

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 23, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Board Members Present: Tom Friel, Lynn Wheeler, Roderick Ladd and Robert Roudebush

Excused Board Member: Chairman Wayne Fortier

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Steve Robbins, Roberta Robbins, Dick Guy and Alex Nuti-de Biasi -- JO

Call Meeting to Order:

Vice Chairman Tom Friel called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: There was a change made to the Non-Public Session from RSA 91-A:3 (a) Personnel Issue to RSA 91-A:3 (e) Legal Issue. There were no objections from the Board.

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s): None

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager's Report: None

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Groundwater Protection:** Rick Ladd stated that groundwater protection is a top priority according to the Master Plan Survey done in 2006 by the University of New Hampshire. He also stated that with the responsibilities that are being passed onto the local communities, he feels that they need to go beyond the aquifer and wetlands ordinances that are present right now. He stated that the Board was given some sample Best Management Practices at the last meeting. He would like to pursue some sort of ordinance. He stated that there was a form that could be obtained from Pierce Rigrod, the DES representative who was at the last meeting. He was hoping that the form could be obtained for the next meeting. Tom Friel stated he agreed with Rick that the groundwater needed to be protected, but was concerned with how to enforce it. Lynn Wheeler stated that as they went forward, they would have to be very careful in that the community wanted to remain a farming community. Rick Ladd concurred with Lynn. Tom Friel inquired as to whether the Board could look into what other towns did for groundwater protection ordinances. Rick stated that this should be done, along with input from the Zoning Board of

Adjustment and the Health Officer. Rick then asked TM English if he would obtain the form from Mr. Rigrod and TM English replied that he would. TM English stated that it would cost money to do this right and that the Town was not equipped with the present Health Officer system. Rick Ladd stated that the purpose of the inspections is not to catch business owners who are not following the rules; the purpose is to educate business owners about the right practices and make sure they are being followed.

- **Building Permit Application and Fee Schedule Revisions:** TM English stated that the Board had been given a list of changes proposed for the Building Permit Ordinance. The current form does not match the current law; so there have been suggestions made to change the form to be in compliance with what is currently on the books, which are the original Building Permit Ordinance and two administrative additions to that. The last one being in 2008. The other reason to do this is to make it clear what the inspection fees are for the fire chiefs now that they are charging fees when they inspect a property and there is not a standard fee for them to use. Robert Roudebush asked if there was an official life safety code inspector and was told that there were three – the three fire chiefs. TM English stated that what was being proposed was to codify the current fee schedule for inspections so that it is clear what the fees are and to treat everyone equally. The only other thing changed on the application was deleting item #8 under Other Information on page 3, which had to do with the old fire code version and is no longer supported by an amendment to the original ordinance. There were changes made to the top paragraph of the fee schedule that had to do with exemptions for maintenance or home improvements. Dick Guy stated that Woodsville based their fee schedule on what other towns have done. Rick Ladd stated that when they amended the original Building Permit Ordinance in 2008, they did look at each separate precinct. TM English stated that there were two ways that this could be done: (1) one fee schedule for all three fire chiefs or (2) have an individual fee schedule for each fire chief as long as there are schedules in the Selectboard office that they can give to people who came in for Building Permits. AA Lacaillade stated that the fee schedule was something that was going to be discussed at the Fire Committee meeting on September 30th. She also stated that the form hadn't been updated since the Life Safety Code inspector program had been discontinued. Lynn Wheeler stated that the form needed to be in compliance in order to make it easier in the Selectboard office. Steve Robbins stated that the Board set the pay scale, so they should be setting the fee schedule. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the Building Permit Application and defer the Fee Schedule; seconded by Robert Roudebush. Rick Ladd asked what he was voting on and TM English explained that it was the change on Page 3 of the Building Permit Application. The motion was then carried unanimously. Dick Guy will get Woodsville's fee schedule to the Board for further discussion.

New Business:

- **Discussion of Education and Housing Issues:** Rick Ladd handed out information on Haverhill's population and poverty levels taken from the U.S. Census, NH Center for Public Policy Studies, the 2012 edition of What is New Hampshire?, and Haverhill Master Plan Implementation Study. He stated that the education in Town was governed by the School Board. A former Board member once stated that "education is extremely important to every community in terms of attracting jobs, attracting people to your community, and keeping people in your community." He handed out the information to get some awareness out about what the Town is dealing with. Haverhill's population, according to the 2010 US Census, in terms of age, has a smaller proportion of younger people than the State does. Haverhill is an aging community; it

has an older population. The median age in Haverhill is 47.6 years compared to 41.1 for the State. The median household income for Haverhill is \$39,792 compared to \$63,033 for the State. The poverty rate is 10.6% compared to 7.7% for the State. The demographics of school population are going down and per capita costs are going up. Highway and street costs are higher here in the White Mountain Region than everywhere else. The elementary-secondary per pupil cost for the region are higher here than they are elsewhere. He then talked about NAEP mathematic scores for grades 4 and 8. The State of New Hampshire stands out in terms of kids who are eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch. 34% are in the basic category, which is not meeting the skills and knowledge that is required. At or above basic is at 66% and at or above proficient, it is 27%. If you look at the not eligible for free/reduced-price lunch, 14% are in the basic category, at or above basic is 86% and at or above proficient, it is 49%. The next sheet was NECAP scores in October 2012 for mathematics. In Woodsville High School, 62 students took the test, 27 were economically disadvantaged students, which is 44% of students on free and reduced. The Haverhill college enrollment rate for the class of 2010 was 42-43%. The next page of information was taken from the Wall Street Journal dated August 1, 2013. "According to research from the Pew Charitable Trusts published in 2009, four out of five children whose parents are in the top income quartile enroll in college, and 53% finish. Despite Pell Grants and other aid, only one in three children from the bottom quartile go to college – and just 11% graduate." Rick stated that Haverhill has a high rate of transiency. In the Haverhill Master Plan Implementation Survey done in November 2006, 76% said they would like to see single family homes, while 35% wanted apartments. People would like to see single family homes maintained and not see older homes broken into 13 smaller pigeon holes. It is a costly deal and Rick feels that the Town can offer some assistance with this. TM English stated that he provided the Selectboard with a number of possibilities. There are ways that the Town can get involved in the private real estate market and influence the kind of housing we have. It can be done through regulation and/or through participation in the market. There is no effective regulation of these buildings and we have not exercised any attempt to control the type housing the Town has. Zoning is one way, but it wouldn't apply to any existing structures. Building code would be a more effective way. Another option is to do what people in this Town have done. They buy the property. He stated that if Town Meeting adopts the RSA, the Selectmen can, if there is money in the budget, buy a property, raze it and re-sell it. Lynn Wheeler felt that they were trying to back door zoning. Rick Ladd stated that the community is spiraling down. He said that education is the key to jobs and to growth. Education performance is going down. It was agreed that this discussion was a beginning and there would be a work session after the next meeting on October 7, 2013.

Commission/Committee Reports: Robert Roudebush commented on the 75th Anniversary of the North Haverhill Fire Dept. at the Robert E. Clifford Memorial building held on Sunday, September 22nd. He and Tom Friel attended the celebration and saw the new 3,000 gallon, Freightliner-chassis tanker. He wished that more people had attended, because it was a nice piece of equipment, giving some dedicated people the increased ability to fight fires. He also commented on the Airport Awareness Day, which was a success despite a one-day delay due to rain. He believed that they had a well-organized, well-attended event. They put approximately 40 young Eagles in the air for the first time in aircraft.

Correspondence: The Board had received correspondence from Mr. Robert Fillion. TM English asked if there was a request for action or was it an informational piece. Tom Friel stated that it was an informational piece.

Comments of the Public: None

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

Non-Public Session Per RSA 91-A:3 (e) Legal Issue

Robert Roudebush made a motion to suspend the public meeting and go into non-public session at 7:25 pm; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and all approved.

Robert Roudebush made the motion to come out of non-public session at 7:30 pm; seconded by Rick Ladd. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

Rick Ladd made the motion to use Christopher Boldt of Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella as the attorney to represent the Town in the newly-filed TransCanada lawsuit; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: None

Adjourn Meeting: Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Rick Ladd and all approved. Vice Chairman Friel adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde