

TOWN OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

Tuesday January 21, 2020

Draft Subject to Review by The Board

Board Members in Attendance: Fred Garofalo (joined the meeting at 6:14 PM), Tom Friel, Matt Bjelobrk, Howard Hatch, Chair Darwin Clogston.

Members of the Public in Attendance: Mike Bonanno, Leslie Ramsay, Wayne Fortier, Mark Lang, Chris Luurtsema, Robert Roudenbush, John Hobbs, David Robinson, Joe Longacre, Evelyn Elms, Lorie Ann Noyes, Shawn Bigelow, Margo Longacre, Sandie Pierce, Doug Henson, Dawn Lavoie, Albion Estes

Town Employees in Attendance:

Town Manager: Brigitte Codling

Finance Officer: Jennifer Boucher (Jennifer was excused at 6:42 PM)

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval: Chairman Clogston asked to add the Deputy Treasurer's letter of resignation and the nomination of the new Deputy Treasurer. Howard made a motion to accept the agenda with the changes. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

- **Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Matt made a motion. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- **Sign Manifest, Forms and Other Warrants**

Town Employee Appearances: None

Scheduled Public Appearances:

- **Budget Committee:** The Committee members received the draft revenue and the draft budget, the Highway Department vehicle rotation schedule, as well as the book of appropriations request. They can now start their meetings. Their first meeting is taking place tonight after they receive the documents.
 - David Robbinson
 - Don Hammond
 - Robert Roudenbush
 - Wayne Fortier
 - John Hobbs
 - Christopher Luurtsema
 - Sandi Pierce

Public Wanting to Address the Board:

- **John Hobbs:** The Selectboard asked a few questions about the line of credit agreement and John brought the official paperwork, however, needs updating and will resend later.
- **ATV club:** Mark was present to make the club's monthly appearance as the board requested. As of now there are no updates.

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Pending (Old) Business:

- **PSNH Settlement Agreement:** The original value from PSNH as preliminary. After clarification the value in the agreement was deemed correct. Howard made a motion to make the payment of \$236,044 to PSNH in 6 installments. Matt seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

New Business:

- **Accept the resignation of the Deputy Treasurer:** Matt read the resignation letter of John Hobbs, the assistant. Howard made a motion. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Appointment of the Deputy Treasurer:** Howard made a motion to accept the appointment of Evelyn “Bunny” Elms. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. She will now see Tina (the town clerk) and be sworn in.
- **Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Director (EMD):** Mike Bonanno is has stepped up. The Board asked him standard questions. Mike is a previous Select Board member and previous Vice Chair of the Planning Board. He is currently the Chair of the Planning Board in Mountain Lakes.

Questions and answers included:

- **What is your basic understanding of your duties and responsibilities?** He could not find a job description, so it is unclear if there is one. Mike believes it is his responsibility to educate the public if and when an emergency comes into effect. Where the shelters are and what they can and can bring
- **Any experience or training that could be useful?** Mike worked for the John Hancock security company and a manager. Large emergency training background. When the democratic convention came to Boston he was heavily involved with the security. Dealt with many emergencies at the complex such as a huge fire and everyone was evacuated. He evacuated 60 floors in 20 min. Evacuated the tower on 9/11.
- **Are you willing to attend training which may be provided by the State and/or the Town?** Yes.
- **What is your understanding of conflict of interest?** Anything that benefits me personally.
- **Are you willing to so state a conflict, if one should arise, remove yourself from the table and become a part of the audience?** Absolutely.
- **What is your view on basing decisions solely on the facts alone as prescribed by the NH statute and local ordinances?** That is how it should be done.

Tom made a motion to accept. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mike will go to Tina (the Town Clerk) to be sworn in.

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- **Exemption for the Disabled – Warrant Article Discussion:** There is no current exemption for the disabled in Haverhill. For veterans there is a credit that comes off the individual's taxes. There is an exemption for the elderly in Haverhill. The amount for the exemption depends on the persons age. Currently, there are some elderly that reduce their taxes to zero with the exemption. An exemption removes money from a person's assessed value. If you can show that you are disabled under the social security requirements you can also receive an exemption. Matt suggested that they look at what surrounding towns and districts. Fred suggests looking at towns of similar size wherever they are in the state. The board then went through a list of the towns to see what they did in terms of exemptions and monetary amount they used for that exemption. Matt made a motion to add a warrant article to create an exemption for the disabled. Fred seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The board is having a work session and Monday the 27th to discuss the criteria for the exemption further and establish the limits to be used.
- **Woodsville Ambulance Rate Change & Budget Request/Ambulance Service Inter-Governmental Agreement 2020/2021:** According to Matt a 21% increase is too much. Darwin and Matt both have questions and they will table it and discuss it further during the work session. Per Matt there have been no filings made since 2010. For budgetary purposes the Board will use the figure calculated using the 2017 US Estimated Census numbers for a total of \$100,018. The Board will continue the discussion before signing the Ambulance Agreement. The census numbers are guestimates according to Fred. Tom says that the census information is the best available and they should use it. Fred agrees because everything else is estimated. So, the conclusion is that they will use the numbers TM Codling arrived at. Chair Clogston made a motion to use TM Codling's numbers for the budgetary purposes only. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **Highway Merger Warrant Article:** TM Codling sent the Board a draft. The Board decided to go to the Town Managers report first because there is information in the report that could be useful for this. Fred has been doing some digging of his own into sewer and waterline maintenance. Waterline work is from water bill money and not taxes. For the warrant article they need to find where the money and the workers are going to come from. There was further discussion what other towns do and what should be done here. TM Codling has read some unfavorable documents related to the Woodsville Sewer System and wants to look further into things. It appears the sewer system may have been neglected. Chairman Clogston made a motion to include only roads and road maintenance in the Warrant Article language. The motion was seconded by Howard. Discussion continued after the motion was made on how expensive things might be, focusing on road miles and the exclusion of sewers and sidewalks from the rest of the discussion. A member from the Town asked if the roads included the storm drains. The Board said yes. The Town member further explained that it is costly to separate storm drains from sewer. Fred asked for reiteration on what the Board was voting for. TM Codling read the latest warrant article. The Board asked to remove sewer, sidewalks, and storm drains tied to the sewer system to the section of the article that states to "not include". The Board will hold the final vote until the Work Session Monday.

Town Manager's Report/Comments: The Town Manager gave an overview of the what occurred in Concord before the Senate Transportation Committee related to the Woodsville Highway Funding law earlier in the day (see testimony file on the towns website).

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Finance Officer's Report/Comments: The Town is getting a check reader and will have a workshop to learn how to use that. Jennifer, Lynn, and Diane will be attending. *Jennifer left the meeting at 6:42.*

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence:

- **Letter from the Haverhill Corner Precinct to the SB:** Chairman Clogston read the correspondence. The Precinct thanked the Board for the funds from the trust.

- **Email Correspondence Between Matt and Winston Curior:** One of the airport commission members was removed because he was not a member of the town. There was clarification that needed to be made on that and the member actually retired. This ties back to few meetings ago when Steve Wheeler talked about a member of the Airport Commission Board not being a part of the Town and was removed so why was someone else on the Board who isn't a part of the Town. Mr. Curior wanted to record corrected.

Comments of Select Board Members: None

Non-Public Session (if necessary): None

Adjourn Meeting: Chairman Clogston made a motion to adjourn. Tom seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM with a unanimous vote.

Minutes Provided by Alex Collins