

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 30, 2015
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

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

Board Member Excused: Robert Roudebush

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde

Members of the Public Present: Darwin Clogston, Harry Burgess, Tom Harris, Jeff Page, Jasper Page and Ed Ballam – Journal Opinion

Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Fortier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Approval (additions/deletions completed by Board consent): Tom Friel made a motion to accept the agenda; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s): None

Public Hearing: None

Town Manager's Report: TM English reminded the Board that the Economic Summit held by the Cohase Chamber of Commerce will be held on December 7, 2015 at 5:45 pm at Riverbend in Bradford. Chairman Fortier commented that Marvin Harrison had sent out questions for each Board member as to what was going on in Town. TM English also reported that he intended to retire in early March. He presented the Board with a letter of resignation, which gave the Board three (3) months' notice, instead of the two (2) months that were required in his contract. Lynn Wheeler thanked TM English for the advance three-month notice. Rick Ladd asked if his retirement was before or after Town Meeting and TM English stated that it was before. Lynn Wheeler made the motion to accept the letter of resignation; seconded by Rick Ladd, who added "with regret" and the motion carried unanimously.

Pending (Old) Business:

➤ **Logging Lot-Mountain Lakes:** Chairman Fortier commented that Tom Friel and Rick Ladd had viewed the property and taken pictures. Rick reported that he and Tom met with Tom Harris, the logger, who walked the property with them, pointing out the areas that he had been working on. Tom Harris was cleaning up at the time which was several days after the last Selectboard meeting. Tom wasn't cutting; he was cleaning up. Rick walked through areas that had been thinned, which was what Tom indicated that he was doing. Rick thought it looked, by and large, pretty good. The thinning out was done for the purpose of habitat, for rejuvenation of the forest and working on the trails. Trees had been indicated for cutting. Chairman Fortier commented that at the last

Selectboard meeting, Tom Friel felt that the cutting was excessive. Tom commented that if the Board was putting the lot up for sale, the cut was excessive. Chairman Fortier asked Rick if he thought the cutting was excessive and Rick stated that it went beyond the trail, especially at the beginning. Rick stated that the only thing he got out of it was a tick on his leg. Lynn asked how much percentage was left of the forest. Chairman Fortier stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Harris had mentioned 50% was left of cutting. Rick thought there was a lot of wood remaining on the property. Rick showed Tom Friel and Lynn the pictures he had taken on his phone. Tom Harris commented that when he started the cutting, it was so thick that it couldn't be walked through. Chairman Fortier asked Mr. Harris if his clean-up was all done and Mr. Harris said that it was. If the Board decided not to continue, he needed to put up water bars. TM English commented that the cutting was completed. Chairman Fortier commented that Rick had brought correspondence to the Board concerning Amy Baker and the account. TM English stated that he had received a call from Amy Baker and they were making budgetary plans and what to do with their capital reserve and they had to get their warrant together. It seemed to TM English that she was trying to drive a decision on what to do with the money based on her budgetary constraints and he brought that to the Board's attention. The Selectboard and the Mountain Lakes Commissioners need to sit down and figure out what to do with that other money and then the Board can make decisions procedurally about how that is going to be accomplished. Amy alluded to the fact that they wanted to keep some of the money for expenses. Chairman Fortier asked what those expenses might be and TM English did not know. Rick stated that he had also received an email concerning this and he would very much like to speak with the Mountain Lakes Commissioners instead of a contracted employee. TM English commented that this was an issue between the Selectboard and the Mountain Lakes Commissioners. TM English would get in touch with the Commissioners and have them attend the next meeting on December 14, 2015. Chairman Fortier asked if the Board was ready to make a decision on the property. Tom Friel stated that he thinks that they should sell it. Rick commented that he was inclined to do that, but he wanted more information from a forester in terms of the value of the remaining timber. TM English stated that the County Forester had been in contact with the office and would be happy to speak with the Board and offer any advice on proper forestry procedures. They are willing to help if asked. It was the consensus of the Board to speak with the County Forester and TM English would give him a call to see what his schedule might be. Chairman Fortier asked the Board members if there would be a tentative plan of what to do with the property at the next meeting and Lynn and Tom thought that they should have a plan. Rick thought that the Board should get the forester's report and make a decision immediately. TM English asked if what the Board wanted from the forester was whether it was advisable to do another cut and the value of the remaining timber and how that affects the resale of the property. Rick's question to the forester would be if they took some of that timber out, how much would that impact the value of the remaining property. Jeff Page asked if the next meeting with the Mountain Lakes Commissioners would be public and Chairman Fortier stated that it would be.

New Business: Chairman Fortier stated that he had received a call from Dick Guy, Chairman of the School Board, and Mr. Guy had an idea that Town Meeting and the School Meeting should occur on the same day, possibly a Saturday. The Town Meeting would start at 10 am and the School Meeting at noon. Chairman Fortier commented that was discussed last year in order to garner more people at a meeting. Lynn thought that this was something that needed to be voted on and TM English stated that the School Board could schedule a meeting at their wish, but he did not know if there were RSAs that governed what the Selectboard could do. He would check on that. Lynn asked if Mr. Guy thought that would generate more participation and TM English stated that the School Board wanted more turn-out at the school meeting so there was more input into the decisions. The second item Mr. Guy talked to Chairman Fortier about was the school budget and whether it could be a ballot vote. TM English stated

that they would like to have a ballot vote on their budget so that people don't feel that they have to say "yeah" or "nay". A ballot vote motion has to be made at the meeting. Lynn commented that the towns that she knows about don't run their meetings back to back. There would be a separation between the meetings. She commented that back-to-back meetings had been tried, but they didn't work out. There was some discussion about the percentage of taxes that went to the schools, which was about 70%. TM English stated that the Town was about 20% and the rest was the County, which was also creeping up. There was no consensus of the Board to having the meetings on the same day.

Commission/Committee Reports: Lynn reported on the Cold Turkey Plunge. The plunge which happened on November 22, 2015 at the Mountain Lakes Beach had the permission and support of the Mtn Lakes Commission & Recreation. The team and commissioners of Mountain Lakes should be thanked as this event was a huge success because of their generosity in allowing the Town to use the beach and office building. There were over 70 people registered, but one team of 10 canceled the day before the event. There were over 60 people plunging. Participating teams were: Grafton County, Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank, Cottage Hospital, This Plus That Consignment shop, Haverhill Police Department, WYKR, Team Haverhill, The Little Grille and Four Corner Beauty Salon. \$6450 was raised and deposited into the revolving Haverhill Recreation Facilities Maintenance improvement fund to help maintain and improve the pool and RR Park without burdening the taxpayers further. Next year's plunge will be on November 20th and people have committed already. Volunteers for the event included: The Bath Fire Rescue/Dive team, Woodsville Ambulance crew, Francine Bowman, Laraine King, Steve Strout, Karen Hyde, Jaime Jarvis, Lynn Wheeler, Cindy Fagnant, Nancy Bishop, Harry Smith, Jenn West, Michael Bruce and Joe McQueeney. Six (6) turkeys were roasted and donated by Liz Shelton, Lynn Wheeler, Karen Hyde, Tina Hebert, Leigh Reney, and Jennifer West. Angela Clifford donated 224 homemade rolls and 200 wrapped brownies. There is a wide group of people that are now starting to participate in Haverhill Rec's events and it is growing and the Commission is appreciative of all the help. The event was a lot of fun.

TM English also reported that the Highway Advisory Committee had met and they had a good discussion. A decision came out of the meeting to take the \$50,000 from tar and instead of putting it into Capital project, to put it in gravel so more gravel could be put out on the roads. There should be another meeting, but it has not been scheduled yet.

Correspondence: None

Comments of the Public: Darwin Clogston asked if the Haverhill Board had an idea how much money was spent on the Mountain Lakes logging project. Chairman Fortier and TM English stated that anything spent would have been on Legal. AA Lacaillade did not know that number offhand, but could get it to the Board. Ed Ballam commented that Town Meetings in Vermont are done on a Tuesday and they are an all-day event. Town Meeting Day is actually a legal holiday in Vermont. They have Town Meeting in the morning and School Board meeting in the afternoon. There was a brief discussion on Australian ballots.

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade wanted to give the Board a heads-up concerning a Petitioned Warrant Article from Mr. Fillion. He is short six (6) voters, but he is aware of that. His petition is: "The Town of Haverhill shall not appropriate funds for the operation of any Library unless all Trustees of the Library have been elected at Town Meeting for a term not to exceed three (3) years". TM English commented that the only public Library is Woodsville and that is a Precinct Library and their Trustees are elected at the annual Woodsville Precinct Meeting. Chairman Fortier asked if this required any Board action and AA Lacaillade commented that she was just giving the Board a heads-up. TM English stated that the

Moderator at Town Meeting would make the call as to whether the article was binding or had any effect.

Comments of Selectboard Members: Rick asked if budget dates had been developed for when the Board was going to require things to come in from the Fire Departments. TM English commented that he had already received all requests by everyone but the Fire Departments. He has advised every Precinct Commissioner or representative that he needs those budgets now. Rick stated that the Commissioners of Haverhill Corner had met with their Fire Department at the last meeting and they will be doing the same thing in December. The budget will be finalized then and approved by the Commissioners. TM English stated that he would give the Board a budget by Christmas and in order to do that, he needed the Fire Department budgets. He further stated that if they are not in, he would plug in last year's numbers and submit the budget to the Board. The Board could look at the Town Manager's budget before the Budget Advisory Committee starts meeting in January.

Adjourn Meeting: Lynn Wheeler made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Tom Friel and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Karen Hyde