

# MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 23, 2015

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, Jim Hobbs, Randy Subject, Tina Hebert, Geoffrey Sewake 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):** Lynn Wheeler made a motion to accept the Agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.

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

## **Scheduled Public Appearance(s):**

- **Geoffrey Sewake-UNH Grafton County Community and Economic Development:** Chairman Fortier welcomed Mr. Sewake to the meeting. Geoff stated that he had worked and talked a lot with TM English when he was with North Country Council (NCC) and he currently works for the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Center and County Offices, specifically Community and Economic Development. He was attending the meeting to offer his services as a technical assistant to help the Town identify problems and concerns with economic development. He could offer programming that had the tools to help businesses use social media. There was also statewide programming for the extension program as well as a new pilot program, which is similar to community profiles. It is an opportunity for businesses to get together to see what direction they want to move. Lynn Wheeler asked who Geoffrey replaced and he stated that he replaced Deb Maes, who has retired. Lynn commented that she had met with Deb last year and they had talked about doing a profile for the Town. A profile had been done several years ago by Vital Communities and they were in for a new boost of energy. She then asked Geoff about doing a new community profile. He responded that when they were ready for the profile to let him know and he would bring in a state specialist to help. Geoff commented that he would be happy to sit down with any of the Board members. He spoke briefly about First Impressions, which is a program where people would be brought into the community and give their first impressions of that community and also to identify challenges. Mr. Sewake left business cards and a few pamphlets. Chairman Fortier stated that the Board definitely has an interest in economic development and anything they can do to enhance that. He then thanked Mr. Sewake for coming to the meeting.
- **Jim Hobbs-Properties in Woodsville:** Chairman Fortier stated that Mr. Hobbs was attending the meeting to discuss two (2) dilapidated buildings in Woodsville. Mr. Hobbs stated that he has been in negotiations with the owner of the house on the corner of Chapel and School Streets, which is falling

down. The other house is on the corner of Ammonoosuc and Gordon Streets, which is also dilapidated. The owner wanted to know if the Heritage Commission would be interested in taking these two houses. There were discussions back and forth between Jim and the owner. Jim commented that things got heated at one point in the discussions and the owner said that he would just let the Town take the houses for taxes. Jim spoke with TM English and TM English stated that the Town does not have to take them for taxes. Currently, the owner wanted to make a deal for the Heritage Commission to take the houses. Jim commented that this has been going on for 8 or 9 months. It has gotten to the point where Jim told the owner that the Heritage Commission could accept the houses as a donation as long as the houses were free of encumbrances, which they are not. One problem is a water bill that is due for interest that has accumulated from not paying the bill. Jim told him that if the problems could be taken care of, there may be a possibility of the Heritage Commission taking the houses. At the next meeting with the owner, Jim told him that because the houses were so run down, there would be a cost to repair. The owner would contribute a little towards the costs of renovation. Jim stated that he had one or two prospective buyers for the property on Ammonoosuc Street. One buyer wants to tear down the middle section and restore two individual one-family homes. Jim got back to the owner and told him that there would be costs to the Heritage Commission on these houses and the owner said he would contribute \$500 a month for two years for renovations. Jim then stated that if the Heritage Commission obligates someone to do renovations at \$500 a month and the owner doesn't pay, the Commission is stuck. The owner then said they would be willing to pay in one lump sum (\$12,000). There was a brief discussion about the RSAs and accepting donations. Chairman Fortier stated that a few months back, an adjacent property owner of the house on Ammonoosuc Street had come before the Board complaining about the dilapidation of the neighbors and the landowner wasn't taking care of anything. Lynn stated that the Chapel Street property had been boarded up several years ago due to vagrants living in it. Jim commented that the barn door was open and there was a direct, people path into the building. He has also seen large rats. Chairman Fortier asked if the Board, through the Heritage Commission, entered into some sort of agreement with the landowner, the owner would pay \$12,000 up front. There are two potential buyers for the Ammonoosuc/Gordon Street properties but that would have to go before Town Meeting. He then asked what they would do in the interim. TM English stated that the Board would have to make decisions about who was accepting the donation. Jim commented that if the Chapel Street property were torn down, there would be a lot with water and sewer and the Town would be rid of a rat-infested site. He also commented that the house on Ammonoosuc Street had some historical data to it. TM English commented that the rest of these immediate neighborhoods weren't bad where these two properties are located. They stand out as being the worst properties on the streets. Jim stated that the potential buyers interested in the Ammonoosuc Street property wanted to restore the property in order to beautify the neighborhood. Chairman Fortier asked Jim what he wanted to gain from the Board and Jim stated that he wanted approval. He commented that the Heritage Commission has the right to receive a gift, but this was a bit more than just a gift. Chairman Fortier commented that the Board would have to do more homework about this project before rendering a decision. Rick Ladd commented that the Board was getting into new "turf" in terms of policy. He is a little remiss in saying "go for it", knowing that there will be a property that needs to be unloaded. He feels there are a lot of loose ends. Rick stated that the Board needs to take a comprehensive look at the entire Town and create a policy that is applicable from north to south, east or west. TM English stated that the goal was noble; there is also no regulation in Woodsville. There are mechanisms in State law to do something like this, but it takes a Town Meeting vote. Chairman Fortier commented that Jim had a noble thought and he may have a valid avenue, at some point, to accept a gift or gifts. The Board was not ready to vote on anything; they would have to do more research as this was new territory.

**Public Hearing:** None

**Town Manager's Report:** TM English commented on the 3/20/15 Legislative Bulletin that was recently received. There were a number of revisions to how the governor's proposed budget may be changed by three

House committees. He went through the bulleted items and discovered, happily for the Town, none of them will affect the Town directly. The first item was freezing the rooms and meals tax distributions and the same amount of money was budgeted for this year as last year. The next two items were for water and sewer projects, which doesn't hurt the Town. Another item was closing three Motor Vehicle stations doesn't affect the Town. One that may affect the Police Department is reduced staff at the Department of Safety forensic lab, which may affect test results. The one that concerned him were the reductions at the Department of Health and Human Services and the current mental health issues. Rick Ladd stated that there was a lot under Health and Human Services that would impact the Town and County – managed care and a drop in Meals on Wheels to name a few.

### **Pending (Old) Business:**

- **Highway Advisory Committee:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Board needs to take direction as they have heard from people at the Budget Hearing that they wanted this Advisory Committee. The Board spoke about the mechanics of the Committee two meetings ago and how they would create this Committee. This will be an advisory committee only on not only road construction, but projects the Road Agent may come up with that the Committee would help him out. His question to the Board was that they had some discussion about either putting an interest letter in the local paper to see who was interested and then they heard from the public that the Board should select people they know who are experienced in the business. Chairman Fortier's personal opinion was that there should not be more than three (3) people on the Committee. Tom Friel commented that the Board should run the ad and see who was interested in being on the Committee and select from there. The rest of the Board agreed. Rick Ladd stated that there have been Committees of three and it's hard to sometimes even get two. He would recommend five (5). Tom stated that they should just advertise and not specify a number. Lynn had a concern about forming the Committee and then the Committee only meeting when they were needed. AA Lacaillade stated that the Fire Equipment Committee ran that way and it worked out fine. Robert Roudebush also reiterated that in addition to fields of expertise or specialty in one field or another, the Board would expect and verbally require the folks who apply to be as level-headed and free of bias as they can be. Lynn Wheeler then stated that the Board would ultimately be making the final decision on the Committee. Chairman Fortier would work on a public announcement.
- **Raffles:** TM English thanked Chairman Fortier for getting a clarification on the 50-50 Raffles. There were a lot of people who do 50-50 Raffles and use tear-off tickets. These tear-off tickets are now okay to use. TM English stated that it is sometimes tricky to determine if a raffle is for a charitable purpose. Chairman Fortier stated that on March 12, 2015, he went to Concord and met with the NH Charitable Trust and there was a lady named Terry Knowles, who was very knowledgeable on raffles. There was also representation from the Attorney General's Liquor office and from the Attorney General's Gaming Commission. There were about 20 people at that meeting and it was the first time that those organizations got together to discuss raffles and gambling. They are going to put together a "white paper" to address raffles and gambling in general. They also want to notify all the entities, such as the VFW and the American Legion, who have their annual conventions coming up to explain what really constitutes a valid raffle and what doesn't, what gambling is and they want to change the raffle law to some degree. These changes may come about in the next 6-8 months. Chairman Fortier did learn that whether it's a charitable organization or not, if a ticket is handed out and it's going to go to charity, it has to be funneled through the Charitable Trust Organization. If the Board is in doubt about the issue of what the purpose is, they can contact the Charitable Trust Organization and they will give advice. The Charitable Trust Organization does inspect and they have an accounting of the money. Chairman Fortier stated that Horse Meadow Senior Center wants to hold a 50-50 raffle and the ticket that they had was a valid 50-50 ticket. Rick Ladd asked if the Horse Meadow Senior Center raffle application had to explain what the revenue was going to be used for and Chairman Fortier stated that it did. The activities of the Senior Center are charitable activities. TM English asked if he had a question on a particular raffle application, could he call Terry Knowles to get a ruling and Chairman Fortier said that he could. Chairman Fortier commented that the raffle process is a work in progress with all of the agencies.

## New Business:

- **Cemetery Commission vacancies:** Chairman Fortier stated that there were three vacancies on the Cemetery Commission. The Town warrant was correct and the Town Moderator thought it was an error and no one corrected him about that since Town Meeting only elected one Trustee. The Selectboard was required to appoint 2 members to the Cemetery Commission. Howard Thayer was nominated to the Commission, but there was a misunderstanding of who the second was. The other two positions needed to be filled. Roland Clifford, Howard Hatch and the two incumbents, Dan Brady and Matt Taylor, all would like to get the appointment. Lynn Wheeler commented that as far as the Board knew, the two incumbents were doing a great job and thought they were going to be reappointed. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to appoint the two incumbents, Dan Brady and Matt Taylor for a three-year term to the Cemetery Commission, along with Howard Thayer; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.
- **Reorganization of Board:** Rick Ladd made a motion to appoint Wayne Fortier as chair of the board; Robert Roudebush seconded the motion and carried; Wayne Fortier abstained. Lynn thanked Wayne for being Chairman and if there was anything they could do to help him, just let them know. Chairman Fortier commented that he was very proud to be a member of the Board. Robert Roudebush made a motion to appoint Tom Friel as vice chair; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried; Tom Friel abstained.
- **Gravel Purchase and Access Agreement:** TM English stated that for many years, there has been an agreement with Hugh Underhill to run a gravel pit on his property. The Town pays a certain amount per yard for material. Robert Roudebush made the motion to sign the contract with Hugh Underhill; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.
- **Reappointment of Recreation Commission members:** AA Lacaillade presented to the Board four members of the Recreation Commission who needed to be reappointed. The four members are Jo Lacaillade, Kim Waterhouse, Dianne Rappa and Barb Dutile. Robert Roudebush made the motion to reappoint the four members; seconded by Rick Ladd. Tom Friel commented that Dianne Rappa was not a Town resident. Chairman Fortier stated that she had been on the Commission for a very long time. Robert Roudebush asked if it was required for Dianne to be a Town resident and was told per RSA that she did. Chairman Fortier asked Tom that since one member wasn't a Town resident, what his solution would be. Tom stated that he did not have a solution; he was just questioning the legality of it. Lynn commented that the person could be a member, but wasn't able to vote. Chairman Fortier asked if Dianne had voted in the past and AA Lacaillade commented absolutely. He then commented that whether she is called a Friend or not, the Board would be taking away the voting rights and they are doing that because the statute says she is not in compliance with the statute. AA Lacaillade commented that Dianne was one of the charter members of the Rec Commission. Lynn commented that she was also a member of the Y also. Chairman Fortier commented that, in the past, there were members of the Airport Commission who were not residents of Haverhill, but that is not the case now. Tom commented that if a non-resident was voting on fees for residents and non-residents, there could be some bias. Lynn asked what their numbers were on the Commission and AA Lacaillade stated that she believed they were at an even number. Chairman Fortier commented that a possible solution would be to accept three of these members to the Commission and one could be a Friend, therefore, giving the Board time to research whether a Friend of the Commission could vote. AA Lacaillade commented that a Friend could not vote. Lynn commented that Dianne has been a very active participant in the Recreation Commission. Chairman Fortier asked how Dianne would feel with her voting rights taken away. Lynn felt that she would be upset. AA Lacaillade commented that Dianne was aware of the issue of not being a resident. She also commented that Dianne has been a member since day one. Rick Ladd commented that the Board was sworn to follow the Constitution and statutes of the State. He stated that if it's done here, it would need to be done everywhere else. Robert Roudebush amended his motion to appoint three voting members to the Recreation Commission and have Dianne Rappa as a Friend; seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Selectboard reps on the various committees would remain the same.

**Commission/Committee Reports:** Chairman Fortier thanked Jim Hobbs for all of the work he has done on the Heritage Committee. He has also done a tremendous amount of work on the Hazen property. Lynn commented that the Rec Committee has been very busy. They have had activities almost every weekend. There is a good group that shows up no matter what, even some husbands. She thanked them.

**Correspondence:** None

**Comments of the Public:** Darwin Clogston asked if the Airport Commission had met since Town Meeting and was told that they hadn't. He would like to attend the next Airport Commission meeting and would be notified by Robert Roudebush. Chairman Fortier introduced Randy Subjeck to the Board as a new Selectman for the Town of Piermont. Chairman Fortier and Lynn Wheeler had good things to say about the new Food Pantry at the Robert E. Clifford Building. Ed Ballam stated that the hours for the Food Pantry are Monday through Thursday, 10-2. Ed also thanked Lynn and Steve Wheeler and AA Lacaillade for cleaning up the water mess from the defrosting refrigerators/freezers.

**Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer:** None

**Comments of Selectboard Members:** Chairman Fortier thanked the Board again and commented that he would not be at the next meeting on April 6, but he would write out his goals and the Board would have them. He commented that the Board could start on their goals and TM English could start on his goals. TM English stated that his were already done. Rick Ladd stated that Wayne Mitchell and John Page were working at the VFW on the World War II Memorial. Lynn asked how this started with Jack Brill and now was Wayne and John. Chairman Fortier stated that it started with Jack Brill and Dave Johnson. They have been working on the list of over 400 veterans. The VFW feels strongly about the location being central in Town. There is ongoing discussion about what the VFW would do with the property out back of the JRM Building. The VFW owns it and there was work done to subdivide it into two separate sections, but it was never properly deeded, so it is still one lot. The VFW is thinking of giving the right-hand side of that property to the Town to continue utilizing it as recreation. The left-hand side of the property would be the VFW's recommendation for the Town-wide Veterans Memorial and park.

**Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 (a)**

Robert Roudebush made a motion to suspend the public meeting and go into non-public session at 7:30 pm; seconded by Lynn Wheeler. The Board was polled and all approved.

Tom Friel made the motion to come out of non-public session at 8:19 pm; seconded by Lynn Wheeler. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

Representative Ladd asked for opinions on the gas tax increase.

**Adjourn Meeting:** Robert Roudebush made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde