

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 7, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

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

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Maryanne Aldrich, Sandra Roy and Ed Ballam -- JO

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: 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):

- **Cottage Hospital-Maryanne Aldrich-Health Care Exchange:** Maryanne Aldrich from Cottage Hospital spoke in favor of a resolution from the Board that requests the State of New Hampshire and elected officials to take necessary action to include Cottage Hospital and its employed Providers in the Pathway Network. Only one health insurance company in New Hampshire, Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc., will be participating in the exchange and they have excluded Cottage Hospital and its medical staff, along with several other hospitals throughout New Hampshire, from participating in the newly created health plan (Pathway Network) with the exception of emergency medical services. This would mean that our citizens signed up under the Pathway Network would have to travel to Littleton or Dartmouth to receive care that they would normally receive at Cottage Hospital. TM English stated that a possible solution may be to have Dartmouth subcontract to Cottage. Maryanne would bring this suggestion to Maria Ryan, the CEO of Cottage Hospital. Rick Ladd stated that New Hampshire is the only state in the country that has a singular insurance provider choice. Rick also stated that he and Maryanne had crafted this resolution for them to bring forward to elected officials. Lynn Wheeler made the motion that the Board adopt the Resolution Supporting Cottage Hospital Relative to Implementation of the New Hampshire Health Insurance Exchange Under the Affordable Care Act; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously. The resolution is dated and signed October 7, 2013. It reads:

“BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SELECTBOARD OF THE TOWN OF HAVERHILL, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS: Cottage Hospital has been serving Woodsville and the greater Haverhill area to include Upper Connecticut Valley communities in New Hampshire and Vermont since 1903; and

WHEREAS: The hospital has 250 employees to include 37 active medical staff that use the most modern and up to date equipment throughout the facility to provide and serve the community with complete and comprehensive medical services, and

WHEREAS: The median household income in Haverhill/Woodsville is significantly below the state average while Cottage Hospital provides quality patient care regardless of an individual's ability to pay, and

WHEREAS: As a result of the newly created "New Hampshire Health Insurance Exchange" under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (a/k/a "ObamaCare"), only one health insurance company, Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc., will be participating in the exchange; and

WHEREAS: Anthem has excluded Cottage Hospital and its medical staff from participating in the newly created health plan (a/k/a the "Pathway Network") with the exception of emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS: This exclusion will mean covered citizens in the Upper Valley Region under the Pathway Network will be required to sever their relationship with Cottage Hospital and its employed Providers, some of which have been established for years, and

WHEREAS: This exclusion will further have a direct and lasting impact on the healthcare needs of the Upper Valley and potentially jeopardize the long-term sustainability of one of our community's largest employers.

NOW THEREFORE: The Town of Haverhill Selectboard hereby requests the State of New Hampshire and our elected officials to take necessary action to include Cottage Hospital and its employed Providers in the Pathway Network, and

FURTHER, we feel the recent action in New Hampshire contradicts the spirit in which the Affordable Care Act was presented to the taxpayers of our state and country.

ADOPTED this 7th day of October, 2013, by unanimous vote of the Selectboard, Town of Haverhill, New Hampshire."

TM English made a point of personal privilege. He wanted to ask Mr. Ladd, as a constituent, to talk to his colleagues in the Senate and the House. He thinks it would be very appropriate to invite the New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner or other bureaucrats to a series of hearings in the House or the Senate to question this whole process of insurance so that when it happens again in a year, there is a process that encourages competition. Mr. Ladd stated that Senator Morse, president of the Senate, already had this in "his bonnet."

Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 (a) Personnel Issue

Robert Roudebush made a motion to suspend the public meeting and go into non-public session at 6:50 pm; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved.

Robert Roudebush made the motion to come out of non-public session at 7:05 pm; seconded by Tom Friel. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager's Report: In the interest of time, TM English passed.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Groundwater Protection:** The Board unanimously tabled this until the next meeting. TM English stated that he had a complete package that Pierce Rigrod had sent to him in his office.
- **Capital Improvement Plan-Roads:** Chairman Fortier stated that he added this to the agenda because he knew TM English and AA Lacaillade were beginning the budget process and had sent an e-mail to the District Commissioners and Fire Chiefs for any additional equipment. Chairman Fortier had asked TM English where they were on the Capital Improvement Plan and how much money would be recommended for a bond. TM English stated that the Capital Improvement Plan-Roads was updated in July when updated asphalt prices were received. The idea was to score all the roads and come up with a list of priority projects, which the Board endorsed. The cost of those projects, which include the Woodsville reimbursement, comes up to \$2 million. This would be his number to bond, but if the Board did not feel that was feasible, it could be reduced by any amount just by going through the list again. The other thing that TM English had given the Board was an actual, written estimate for the parking lot re-do, which there is already a reserve account set up. He has received a couple of suggestions from the public when he first proposed the parking lot. The suggestion was to rip it up and re-pave it, so he has increased the excavation cost. The old pavement can be used at the Highway department because it can be crushed and used for road material. Lynn Wheeler asked if the old pavement could be used for the parking lot and TM English stated that it could not. The estimate is well within what there is in the reserve account. TM English stated that with the possible school spending issues, he would suggest only asking for a bond for the roads. He feels that with the low price they have received for fuel, the heating system can wait. Rick Ladd stated that Brushwood and French Pond Roads were important roads to be repaired. TM English stated that the tar money in the 2013 and 2014 operations budget would be used for Brushwood Road and a shim for French Pond Road. Rick Ladd asked TM English if the Town had ever bonded for roads and TM English stated that they had only done so once around twelve (12) years ago.

New Business:

- **Resolution in Support of Cottage Hospital:** This was addressed under Scheduled Public Appearance(s) by Maryanne Aldrich.

Commission/Committee Reports: Rick Ladd stated that the Fire Department Committee had met on September 30 regarding various issues. There was 100% concurrence from the Committee that the Equipment Fund be a Town Reserve Account and not have three separate funds. The pay for fighting forest fires was also discussed and the consensus was to leave it as is. The building permit fees were also

discussed and Rick Ladd stated that there would be further discussion on this as it would mean revenue for the Town. Lynn Wheeler stated that the Rec Department has been growing by leaps and bounds. She stated that it's becoming more and more difficult for the Board members to handle the volume and help out. She stated that the Rec Commission had talked about a Friends program, which would be a pool of volunteers to be covered under the Town's liability.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier stated that the Board had received an invitation from North Country Council (NCC) to their annual dinner, October 23, 2013 at Mountain View Grand in Whitefield, NH.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade stated that Dave Joslin had resigned from the Rec Commission. He has been a charter member for many years and she was wondering if the Board would write a letter acknowledging his service on the commission. TM English offered to draft a letter for the Board. The second item she had was that the Town was up for renewal with their Property/Liability/Worker's Comp/Unemployment Compensation contract. According to the purchasing policy manual, this needed to go out to bid. There are two companies in the risk-pool in the State of New Hampshire that would bid: the current provider, Primex and Property/Liability Trust, formerly LGC. She was asking the Board if this is how they would like her to proceed. The Board's response was to bid both. The last thing that she had was that Leslie Ramsay, Welfare Administrator, had been invited by the Oliverian School to speak at a luncheon that they are doing to honor an employee who heads up their firewood donation every year. Oliverian calls Leslie frequently for names of people who need wood, need ramps built, among other things. They have asked Leslie to speak and present an award to this employee. Leslie is asking the Board to approve a Certificate of Appreciation to this employee for his efforts to our community. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to approve the Certificate; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Robert Roudebush asked about Randy Cassidy's review by the ZBA on October 17, 2013. TM English stated that the application was completed and the hearing has been scheduled. The property is on Lummoxtown Road. Robert also asked about the NHMA's annual conference on November 6-7, 2013 and if this was something that he could attend if he chose to. He was told that he needed to sign up for it and have them bill the Town.

Adjourn Meeting: Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde