

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 17, 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: Darwin Clogston and Ed Ballam – Journal Opinion

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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. Chairman Fortier asked if members of the audience had anything they wanted to bring to the Board. Darwin Clogston stated that when he came to vote on November 4, the parking lot worked really well. He then asked how many bonds the Town was paying on and TM English stated that the Town had 2 outstanding bonds. One was for the French Pond Road reconstruction, which has about 3 years left. The other was for the sewer line, which will be done in 2021.

Town Manager's Report: TM English stated that the setting of the tax rate had some issues, but it looked like the Town tax rate would be up 65 cents. It was originally projected to be up about 70 cents. Revenue was higher than anticipated and the assessed value was up. This was not an official rate. Lynn Wheeler asked what the issues were and TM English stated that a few precincts had issues and the school had not gotten in their information. TM English stated that next year's budget was going well. There were a few outstanding numbers that needed to be fine-tuned, but he felt that he would have the operating budget by next week. He has a meeting with North Country Council on Thursday, November 20, 2014 on capital road issues. He will then work on the capital budget to get it to the Board as soon as possible. Chairman Fortier asked TM English if North Country Council was willing to do a study on the dirt roads of Haverhill. TM English replied that they would and would work with UNH, who is very interested in the study. Chairman Fortier also asked TM English about the shoulder dressing on French Pond Road and TM English stated that it was done.

Pending (Old) Business: None. Robert Roudebush asked what the purpose of shoulder dressing was. TM English responded that when paving is done and the pavement is above shoulder level, the shoulder needs to be brought up to support the asphalt. It also helps with drainage.

New Business:

- **Firearms Policy:** TM English had drafted a Firearms Policy and this was to be the first reading. Rick Ladd had a question about the words “work place” and wanted to know how the words were defined. TM English explained that it was anywhere that an employee worked, albeit out on the highway, in an office, or any other Town building. It was the employee’s regular work place as well as anywhere else they were assigned. TM English stated that the present Firearms Policy had been sent through the insurance company and they did make some changes, which had been incorporated in the draft. Rick then stated that in the third paragraph from the base, it stated “that firearms would be kept securely on your person, in a proper holster, or may be kept in a desk drawer or other lockable space.” He commented that it does not say that the desk drawer has to be locked. It was his feeling that the words “lockable space” should be changed to “locked space”. Lynn Wheeler and Chairman Fortier agreed with Rick. Lynn asked that the RSA that has to do with firearms be mentioned in the first paragraph. Tom Friel presented a lock box to the Board, which he felt would be a solution to the locked space issue. The box could be placed in a vehicle or in a desk. Lynn Wheeler stated that if the Town was going to allow firearms, they really needed to have a policy. There was then some discussion about a person’s training in the proper use of firearms. TM English stated that state law allows an individual to come into a building with a firearm and no training. Tom Friel commented that police officers are trained and Town employees should also be trained in the use of firearms. TM English stated that the Town is not responsible for training, but we could offer some training contacts to our employees. Lynn Wheeler stated that the Police Department should be made aware of who has firearms in the office and how much training that individual has. TM English would make the suggested changes in wording discussed and if any Board member had any other thoughts, they could email him with their thoughts. The Board would have a second reading at the next meeting on December 1, 2014.

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: None

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: TM English commented that he had a visit from a citizen who was concerned about some of his property restrictions due to the airport runway, specifically FAA requirements for lighting. He stated that what actually happened was due to something PSNH had done. PSNH had installed two poles at the end of the runway on the Route 116 end, which were higher than the FAA requirement allowed. The FAA mandated that this be corrected. This required the installation of more poles on abutting property owners. The citizen objected to the poles. The general issue came up about restrictions on abutting property. TM English stated that this situation was beyond the Town’s control. Lynn asked TM English if the FAA had ever given a reason for putting the poles on the opposite side of the street. TM English stated that it really was not the Town’s issue. Robert Roudebush explained that the reason for the additional poles was that PSNH, in response to FAA mandating warning lights, does not put small warning lights on existing poles; They would put them on other poles and the reason is that the necessity to maintain those small lights is a different set of skills than the people who are required to mount the poles in question for the much higher voltage. It’s one set of skills for the small, red warning lights and a different set of skills for the high power voltage in the obstructing poles. FAA is satisfied with that modification to the poles. The airport does not look to make trouble; they do what they are mandated to do on those issues. Lynn Wheeler asked who initiated the larger poles and Robert stated that it was PSNH. Robert also commented that if anyone has questions about what was done, the Airport Commission would be more than happy to speak with the individual. TM English stated that this was not the local airport’s fault and Robert commented that it was not. TM English stated that this issue needs to be addressed to the FAA or PSNH. AA Lacaillade commented that when speaking with this individual earlier in the day, the individual just wanted the Board to be aware that these

issues are affecting what he can and cannot build on his property and he is limited to what he can do. Lynn Wheeler commented the poles were placed in the state right-of-way, not on his property.

AA Lacaillade commented that she had been to the NHMA annual conference recently and one of her classes was tax deeding property. The attorney who did the class was Chris Boldt and he is very knowledgeable on the subject of tax deeding property and how towns should and shouldn't take property and what should be done with that process. He is a firm believer that a precedent is set by not taking a property for back taxes; an individual should not be allowed to get away with not paying their taxes. Robert Roudebush asked if Mr. Boldt would come in and chat with the Board about tax deeding. TM English would make an inquiry of Mr. Boldt. Lynn Wheeler asked if they could do a Webinar and TM English would ask that as well.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Chairman Fortier reported on Veterans' Day events. The guest speaker was Robert Roudebush and Chairman Fortier commented that Robert's speech was excellent. It was one of the best that Chairman Fortier had heard. Chairman Fortier also extended the Board's condolences to Karen Hyde on the loss of her mother-in-law. Lynn Wheeler reported that former selectman, John Cobb, was now at Cottage Hospital and doing much better.

Adjourn Meeting: Tom Friel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Robert Roudebush and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde