

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

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

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Senator Jeanie Forrester, Dick Guy, Ed Ballam – JO, and Lyndon State/Channel 7 News

Call Meeting to Order:

Wayne Fortier called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Robert Roudebush requested to amend the agenda to add to Pending (Old) Business a discussion about the airport agricultural lease. All approved amending the agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Rick Ladd made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Robert Roudebush. There was a brief discussion about the minutes of March 11, 2013 of whether correspondence was to or from Mr. Hatch about the agricultural lease. TM English stated that it was correspondence that he wrote to Mr. Hatch on 2/28/13. The motion was carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: None

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **Senator Jeanie Forrester:** Senator Forrester is visiting various Selectboards in her communities. With the redistricting, she now has 27 districts with Haverhill being the farthest. She has again been named to the Senate Finance Committee as a vice chair and she is also serving again on the Republican Municipal Affairs Committee as a vice chair. Some of the priorities of the Senate Finance Committee are infrastructure, hospitals and higher education. As she has been traveling around her districts, she is hearing from townspeople about the condition of the roads. In Tilton, townspeople were asked by other legislators present if they would support a gas tax. One of the selectmen said no because they felt that the money that was raised would not be going to fix the roads. She had done a spreadsheet on what the gas tax would do for the towns. Over a ten-year period, Haverhill, assuming the gas tax goes in, would have raised \$2.4 million in gas tax increases and the Town would get back \$590,000 for that 10-year period. Senator Forrester stated that if they were going to look seriously at a gas tax, she would want to have a serious conversation about the distribution. She would want to see more money going back to the towns. The DOT's reason for the roads being in such bad repair is that

their budgets had been cut two years ago. Senator Forrester's concern is that the towns will say yes to the gas tax because they want their roads fixed; they'll raise the money and pay the tax and five years from now, nothing is any better because no one understood what was really going to happen. TM English stated that the legislature is blaming the DOT; the legislature takes money from the highway fund and gives it to other agencies in state government. They are also raiding the LCHIP money and using it for other purposes, so he feels that he needs to defend the DOT because they are doing the best they can with the money they have. TM English also stated that the Town was spending considerable funds on Town roads this year and that comes off local property tax. People want good roads and they are willing to pay for it. Rick Ladd stated that this was not a user fee; it was a tax and a fairly regressive tax. He also stated that people in the North Country cannot afford another tax. Rick stated that this was HB 617, which was in the House. Senator Forrester then went on to discuss LGC. She stated that George Bald was made the interim director at LGC. Mr. Bald acknowledges that mistakes have been made by LGC. Senator Forrester is pleased that Mr. Bald seems to be working with the Secretary of State to work things out. Working with the Department of Employment Security, she discussed a Job Fair at Upper Valley Press sometime in the fall. Chairman Fortier asked Senator Forrester to keep in touch about the dates in the fall. She also had a brief update on site evaluations. Chairman Fortier thanked Senator Forrester for coming to the meeting and giving the updates.

Town Manager's Report: None

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Airport Agricultural Lease:** Robert Roudebush stated that the Airport Commission had questions and comments about the Board's decision on the agricultural lease and he deferred to Richard Guy of the Airport Commission. Mr. Guy had a question about a voting issue in Mountain Lakes before his comments about the agricultural lease. Woodsville had their annual meeting on the following night and he asked if they needed to have a Supervisor of the Checklist at their meeting. TM English stated that they did. He stated that the Moderator and/or the Selectmen needed to order the Supervisors to cover all precinct meetings. Rick Ladd stated that they have an elected official in town who is responsible for this; it was not the responsibility of the Selectboard. Mr. Guy stated that he would call one of the Supervisors. Mr. Guy then requested that the Board reconsider their decision on the airport agricultural lease. He stated that, in their best judgment, it would be a good idea for the Airport Commission to get more than \$1 for the 49 acres in the lease. The lease in existence expired December 31, 2010 and it doesn't allow for any accommodation for that lease to continue after that date. Their concern was that they were advised that the Selectboard had voted against their decision and perhaps they didn't have a copy of the lease and they were disturbed that the Airport Commission wasn't invited to attend that discussion. They understand if they were overruled without an invitation with no lease in hand. The Selectboard accepted their budget last year which included an increase from \$1 to \$2,000 for this year. They had advised that they were looking for an increase. He stated that the Commission understands that the Lessee has expended funds to fertilize, but those were the requirements of the lease. Mr. Guy requested of the Board to reconsider their ruling on the lease or to reimburse them for the

\$2,000 loss. Chairman Fortier stated that their ruling was based on the fact that their lease had expired for over two years, no one had done anything with that and they felt that it would be unfair to Mr. Hatch to make him go through the bidding process. They did not have a copy of the lease at the time, but the majority of the Board felt that it was a little unfair to spring this on Mr. Hatch at this time of year. Mr. Guy stated that it was in their minutes from last year about the lease. Rick Ladd stated that he didn't have all the information he needed in order to ask for a reconsideration. Rick asked Mr. Guy when they had asked for the increase, and Mr. Guy thought it was around September. TM English then stated that was what prompted him to send the letter to Mr. Hatch. Rick Ladd then stated that this has gone on for two years with no mention of the lease. Chairman Fortier stated that they needed to do more research and they would not consider reconsideration at this time.

New Business:

- **Request for Mildred Page Funds-Pearson Hall:** Chairman Fortier stated that the Haverhill Historical Society was requesting a grant of \$4,000 from the Mildred Page fund to augment the project at Pearson Hall. It was the consensus of the Board to table this request until next meeting.
- **Prosecutor Contract:** TM English presented the annual Police Department prosecutor contract to the Board for signature. There was one change made by the Chief to the contract, which is to have the prosecutor review any right-to-know requests made to the department. Robert Roudebush made the motion to approve the contract; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.
- **Reorganization of Board:** Rick Ladd made a motion to appoint Wayne Fortier as chair of the board. Lynn Wheeler seconded the motion and carried; Wayne Fortier abstained. Robert Roudebush made a motion to appoint Tom Friel as vice chair, seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried; Tom Friel abstained. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to keep the committee assignments in place; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously.
- **Goals for 2013:** TM English presented his goals to the Board. The Selectboard was not prepared at this time to announce their goals. This would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.
- **Haverhill Civic Forum:** The Board received an e-mail from Frances Belcher, who is from PSU, who would like to do a Haverhill Civic Forum with the focus on inviting input from citizens of Woodsville, North Haverhill and Haverhill Corner. She was asking the Board to give their blessing to the creation of this forum to look at the various needs of the community. Lynn Wheeler stated that they were really past due about doing something like this. TM English stated that he was trying to arrange getting a representative to come and speak to the Board about the forum.
- **Proclamation Request:** The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children invites the Town to issue a proclamation to commemorate National Missing Children's Day, which is May 25, 2013. This was established by President Reagan in 1983 and makes people aware of missing and exploited children. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to issue the proclamation; seconded by Robert Roudebush and carried unanimously
- **Business Survey:** The recommendations of the Board were made to the Business Survey and the survey is underway. Rick Ladd asked if there was a list of businesses that are

receiving the survey. TM English stated that there was a full-page ad run in the Bridge Weekly that invited any business who had not received the survey to let the Economic and Development Committee know. TM English and Kevin Shelton also did a Friday morning radio spot on WYKR about the survey.

Commission/Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier stated that he had received information from Business and Industries Association about the blue book, which is an online service. He also had a reminder about Chamber of Commerce night, March 26, 2013 at 6:00 PM at the Colatina in Bradford, VT.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade presented a new resolution from Bob Miller, which removes Larry Corey's name from any bank accounts and retaining Jon Hobbs's name as his deputy treasurer. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to sign the resolution; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Robert Roudebush stated that he had an opportunity to attend the Ammonoosuc Community Health Service's get-together on March 14. It was the first of several public sessions and he stated that it was very enlightening. Lynn Wheeler stated that Michael King has retired from North Country Council. TM English stated that Michael will be replaced by Jeff Hayes, who has been with the organization for many years as the new Executive Director. TM English stated that he would draft a letter from the Board thanking Michael for his years of service.

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

Lynn Wheeler made a motion to go into non-public session at 7:55 pm; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved.

Robert Roudebush made the motion to come out of non-public session at 8:57 pm; seconded by Lynn Wheeler. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

Adjourn Meeting: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 8:58 pm

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde