

# MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 28, 2014

Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

**Board Members Present:** Chairman 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:** Ian Fournier, Darwin Clogston, Leslie Waterman, Robert Williams, Brad Kennedy, Austin Albro, Sherri Sargent 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):** Robert Roudebush made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

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

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

- **Austin Albro-website:** Austin Albro, the Town's summer intern, reported that the new Town website is fully functional. All the meeting minutes and permits/forms are now posted on the website. There is now a Community Photo Album, a calendar and he is working on adding a Weather information section. The Home Page will have pictures of Haverhill by the end of the week. He is working with GovOffice to accomplish this. The first poll of the website, which has been out for a few weeks, has received 27 responses with 23 being much improved, 3 slightly improved and 1 with no improvement. Austin is very pleased with the results.

Ian Fournier, director of HARP, was seeking the opinion of the Board for a "Ga-Ga" pit, which is a variation of dodgeball. It is an enclosed, octagonal wall with children inside the wall trying to hit below the belt with a soft ball. Ian had two options for the Board. The first was to build the Ga-Ga pit in a portable way to store and share with the schools. The second option was to speak with Coventry Log Homes to see if they could do the contract work for a more permanent fixture, possibly behind the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building. Lynn Wheeler stated that the Rec Commission had seen a video showing how the game was played and also showed that the children were definitely having a good time. Ian stated that he was looking for the Board's opinion of which option to go with. Tom Friel asked if the schools would contribute to the cost of the Ga-Ga pit. Ian stated that that would be looked into further. Rick Ladd stated that it was his understanding that there needed to be wood chips underneath for safety rather than dirt. Ian stated that that again would be something that would be checked into later. Chairman Fortier asked Ian if there were any Ga-Ga pits in our schools and Ian stated that he did not believe so. Ian also stated that he felt it would be received quite well from the schools. TM English stated that he did not feel comfortable with a homemade pit as there were many insurance requirements now for safety. He favors a manufactured, portable unit. Ian stated that a full kit was anywhere from

\$2,000 to \$2,500. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board was faced with the decision of whether they wanted to authorize a Ga-Ga pit and if they do, whether they wanted a homemade or a manufactured version. Robert Roudebush stated that he would be interested in finding out whether a manufactured kit could be purchased and put together with donated time from a local contractor. The consensus of the Board was that they were looking for a portable set up and asked for more research and numbers from Ian.

Leslie Waterman, who lives on Ammonoosuc Street in Woodsville, stated that there was an abandoned house next door to hers. It has been abandoned for a number of years and she was wondering if there was anything that could be done about this house. She is trying to sell her house, but this house is affecting the market value of her house. Chairman Fortier asked Leslie if the house was occupied and she replied that there were raccoons and stray cats living there. TM English stated that the Board had the Hazardous and Dilapidated State Statute, which deals with properties that are hazardous and dilapidated. He also stated that the Town had dealt with this particular owner several years ago. The owner could be ordered to secure the building to make it safe. TM English stated that he would get the Board some photographs. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board was inclined to do what they could. They needed to do a little research and get familiar with it and would apprise Leslie of their findings.

**Public Hearing:** None

**Town Manager's Report:** TM English reported that the specs for the parking lot dirt work have been advertised. The paving would be done on another bid. He also stated that he had met with the staff of North Country Council regarding the capital road project. They have a lot of the information loaded into the computer system; there are a few glitches. TM English would like to have North Country Council come to a meeting for a presentation of what they have so far. TM English stated that the underground storage tank removal at the Robert E. Clifford Building has been completed under budget by about \$4,000.

**Pending (Old) Business:**

- **Health Ordinance:** There was more discussion on the Health Ordinance. Lynn Wheeler stated that she was under the impression that the Health Officer had issues with some of the Health Ordinance. Chairman Fortier asked if there had been any further input from the Health Officer and there was none. TM English stated that the Health Officer was looking for an immediate fix for a problem. He also commented as Deputy Health Officer, to really solve something quickly is to have a budget, clean it up and worry about who's responsible later. The consensus of a Listserv that TM English follows is that if something is a hazard inside a house, take no action until it exceeds the property and affects the Town. TM English strongly suggested that the Board hold a Public Hearing to get public input on this issue. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Public Hearing at the August 25, 2014 Selectboard meeting.

**New Business:**

- **Business Visits Reports:** TM English passed out a list of the businesses that the Selectboard members had visited. Lynn Wheeler stated that she had gone to 10 businesses in Woodsville. Chairman Fortier asked Lynn if there were key issues that the Board needed to be aware of. Lynn stated that there were a few specific issues, but they were not indicative of the whole Town. There were a few issues that she and TM English needed to hash out, such as road issues. Rick Ladd stated that he had made a visit that evening and the problem this individual, who Rick would not name, had was not being able to collect the money that was due them. Robert Roudebush asked for basic information to ask the business owners that he visited. TM English stated to call ahead and leaving the visit open-ended. Lynn found that she knew the highs and lows of traffic, so she tried to visit when the business would not be real busy. Lynn stated that she was very pleased with what's going on in Woodsville.

**Commission/Committee Reports:** Lynn Wheeler stated that the handicapped lift at the A.P. Hill Pool was being used and appreciated. The person using the lift thanked the Town.

**Correspondence:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received an e-mail from Dennis Connole.

**Comments of the Public:** Brad Kennedy stated that he had checked with Bethlehem and Franconia about their building inspector. Their building inspectors and life safety code officers are employees of the Town. Brad stated that he was retiring in four months and he would like to see the building/life safety code officer in some sort of priority before he retires. TM English stated that he had heard from three (3) people: one from Piermont and two from farther away but in the state. These people have been sent specifications and he feels that interviews could be scheduled shortly.

Chairman Fortier stated that at the last meeting, Rick Ladd had presented to the Board the upcoming legislation of the NH Municipal Association. It was the consensus of the Board to have another discussion of this at the next meeting of August 11, 2014.

**Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer:** TM English and AA Lacaillade presented the revised Personnel Policy to the Board for their review. TM English stated that the monthly management meetings were going very well with very good input.

**Comments of Selectboard Members:** None

**Adjourn Meeting:** Rick Ladd made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde