

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 1, 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: Stephen Patten, Darwin Clogston, Dennis Ruprecht, 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): Chairman Fortier proposed the addition of Life Safety Code Inspector to Pending (Old) Business. Rick Ladd made a motion to accept the amended Agenda; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **Darwin Clogston – Budget:** Mr. Clogston stated that with the new budget on the horizon, he had done some research, which he handed out to the Board, into past budgets with what he hoped was a new perspective. He stated that the information he had obtained was from previous years' Town Reports. He stated that between 2002 and 2012, both the Town's employee wages and the New Hampshire State minimum wage went up 2½ percent annually. Between the years 2000 and 2013, highway budgets were up 5% annually, police budgets were up 6½%, and recreation budgets were up 13½%. He stated that he really loved the word "sustainability", which Chairman Fortier has stated many times. Mr. Clogston felt that from now until the next budget is completed, that sustainability should be added to the Board's agenda under Pending (Old) Business. In order to generate \$1 million for roads and infrastructure, one of his suggestions was to suspend the Animal Control Officer, the Health Officer and Recreation for 3 years. Lynn Wheeler asked Mr. Clogston if he thought the Town could do without these things and Mr. Clogston replied that to balance the roads and infrastructure of the JRM Building against Recreation and the Animal Control Officer, the roads and infrastructure were more important. He went on to say that the Airport, too, was a big expense. Robert Roudebush stated that the Airport was self-sustaining and does not get any money from the Town. TM English explained that the Airport budget was completely offset by the revenue it receives from airport hangar rentals and fuel sales. TM English also stated that another huge factor in the tax rate is the Town's funding of the Fire Departments, which was done to be fair and equal throughout the Town. Tom Friel suggested to Mr. Clogston that he attend the budget advisory committee meetings in order to bring up his thoughts.
- **WHS FBLA Dennis Ruprecht and Joe D'Angelo – Possible Veterans' Park:** Dennis Ruprecht, a Woodsville High School student and member of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), was

in attendance to ask about a possible Veterans' Park somewhere in Town. Mr. D'Angelo was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Fortier asked Dennis if they had a specific location in mind and Dennis responded that they were currently looking around Town. Lynn Wheeler commented that Jack Brill had been working on a World War II memorial and might be interested in working with Dennis and Joe. Mr. Brill was in Florida right now, but would be back in the spring. Rick Ladd asked how far back Dennis and Joe were going to go (Vietnam, Korea, etc.). Dennis commented that they wouldn't go back any farther than World War II, but they would include from there onward. Chairman Fortier suggested the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building as a possible location for a Veterans' Park. Lynn asked Dennis what he wanted the Board to do for them and he stated that he just wanted to be pointed in the right direction. TM English stated that he would be willing to drive around Town with Dennis and Joe to look at other possible locations for a Veterans' Park.

Public Hearing: None.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Firearms Policy:** Stephen Patten, owner of Patten's Sporting Goods, was in attendance to discuss the Town's proposed Firearms Policy. His initial thoughts on the Firearms Policy were "unwarranted and unneeded". The reason he said this is that there are state laws in place governing the care, use and storing of firearms. It was his opinion that having a policy would put the Town in a bad light if ever there was a lawsuit. The Firearms Policy proposed draft would not allow an employee to hunt in the AM and then leave their rifle or shotgun in a locked vehicle on Town property. Tom Friel stated that that was not his intent. There were several proposed drafts passed around; specifically, one from Rick Ladd and one from Robert Roudebush. Mr. Patten asked why the Board felt they needed a Firearms Policy and TM English explained that the Town's insurance company thought that it would be a good idea to have one. The insurance company felt that with a Firearms Policy in place, the Town would be better protected in case of a lawsuit. Mr. Patten stated that the Policy should be as short, concise, and unarguable as possible. TM English will run a shortened version of the Firearms Policy by the insurance company for their input.

Town Manager's Report: TM English stated that he had been to court defending the Town against Mr. Connole's small claims case. Mr. Connole claims that the Town was forcing him to have survey work done and caused him lost work time; he was also asking for court costs and the fee for having his surveys registered at the Registry of Deeds. TM English stated that Mr. Connole went over all of the appeals that he had done and TM English relayed to the judge that those appeals were not relevant to the present case. TM English also stated that the Town only accepted information that was recorded at the Registry of Deeds and Mr. Connole's survey had not been recorded. There was no decision rendered. TM English also reported that he had given the Board the preliminary budget and he asked if any Board members had questions. The Board needed time to study the budget.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Life Safety Code Inspector:** Chairman Fortier stated that he ran into Jeff Robbins, who made the comment that the interviews for Life Safety Code Inspector had been conducted and two of the fire chiefs were on board and pleased with the applicant, but Woodsville was hesitant. Chairman Fortier asked Jeff why that was and Jeff responded that Woodsville was of the opinion that they were going to do their own inspections. Chairman Fortier stated that that was not exactly what was agreed on by the Commissioners and Fire Chiefs. He stated that he had spoken with TM English and this went against the spirit of the agreement. TM English suggested that the Board meet with the Woodsville Precinct Commissioners. Chairman Fortier commented that he spoke with one of the Commissioners about being put on the Agenda and asked if she was aware of this change and she stated that there had been no discussion about this. The Woodsville Commissioners were meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 6:30 PM and the next meeting would be December 16, 2014 at 6:30 PM. It was the consensus of the

Board that all the Precinct Commissioners and the Fire Chiefs were in agreement with the Life Safety Code Inspector job description that was discussed at the June 30, 2014 Selectboard Meeting. The Board also discussed the “stipends” that the Fire Chiefs receive for inspections. Rick Ladd stated that the Board has asked at several meetings for accountability from the Fire Chiefs in regard to these “stipends”. Lynn Wheeler commented that she didn’t feel comfortable paying someone and not knowing what they were doing to earn that pay. Chairman Fortier stated that the Woodsville Commissioners and Fire Chiefs need to be made aware that the Town needs transparent accountability. The Board decided to attend the December 16, 2014 Woodsville Precinct Commissioners’ meeting to discuss these issues.

New Business:

- **Creation of Municipal Records Board (RSA 33-A:3):** TM English was asking the Board to adopt a Municipal Records Committee and the Statute describes who should be on the Committee and what the Committee is asked to do about record retention and storage. It was decided that Lynn Wheeler, AA Lacaillade, TM English, Welfare Administrator Leslie Ramsay, Police Chief Charles, Town Clerk Tina Hebert, Tax Collector Sandra Roy, and the Town Treasurer would be on this Committee. Rick Ladd made the motion to create the Municipal Records Committee with the aforementioned members; seconded by Robert Roudebush; Lynn Wheeler abstained as she would be on the Committee; the motion passed.

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier reported that the Board had received a Thank You from Kim Roy for the use of the Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building for her wedding. There was also a letter from Thomas Cohan from Charter advising of an increase in cable rates for Haverhill. There was also information from AA Lacaillade in regard to the outstanding loans that the Town has.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade stated that there is a possibility that the Town may have to take out another Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) due to the fact that the tax bills went out late. The previous TAN will be maxxed out. She was proposing a \$3.5 million TAN, which would take them through the end of December 2015. This would pay off the old TAN and then start with a new TAN at 1.7% interest rate. Rick Ladd asked if after paying off the old TAN, if this new TAN would get the Town through March and AA Lacaillade stated that it would. Robert Roudebush made the motion to open a new Tax Anticipation Note in the amount of \$3.5 million; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Rick Ladd asked TM English to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, on the sign out front of the JRM Building.

Adjourn Meeting: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde