

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 29, 2015

Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

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

Board Member Excused: Rick Ladd

Town Manager: Excused

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Mike Conrad, Betty Conrad, Joe Maccini, Road Agent Stuart MacDanolds, Russell Haney, Howard Hatch, Don Hammond and Ed Ballam – Journal Opinion

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval (additions/deletions completed by Board consent): Lynn Wheeler made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush 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-Elderly Exemptions:** Mike Conrad asked why his mother's, Betty Conrad, elderly exemption had been denied. Chairman Fortier stated that there was an income limit for an elderly exemption and Mrs. Conrad's income was over that limit. Mr. Conrad asked what the limit was and AA Lacaillade stated that it was \$21,000. Mr. Conrad commented that the City of Manchester was \$30,000 and Chairman Fortier stated that this wasn't the City of Manchester. AA Lacaillade stated that \$21,000 was what the voters had voted in about two years ago. Chairman Fortier commented that he had spoken with Mrs. Conrad and her concern was that some of the income that she claimed as income on her elderly exemption she feels is better termed as "compensation" and not income. He remarked that Mrs. Conrad has told him that benefits from the VA are considered "compensation" and are not considered "income". However, the Board has to run by State law and when Mrs. Conrad put in other sources of income, she put income and stated the amount. Mrs. Conrad stated that she misunderstood that. Mr. Conrad commented that the Federal Government does not consider "compensation" as income. AA Lacaillade stated that the State of New Hampshire says all sources of income. Chairman Fortier stated that he thought the Board needed to get a legal opinion concerning this issue. As the State law is written now, the Board has to consider all sources of income. Mrs. Conrad stated that when she worked at the post office, she paid income tax and did not have to claim VA compensation. Chairman Fortier stated that he did not know how that worked but he thought that the Board needed more than a guess; they needed a legal opinion. Lynn Wheeler commented that the lawyers at the Municipal Association would have some opinions based on the RSAs. Mrs. Conrad read to the Board the definitions of income, compensation and annuities. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board would check with the Municipal Association and get a clearer, definitive answer, but until then, the Board would have to abide by the State law. Mrs. Conrad was asked to bring in the VA identification number that was attached to her compensation and AA Lacaillade would look into it. Mike and Mrs. Conrad thanked the Board for looking into the matter.

- **Russ Haney-Lynn Perry-Taxiway Paving Project:** Lynn Perry was not present at the meeting. Chairman Fortier stated that it was his understanding that there had been a change in plans. Road Agent Stuart McDanolds stated that he brought up a proposal with best guesstimates of what it would entail to prepare the airport property for the paving. He explained this was for a taxiway of 382 feet with an oversize of 2 feet to allow for proper support for the edge of the asphalt and then to prepare the rampways from the taxiway up through the hangars. He could only guesstimate on time involved and excavation as it was limited to the loader and one truck because the only two people allowed to operate Town equipment would be Airport Manager Jim Fortier and himself. He figured it would be 11½ hours to excavate, which would allow 15 minutes between truck loads. The time to truck 358 yards of reclaimed material to the excavation site would require the same amount of hours plus final upgrading and compacting. When all was taken into consideration, both Airport Manager Fortier and Road Agent McDanolds would have 77 hours of labor. Stuart estimated about 115 gallons of fuel. Chairman Fortier asked if the rest of the Airport Commission knew about this new information and Stuart responded that he had sent it to Jim Fortier and Jim was going to distribute it. Chairman Fortier commented that the next step would be to talk with the Airport Commission and see what they want to do. Mr. Haney commented that the paving was all taken care of by the hangar owners. He also commented that they were looking for the use of Town equipment and Stuart's time. He stated that he was willing to pay for the labor out of his pocket. Robert Roudebush commented that Stuart had done what the Airport Commission had requested of him, which was to come up with facts and figures on time, material and fuel, etc. He would like to move forward with this and asked if there had been any change in the statement last time that Jim and Stuart could do this work. Stuart commented that there was the realization that it was more hours than originally thought. Stuart thought it would be a couple of full weekends to do this project. Chairman Fortier stated that he would encourage them to go back to their Commission and "hash" it out and when they were ready with a proposal, let the Board know. Robert commented that he would do anything he could to help. Lynn asked if the insurance could give them a rider and AA Lacaillade stated that she would ask. She would also give Mr. Haney an estimate of what it would cost for Stuart and Jim's time.

Chairman Fortier commented that the next item was not on the agenda, but the Board did approve the nomination of Don Hammond to be Chair of the Haverhill Planning Board at the last meeting. Chairman Fortier then proceeded to administer the oath of office to Mr. Hammond.

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager's Report: None

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Advisory Highway Committee-Mission Statement and Interviews:** Chairman Fortier asked Howard Hatch if he had received the Mission Statement via e-mail and Mr. Hatch stated that he had. Joe Maccini was given a copy of the Mission Statement as he does not have e-mail. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board had grappled with the Mission Statement for several weeks and he wanted to move forward with the Mission Statement even though Rick Ladd was not present. Robert Roudebush had a few proposed changes to the Mission Statement. The first change was in the first paragraph; he wanted to change the word "assist" to "advise". Lynn Wheeler and Tom Friel were okay with the word "assist", so it would remain "assist". The next change Mr. Roudebush wanted to make was on bulleted item #5 where it says "Serve as an advisory group to the Road Agent when needed". He wanted the word "needed" changed to "requested". Chairman Fortier asked Road Agent McDanolds how he felt on the wording and Stuart stated he didn't really see much difference between "needed" and "requested". It was the consensus of the Board for it to remain as "needed". Chairman Fortier then handed out to Howard Hatch and Joe Maccini, the two candidates of the Advisory Highway Committee, information that the Advisory Budget Committee had received concerning the road priorities. Mr. Roudebush then asked to change the order of the bulleted items, but it was decided that the bulleted items would remain

as is. Chairman Fortier then wanted to get into a discussion with the two candidates. First, he wanted to thank them for submitting their written qualifications and there was no question with the Board that both candidates are qualified to a very large degree and the Board appreciated them coming forward. There was a brief discussion of “pay-as-you-go”. The Board has no comprehensive plan on how to address both the paved and gravel roads. At Town Meeting, a capital trust for highway was created in the amount of \$150,000/year. The core purpose of the Advisory Highway Committee was how to address the road problems. Both gentlemen know the roads well and have a historical background on how the roads have been maintained. The Board needs to address this issue in a systematic way and that calls for a comprehensive management plan. The experience and field expertise Mr. Hatch and Mr. Maccini have is what the Board needs. Chairman Fortier stated that what the Board doesn’t want to happen is for the Advisory Highway Committee to micromanage normal maintenance and yearly maintenance of the roads. Micromanaging is not the function of the Committee; the Committee is for the futuristic function of how they are going to better the roads in a systematic way. Chairman Fortier commented that Mr. Hatch has contributed a lot to the Town, but, on occasion, he gets frustrated and sometimes starts making remarks about individuals that shouldn’t be made. Mr. Hatch stated that he knew the last sentence of the Mission Statement was meant for him, but none of the other Committees in Town have a statement like that. He called it “taxation without representation”. Mr. Hatch commented that he asked to be on this Committee for the best interest of the Town of Haverhill. He stated that he was not there for any other reason. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board doesn’t feel that Mr. Hatch was there with the intent of gaining anything. In fact, the Town has everything to gain from his participation. He has talked with the Board members and they are concerned about Mr. Hatch taking out his frustrations undiplomatically sometimes. Chairman Fortier stated that he has seen, on occasion, Mr. Hatch tearing into the Town Manager or the Road Agent and that is not what the Board is looking for. If Mr. Hatch has a thought about, for example, the 1½-inch tar at the Airport taxiway, all he needs to do is have a conversation with the Road Agent. Chairman Fortier doesn’t want to dampen Mr. Hatch’s energy; he just wants there to be no unacceptable remarks directed at an individual in a public meeting that shouldn’t occur. If Mr. Hatch has a “burning desire” to say something, use his military experience and go to the person first and try to work it out. The real emphasis behind this Committee is not to tell the road crew how to do their duties; it is how to bring all of the roads up to speed in a systematic way. The Board felt that the Town Manager and the Road Agent needed assistance in getting this done. Robert Roudebush commented that Mr. Hatch has forgotten more than Robert ever knew about road construction, cost, application, materials, equipment buying and usage, and road building. Robert respects Mr. Hatch, but his reason for adding the last sentence to the Mission Statement was that Mr. Hatch has a public record of publicly expressing a bias toward two of the key players in this proposed Committee. Mr. Hatch stated that he hadn’t said anything about Stuart. Chairman Fortier commented that this Committee was a “team effort” and an important one. He didn’t want to see Mr. Hatch recuse himself or get off the Committee; the Board very much wanted to make this work. Chairman Fortier had spoken with Road Agent McDanolds earlier and Stuart was in the mind and spirit to make the Committee work with Mr. Hatch. There is a clear distinction between maintenance and what the Committee is trying to do. If Mr. Hatch has a question about maintenance, Chairman Fortier suggested a private conversation with the Road Agent. Chairman Fortier asked Mr. Maccini if he had any questions about the Mission Statement and he did not. Chairman Fortier asked the two candidates about conflict of interest, specifically Mr. Maccini and Kevin Horne. Mr. Horne may bid on a job and Chairman Fortier wanted Mr. Maccini to be sensitive to that. Mr. Maccini was clear on conflict of interest issues. Road Agent McDanolds stated that he looked forward to working with Mr. Hatch and Mr. Maccini.

- **Health Insurance:** Chairman Fortier stated that this was an important deal. He commented that the Obama care penalty regulations concerning Cadillac plans start in 2018, according to AA Lacaillade. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board can decide to keep the current insurance plan for now and deal with it when it’s closer to 2018 or deal with it now. There are other options and the Board needs to make a decision. If the Board decides to change health insurance plan, they need to get input from the employees as it will require them to make a deductible contribution as well as a premium payment. AA

Lacaillade commented that this was not only about the Cadillac tax; it's about the impact of health insurance on the Town's budget. There isn't a lot of room in the budget to cut anything, but benefits and the only benefit to cut is health insurance. The Board would make a decision for the coming budget cycle at the July 13, 2015 meeting.

- **Private Road Policy:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received correspondence and e-mails that TM English had with Mr. Mitchell and some suggested changes to the Private Road Policy. Tom Friel and Robert Roudebush had no problem with the suggested changes. Tom Friel made the motion to accept the second reading of the Private Road Policy; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

New Business:

- **Advisory Highway Committee-Interviews:** Discussed earlier under "Old Business".
- **Clifford Building Usage Request-No. Haverhill Fire Dept.:** AA Lacaillade stated that the North Haverhill Fire Department was requesting the use of the Clifford Building for their August 29, 2015 "Super Raffle". Robert Roudebush made the motion to approve the request, waiving any fees; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.
- **Tax Rate Issues:** AA Lacaillade stated that she had not heard from Jamie Dow of the DRA and did not know if there was any resolution to the tax rate setting in the fall. Tom Friel stated that it was his feeling that political pressure be put on the state reps to resolve this issue.
- **Request to use Haverhill-Bath Covered Bridge-Wedding:** AA Lacaillade presented a request to use the Haverhill-Bath Covered Bridge for a wedding in June 2016. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to approve the request with proof of insurance and a security deposit of \$100; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

Commission/Committee Reports: Robert Roudebush reported that the ad for the Airport Manager position had been placed and he had met with one of the applicants in an informal manner. There were now 4 applications for the position. Lynn Wheeler reported that the Pool and HARP were going full force. The new directors for both the Pool and HARP were great and the parents of the children are very impressed with it. There were 33 children the first day of HARP. On the flip side, there was a concert and there were hardly any people there. Tom Friel reported that T-Mobile was before the Planning Board regarding setting up a wireless tower. The application was heavily discussed and the Planning Board was positive about it. Chairman Fortier commented that he was also at that meeting and T-Mobile was hoping to be up and operational sometime this summer. AA Lacaillade had received the building permit application and was waiting for the Woodsville Fire Chief's approval before continuing with the building permit. Chairman Fortier reported on the Heritage Commission and the Commission needs recruits. Mike Dannehy was communicating with two possible candidates for the Commission. Chairman Fortier and Mr. Dannehy had gone to Hazen Park and Bill Jacobs and another gentleman from the campground had been doing the mowing of the park with their own mowers. There were two lawn tractors down there and one hadn't worked for about a year. Earl Aremburg picked up the better mower and did some maintenance on it and got it running again. Mr. Dannehy told Mr. Jacobs that he could use that machine and did not have to use his own to mow.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier reported that the Board had received a letter from Tri-County Community Action about moving their headquarters to Ashland, NH, which is a big inconvenience for the local people. Lynn Wheeler had received information from Mr. Geoffrey Sewake that she shared with the Board.

Comments of the Public: Ed Ballam commented that the Tri-County Community Action move was going to affect the Food Pantry at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building. People were already asking where they were going to get their fuel assistance. He commented that it was a big deal.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Chairman Fortier commented that he had spoken with Ralph Wright about the cars in the road and Mr. Wright told him that he was making plans. Chairman Fortier asked him what

the timeline was and Mr. Wright told him two weeks. Chairman Fortier told him that he had two weeks and a day to do something. The only other thing Chairman Fortier had was the question Tom Friel had about the Prouty. Chairman Fortier had spoken with Chief Charles and the Chief gave them notification of the rules and regulations that are given to the Prouty participants. One of the rules is that they will ride in single file. Chief Charles also put in a call to the Prouty people to remind them of that. He may even go on the radio to remind the participants. Tom commented that he felt riding two and three abreast on Brushwood Road was a safety issue. Chairman Fortier commented again that Chief Charles had offered to go on WYKR and maybe they should take him up on the offer. Tom also wanted to bring up the issue of the Robert E.Clifford Memorial Building rental that had occurred over the weekend. He stated that as far as he was concerned, that issue was settled in the office. He had a general question: is the building cleaned between events? Chairman Fortier stated that there was a cleanup between events. Tom then asked if this particular group had gone in at their appointed time, would the building have been cleaned and he was told that it would have been cleaned. AA Lacaillade stated that, in this case, HARP did not end until 5:00 Friday evening and this particular party wasn't supposed to be in the building until 9:00 AM Saturday morning and Rich Clifford had plenty of time to do his job, but the party went in early. Lynn Wheeler asked if the building permit issue had been resolved, specifically the one on Route 135 in Woodsville. AA Lacaillade stated that it had not. She also commented that the one on Benedicts had a building permit, but no permission to build on a private road. Lynn also commented that she had found an easement from the Town of Haverhill to the North Haverhill Little League, which would end October 1, 2008. Lynn wanted to know if this had just been dropped, which means they no longer have an easement. AA Lacaillade stated that she would look back in the Minutes to see what she could find.

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade stated that the Business Manager of the SAU and a Planet Aid person had been in to see her and they were requesting approval to put a Planet Aid box in the parking lot. She told them that it would be a Board decision. It was the consensus of the Board to not allow the box in the parking lot.

Adjourn Meeting: Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde