

# MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, November 14, 2016

## Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Wayne Fortier, Tom Friel, Darwin Clogston, Chris Luurtsema, Mike Bonanno (Excused)

**Town Manager:** Jo Lacaillade

### Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Fortier called meeting to order at 6pm

### Pledge of allegiance

**Agenda Approval (additions/deletions completed by Board consent):** Chris Luurtsema made motion to accept agenda; seconded by Tom Friel. The agenda approval carried unanimously.

**Approval of consent Agenda:** Darwin Clogston made motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Chris Luurtsema. Motion carried unanimously.

**Benton Fire Contract 2017:** Scheduled public appearances; Rick Ladd, Rick Morris, Phil Blanchard, Rich Clifford

The proposed contract is basically the same as what was proposed few weeks back. Another meeting was held last week to tweak some of the wording to clarify who has authority over the fire departments; Rick spoke about changes to contract. First was item four, once read: "Town of Haverhill maintains all supervisory and operational control of all fire services and activities in Benton." Statue Authority does not give the town operational control or supervisory control of any fire department nor the commissioners. It is the Fire Chiefs. The second item that has been changed now there is a place for the Chairman of each precinct to sign off on the contract. TM Lacaillade spoke about how the committee was formed a few months ago to go over the contract for the Benton Fire department. And that once the contract is approved by all parties it still has to go to the Attorney. The Town attorney has reviewed the contract. There was discussion as to why Woodsville; the contract is with the two abutting districts to Benton. There was discussion about the cost going from \$2,500 to \$12,000 and then calls being billed on top of that. Discussion ensued about the cost of maintaining our equipment and the cost to taxpayers; how mutual aid works; the requirements on Benton to have a contract with a Town with a full fire department because they do not maintain one of their own to be a part of mutual aid; and similar contracts in our area. Benton voters need to approve at their annual

meeting. Howard Hatch felt it was time for Haverhill to charge more for the service they provide Benton. TM Lacaillade stated that they are asking for adoption of this contract as it's written to move forward as will be using for budget purpose. Benton Select Board has agreed to take it to their voters, with the understanding that to be in mutual aid they need a contract. Tom Friel made motion to approve proposed contract. Darwin seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1. Darwin opposed the motion.

**Nuisance Fire Calls:** Rich Morris, Rick Ladd

Rick Ladd stated Haverhill Corner has seen an increase in false/nuisance fire calls lately and has proposed adopting a new policy, which will impose fees for repeated nuisance calls. The policy they are proposing says the first three nuisance calls, as deemed by the Fire Chief, will be at no charge. The fine for calls 4, 5, & 6 will be \$150/call and the fine for 7 or more nuisance calls will be \$300/call. The primary reason for the policy is because the fire departments are on call department and the firefighters have to leave their jobs to respond to the calls only to find out it was a false alarm and with the number of false alarms from one location in particular there is a concern the firefighters will be slow in their response times because they are anticipating another false alarm. The Fire Chiefs met with TM Lacaillade to discuss the proposed policy. She felt that the fees should go back to the Town since the Town funds the fire departments. There was some discuss regarding the cost to the Town/Departments for each false alarm. Chief Morris noted that Grafton County Dispatch was also unpleased by the number of false alarms because it is tying up the dispatchers' time. Over the last 30 days there have been 12 false alarms. TM Lacaillade inquired as to whether this policy should be adopted by the Town or by each of the precincts. The Selectboard members felt the fees should be higher. They thought the proposed fee schedule was too low. Chairman Fortier inquired whether or not anyone had a conversation the person in charge at the school regarding the false alarms and the precincts desire to institute a False/Nuisance Alarm Policy. Rick said they had not. Chairman Fortier recommended they invite the school to the next precinct meeting to discuss the situation and then it will be documented in the precinct minutes. Darwin said to let him know when the meeting would take place because he would like to be there.

Howard Hatch told the Board he had attended the Airport Commission's monthly meeting for November and he has never been so disappointed in any committee in his 40-something years he has lived in Haverhill. It is really disappointing and he would hope the Selectboard would get up to speed and find out what is going on out there. He said he has never seen the Airport House in as poor condition as it is now. He wants the Selectboard and budget committee to look carefully at the Airport budget this year. He said the commissioner do not even know where the drainage system is. Chairman Fortier acknowledged Howard's concerns.

**Town Manager's Report** – TM Lacaillade gave her report to the Board (see attached). There was some discussion on the rail trail and what the options would be to allow ATVs on the trail as well as what needed to be done to grant an easement to Mr. Roy. TM Lacaillade said she had spoken with someone in regards to grant funding for new air packs for all three fire departments, which are anticipated to cost about \$180,000. Chairman Fortier said he went to

the Grafton County Correctional Department for evacuation procedures, which had been discussed at the last meeting. He informed them the Board voted the primary location would be the Clifford Memorial Building and the secondary location would be the James R Morrill building. He toured the facility and saw how they would evacuate the premise. There were a number of questions which came up that need to be looked in to. One of them was in regards to a generator at the Clifford Memorial Building. Currently there is no generator at that building. TM Lacaillade said the Town is due to close on the Tewksbury Road property on Friday and she had the Quitclaim deed for the Board to sign. There is also a letter, which the buyer's attorney, Attorney Ward, wants recorded with the deed. The letter states the history of where the property came from. Our attorney, Walter Mitchell, wanted the Board to authorize TM Lacaillade to act as the Board's agent in the settlement statement only. Howard Hatch suggested to the Board that in the future when they sell property, the Board should state that if the highest bidder defaults on this bid price, then the Board will offer the property to the second highest bidder at the highest bidder's price. The Board said they would consider it. TM Lacaillade gave the Board the Road Agent's reports for October. Darwin wanted to know if there was overtime in the highway budget again. TM Lacaillade said there was. He had three call outs and he attended a meeting. Darwin stated he was not signing off on the highway payroll during the summer if it includes overtime. Chairman Fortier asked him for the rationale in his decision. Darwin said he was having a hard time justifying overtime in the summer. Chris moved to have the Board sign the quitclaim deed. The motion was seconded by Darwin. Two members asked that the signing be put off until later in the meeting so they could review the deed.

**Pickering Culvert Issue** – TM Lacaillade said she has had no contact with Mr. Pickering. She did note that Stuart has talked directly with Mr. Pickering since the Board's last meeting and he has no interest in meeting to discuss the issue. Darwin asked if this issue could be referred to the Highway Advisory Committee. TM Lacaillade stated that this issue had nothing to do with capital improvements. Darwin did not understand why lawyers needed to be involved. TM Lacaillade said the Town cannot move the water to a different culvert until Mr. Pickering grants the Town an easement, which he originally said he would do and then has not signed, after it was drafted by our attorney. Darwin still felt this issue could be dealt with by the Highway Advisory Committee. Chairman Fortier said this issue does not fall within the scope of issues which the Highway Advisory Committee was put in place to deal with. He further said he had complete confidence in his road agent and felt he was competent and reasonable. The Road Agent has tried to work with Mr. Pickering and gotten nowhere. Tom said he wants to hear Mr. Pickering's side directly. He would like Mr. Pickering to come to a meeting and speak with the Board directly. The other Board members agreed this was a good idea. TM Lacaillade was asked to invite Mr. Pickering to the next Board of Selectmen's meeting. If Mr. Pickering shows up they will listen to his side and decide how to proceed from them. If not, then they will proceed with the information they have now.

**Inter-Municipal Project Checklist** – The Board discussed paperwork which had been provided to them at Darwin's request regarding putting together a checklist for future construction projects involving multi-districts. The Board asked TM Lacaillade to contact Mr. Clang and see if

he would charge the Town anything to come to a meeting and discuss what services he could offer the Town in regards to the preparation of a checklist for multi-district construction projects. The Board definitely wanted to meet with him if there was no cost for his time. If there was a fee for his services the Board would reconsider having him attend a meeting based on the fee he charged.

**Tire/Electronics Collection 2017** – TM Lacaillade informed the Board that the Town usually holds a tire/electronic collection every two year. The last one was held in 2015, so the next one would be in 2017. She wanted to know if the Board still wanted to do this, so she could include it in the budget. She did note that depending on which recycling option the Town went with this collection might not be necessary, but the budget could always be changed later. Darwin made a motion to include a tire/electronics collection in the 2017 budget. The motion was seconded by Chris. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

**Tewksbury Road Quitclaim Deed** – Chairman Fortier asked is the Board was ready to make a decision on the signing of the Quitclaim deed for the property on Tewksbury Road, which would be notarized by TM Lacaillade. A motion had been made previously and seconded, but no vote had been taken because some wanted to look over the paperwork further. The Board members were ready to vote on the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Correspondences** – Chairman Fortier noted there were two correspondences which had been provided to the Board members. The first one was a large binder of papers regarding the hazardous materials located at the Center Haverhill Armory. The second was a pamphlet for a workshop on Forest Laws for Municipal Officials and Volunteers which will be held on Wednesday December 14, 2016 in Salisbury, NH.

**Commission/Committee Reports** – Darwin gave a report on the Airport Commission's meeting. The Commission has decided to put the beacon and hanger projects on hold for next year. Instead they are looking into replacing the lawn mowing and snow removal equipment. They have also started to look at their budget for 2017. Chairman Fortier asked Darwin to explain the hanger project which was being placed on hold. Darwin said the commission was looking into what interest is out there for individuals looking to house their plans at the airport and they are considering putting in another 4-6 unit hanger. Chairman Fortier also asked if it was true the commission was looking into acquiring a beacon for a test run and if so would there be another beacon hearing held after the test run because the first hearing which was held saw a lot of negative feelings from the public towards the project in particular the light pollution a beacon would possibly create. Darwin said that was what the commission was trying to address. They want to try and alleviate the public's concerns about light pollution.

**Comments from the Selectboard** – Chris asked TM Lacaillade to provide updated financial reports for the next meeting.

Chairman Fortier thanked his fellow Selectboard members for spending all day at elections even though the State inspector indicated that he had not expected the whole Board to be

present. The inspector said only a majority of the Board needed to be present. Tom asked if they could get further clarification on the issue. Chairman Fortier said they would definitely look into it further. He also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Darwin also wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and then wanted to know where things stood with the diesel at the Highway garage. TM Lacaillade said the prices have gone down a little. She also said that currently the vendors which they have looked into are unable to offer the Town a breakdown by vehicle; everything would be combined in one bill. There was some discussion on whether or not the Town could use off road diesel in the Town vehicles or not. Chris asked to look into this further because it would be much cheaper if we were able to use off road diesel. Darwin wanted to know why Stuart had spent so much time at the County last week. TM Lacaillade said it was because he was investigating sewer break. Darwin wanted to know why the Highway Department was taking care of the sewer pumps and lines. TM Lacaillade said it was because the Town does not have anyone else to do it at this time. The Highway Department is the only public works department the Town has. Darwin wanted to know why we couldn't just contract those services out like we do sometimes for the grading and gravel. Chairman Fortier said it had typically been Town policy that if the work is within the scope of our employees we will take care of it. If not then we will outsource it.

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Chris. The Board voted all in favor of adjourning the meeting at 7:50pm.

Minutes transcribed by Jennifer Collins