

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 25, 2013
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

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

Member Excused: Robert Roudebush

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Homer May, Steve Wheeler, and Ed Ballam – JO

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Tom Friel made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Tom Friel made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Rick Ladd; Lynn Wheeler abstained as she wasn't at the last meeting and the motion was approved.

Public Hearing: None

Scheduled Public Appearance(s): None

Town Manager's Report: TM English reported on a letter from the DOT about the demolition of the Mill Street Bridge in Woodsville. This bridge provides access from both ends of town and also provides back access to the Woodsville Elementary School. He stated that he had a meeting with Dick Guy, Precinct Commissioner from Woodsville and the Woodsville Road Agent to talk about this with the DOT people. The DOT's original plan was to take the bridge out and dead-end the road. TM English stated that this would be a problem and he feels that the DOT should replace the bridge so that there will be a continuation of the road over the span with some sort of structure. The DOT has agreed to hold a public information meeting on February 28, 2013 at 7:00 PM. This is for public input from Town and Precinct officials on this project. TM English has notified the Superintendent of Schools as this is important to school security. Mill Street is subject to flooding at the other end and if they remove the bridge, there will be no access to Mill Street. He urges everyone to attend the meeting.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Business Survey:** Chairman Fortier stated that they had a copy of draft #3 of the business survey questionnaire and a flyer. Tom Friel and Lynn Wheeler stated that they would like a copy of the flyer. He stated that the questionnaire was now at 33 questions and PSU is ready to roll with the survey. It is the Economic & Development Committee's desire to get this survey out as soon as possible. Rick Ladd had a problem with the wording on Questions 22 and 23. He stated that the words "from the Town" should be taken out from both questions. The Town doesn't provide a lot of the services mentioned in the questions. He stated that he struck the words from the questions and returned the questionnaire to Brad Allen from PSU. He hasn't heard back from Mr. Allen. He feels that without these words in the questions, they would get the response they were looking for. Tom Friel stated that he brought up the

same issues at the Economic & Development Committee meeting as Rick was bringing up. He stated that whatever questions they get from the survey would be directed to the appropriate business or entity that the question applied to. Tom stated that the wording in the first paragraph should state that whatever questions that arose would be directed to the appropriate districts. It was the consensus of the Board that the wording be changed in the first paragraph and also in questions 22 and 23, along with the reasoning of why they wanted these changes. Chairman Fortier stated that they were given the survey in the form of a draft and the Board was, therefore, making further recommendations. Rick Ladd also brought up the wording in Question 21, which was "Do you see the value in the services the Town of Haverhill offers your business?" He stated that police and fire services definitely offer value to the business. He stated that maybe a qualifier needed to be added to the question, such as "If no, could you please explain and identify why your response is the way it is?" Chairman Fortier stated that they were looking at removing the wording "from the Town" in Questions 22 and 23 and adding a qualifier of yes or no to Question 21 and leaving paragraph 1 on the first page alone. He stated that they would make contact with the Economic Committee and tell them of these recent recommendations on draft #3. He also stated that the Board would look at the revised questions before signing off on the survey. Homer May had a question of putting the two sets of questions of the internet closer together. He felt that questions 18, 19, and 20 should be moved closer to questions 27 and 28 so that all internet questions were together. Tom Friel stated that as long as the questions were all in one section, which they are, he would say yes to moving them. The Board would also make a small change on the flyer. It would now be the Economic & Development Committee, instead of just the Economic Committee.

New Business: None

Commission/Committee Reports: Chairman Fortier stated that Archie Steenburgh had a lecture at Alumni Hall that went very well. It was well publicized and received many good comments about it. Chairman Fortier also stated that there would be 250th birthday cakes at both (Haverhill and Newbury, VT) Town Meetings. There would also be an opportunity at Town Meeting for people to sign up to volunteer for the 250th Celebration.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier addressed the DOT meeting that TM English passed out earlier. They also received a legislative bulletin.

Comments of the Public: Homer May asked who was doing the tabulating of the survey and Chairman Fortier stated that the PSU group would be doing the tabulating.

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: TM English extended condolences from the entire group to Chairman Fortier and his brother, Jim, on the passing of their father.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Rick Ladd passed out information on HB 617, which is the gas tax bill. The proposal is that over the next four years, the gas tax will jump 4 cents per year for three years and 3 cents for the final year. There is also in this bill a proposal to increase diesel tax. The gas tax is a user fee and here in the North Country, we are paying considerably more for gas than south of us. This gas tax increase would cost people \$79-\$80 a month. There was also discussion on HB 146, which would increase the speed limit on Interstate 93 from 65 to 70. Chairman Fortier stated that Town Meeting was coming up on March 12 and at the Selectboard meeting the night before, they needed to look at the budget to see how it would be presented at Town Meeting. He asked Board members to review areas they would like to speak to.

Adjourn Meeting: Rick Ladd made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously. Chairman Fortier adjourned the meeting at 6:44 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde