walk-a-Thon in memory of Ray Burton. Robert Roudebush wanted to let the Board know that Jay Apicelli from the Restorative Justice program, was willing to come in and chat with the Board at the May 19, 2014 Selectboard meeting. Mr. Apicelli would be invited to attend the next meeting.

Adjourn Meeting: Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde