

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, July 25, 2016
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Mike Bonanno and Chris Luurtsema

Board Member Excused: Darwin Clogston

Town Manager Excused: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: David Binford, Amy Moore, Howard Hatch, Bob Long, Preston Hatch, Rick Ladd, Jeff Page, Jasper Page and Ed Ballam – JO

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **David W Binford-Candidate for Grafton District 15 House of Representatives:** David Binford, candidate for Grafton District 15 House of Representatives, was in attendance to introduce himself to the Board. Mr. Binford is a military veteran and a small business owner and wanted the Board to put a name with a face. He commented that his opponent was Rachel Booth out of Easton, NH. Chairman Fortier thanked Mr. Binford for attending the meeting.

Public Hearing: None

Amy Moore of 18 Dartmouth College Highway, Haverhill Corner was in attendance to discuss the rat problem at the abandoned home at 6 Dartmouth College Highway, which is next door to her property. She commented that she had spoken with then-AA Lacaillade and then-TM English several years ago about the problem with skunks, possums and feral cats. Ms. Moore went on to say that the back taxes owed are \$50,693.97 and nothing has been done about this by the Town. She continued to say that now the problem is rats and a neighbor a couple of houses down from the abandoned house is also having problems with rats. Ms. Moore was wondering if the Health Officer could check out the property. Chairman Fortier stated that he had spoken with Health Officer Steve Robbins earlier in the day and Steve was going to try and check on the house and possibly attend the meeting. At the time of the meeting, Chairman Fortier had not heard from Steve, but he was definitely going to check it out. Chairman Fortier told Ms. Moore that the Board would keep her informed of their findings from the Health Officer. Chris Luurtsema asked if he had heard from Ms. Moore that there were back taxes due on this property. Ms. Moore commented that she had checked with the Town Clerk earlier in the day and verified that the back taxes were \$50,693.97. Chairman Fortier commented that since this has been brought to their attention, the Board would look into it. Tom commented that he would be visiting with Sandra Roy, the Tax Collector, concerning this issue in the morning.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Tewksbury Road Lot owned by Town:** Chairman Fortier commented that Bob Long, Mountain Lakes Commissioner, was in attendance. The Board had asked for a breakdown of administrative costs from Mountain Lakes resulting from the logging project. Mr. Long had sent the Board members a breakdown of the costs and the total of those costs was \$1,470. Mike Bonanno made the motion to reimburse Mountain Lakes for the administrative costs. Howard Hatch asked if it was proper for a Mountain Lakes Commissioner to make this motion. Chairman Fortier commented that Mike was making the motion was a Board member. Mike stated that he clearly did not have a conflict of interest. Howard commented that there was a dollar figure that went with it. Mike commented that his motion stands. Chairman Fortier asked the rest of the Board how they felt about the conflict of interest. Chris commented that it was a “valid point”. Mike withdrew his motion. Chris Luurtsema made the motion to reimburse Mountain Lakes District for their administrative costs totaling \$1,470; seconded by Wayne Fortier. Tom thought that the issue should be tabled until the Town Manager was in attendance to make sure there were no other financial issues. Mike Bonanno thought that the Tewksbury Road issue should be put on the back burner in order to deal with some of the other issues that are coming up. Chairman Fortier stated that he didn’t think that should happen. Jeff Page commented that somewhere in the leadership of the community at Mountain Lakes knew that they didn’t own that lot. Howard Hatch commented that he would like to see the property on the tax rolls and if the property is sold to Mountain Lakes, it won’t be on the tax rolls. He then commented that the previous minimum bid on the property was too high. Mr. Long commented that this issue has been going on for a long time. He also said that as soon as Mountain Lakes found out they didn’t own the lot, the District sent the Town a check for the logging that had been done. He felt that the administrative costs were a legitimate request. These administrative costs were separate from the rest of the issues. Mr. Long didn’t know what else Tom was looking for. Tom commented that he just wanted a total, absolute accounting of the whole situation, then to disburse the funds and get rid of the property. Chairman Fortier asked Tom if he wanted to amend the motion made by Chris and Tom wanted to put off the payment of the administrative costs until there was a full accounting from the Financial Officer who happened to not be there. Chairman Fortier then asked Chris if he wanted to amend his motion. Tom withdrew his amendment. The Board voted on the original motion made by Chris; there were two yeas, one nay from Tom Friel with Mike Bonanno abstaining. Tom then changed his vote to yes and the motion passed. Chris commented that he agrees that the Board needs to get this stuff together, but he feels like it’s been brought up and brought up. He would like to put into motion that TM Lacaillade gets whatever details together, all in one place. He wants to understand why the Town maps say one thing yet disagree with themselves. He wants to see a definitive answer because it is taking up a lot of time. Chairman Fortier commented that he didn’t know what other information TM Lacaillade could provide to the Board as far as the finances are concerned. He would suggest that if they are going to put this out to bid again to agree to lower the price. Chris said that this made sense to him. The Board members would think about a minimum bid price and by next meeting, resolve the issue of a bid price. Howard commented that the Board should just have the ability to reject any and all bids rather than setting a minimum bid price. Chairman Fortier stated that there would be a decision by the Board on August 8, 2016.

Town Manager’s Report: None as TM Lacaillade was excused. There were no questions on her biweekly report.

New Business: None

Commission/Committee Reports: Mike mentioned that there was a Planning Board meeting on July 26, 2016.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier commented that the Board had received information on the Connecticut River Watershed Council. He also mentioned that the Board had received the monthly dog log from the Animal Control Officer. There would be a discussion about the logs at the next meeting.

Comments of the Public: Howard Hatch asked about the Airport Beacon Hearing on July 13, 2016. Mike commented that there was a lot of comment about the beacon. A lot of people in attendance appeared to not be for it. Tom agreed with that. Chairman Fortier asked what the general consensus was of the public and both Mike and Tom stated that it was negative. Howard asked if the decision was going to go in front of the Selectboard or the Airport

Commission. Chairman Fortier believed that the decision would probably be made by the Town at Town Meeting, but there would have to be a discussion by the full Board. Rick Ladd commented that he didn't think that the Airport Commission had the authority to deal with the Beacon issue. Howard commented that there were many things that the Airport Commission says and does that aren't accurate.

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

Comments of Selectboard Members: Chris asked about the outcome of the truck (highway) that broke down. Chairman Fortier stated that they had ordered a part but the part wasn't the problem. Other than that, he did not know. Chris also asked about the sewerline study grant that had timed out and asked if they were going to apply for a new grant or if they were still eligible for the grant. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board needed to make a decision if they were going to reapply. The Board would discuss this further at the next meeting on August 8, 2016.

Adjourn Meeting: Mike Bonanno made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Chris Luurtsema and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde