

MINUTES OF HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 28, 2015
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

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

Town Manager: Glenn English

Administrative Assistant/Finance Officer: Jo Lacaillade

Selectboard Clerk: Karen Hyde-Excused

Members of the Public Present: Darwin Clogston, Mike Bonanno, Howard Hatch, Ron Willoughby, Jim Fortier 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): Rick Ladd made a motion to accept the agenda; seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

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

Scheduled Public Appearance(s):

- **Certificate of Appreciation-James Fortier:** Chairman Wayne Fortier presented James Fortier with a Certificate of Appreciation for the many years of service given to the Town of Haverhill. Wayne went on to say that Jim has been the Airport Manager for over 27 years; he was the Town's first Life Safety Inspector and did outstanding work while in that job; he also served as a Police Officer in the Town in the mid 70's. He also owned and operated a business here in town and has provided consulting services to many public organizations including the schools and Town.

Public Hearing: None

Ron Willoughby addressed the Board. He asked if the Selectboard felt they were capable of running the Town without a Town Manager or Town Administrator. Chairman Fortier felt that the Selectboard was not in a position to manage the Town full time; they need a Town Manager or Administrator. Rick Ladd concurred. Lynn Wheeler said that the Town needs something more than an Administrative Assistant position to manage the Town. Tom Friel said that tomorrow there was a representative, Rick Alpers, from Primex to educate the Selectboard on the difference between a Town Manager and Town Administrator form of government and make a decision based on facts. Ron Willoughby said that he got the response he expected. He added that he did not feel there should be a lifetime contract next time. Chairman Fortier stated it is up to the voters of Haverhill to decide what form of government the Town operates under. Howard Hatch said that at the last meeting Lynn Wheeler said that he had led the charge to do away with the Town Manager form of government. He wanted it clear that he was not against the Town Manager form of government, but that was the only way to get rid of Glenn. He was one of the proponents to try to get the Town Manager position considered back when Rich Kinder was on the Board.

Town Manager's Report: Glenn referred to the proposed budget that he had given the Board before Christmas; there is a lot of new spending in the budget but none of that spending requires tax money. There is money to come out of reserve to help with the purchase of a new firetruck in Haverhill Corner; capital reserve

money to offset a road project; grant money to help with the Stonecrest culvert; and grant money to look at the sewer line that the Town inherited from the County. That is all new spending but not tax related and if this budget passes as it is now, that Town tax rate should still be down about 7 cents. Rick Ladd stated that the bulk of the tax rate paid does not come from the Town, the bulk of it comes from the school district. He referred to other towns that talk about education in their master plans; Haverhill's does not address that. He further stated that no one is going to locate in this town if the schools are mediocre or less. Our economic development is dependent on education and we have nothing in our master plan that addresses that at all; it relates to jobs and development. Ron Willoughby said he doesn't disagree but the larger issue is taxation. He has talked to a lot of people in this Town and the number of people that are struggling, especially the elderly, is big. Homes aren't selling, taxes are too high. Rick concurred. Wayne asked if people are concerned about the quality of education here, what would the timeline be to turn it around, what would it take. Rick said leadership, supervision. There are others in the state that have really turned around their rankings to produce students with the competencies that are needed. Ron Willoughby said that the per pupil cost in Haverhill is \$2,200 more than the state average; just simply throwing money at the school is not going to change it. Wayne said that it seems to be a bureaucratic problem, we are spending \$2,200 more per pupil and what are we getting for it; how is that money being spent? There was further discussion about reductions to student population and the costs to run buildings. The changes to education funding were also discussed. Howard Hatch asked if there was any progress with holding the Town meeting and the School meeting on the same day. There was a brief discussion regarding this. Lynn said that some of those felt it would be great to do that, she did not think it would have a great of an impact if both meetings were held on the same day. Wayne said that there is a big movement within the town spearheaded by Ron Willoughby and Peter Olander to get more people out to the town and school meetings. Rick said that he thinks people are really frustrated with the tax rates and he hopes that people recognize that it is their vote that will help lower the tax rate. Glenn said that the School Board hopes to come to the voters with another reduced budget and the voters need to attend to support the School Board to this end. Ron Willoughby thinks that it will be a different year with regard to attendance. There was more discussion about whether the combined meeting should be on a Saturday or a weeknight.

Pending (Old) Business:

- **Date of Town Meeting:** There was more discussion regarding the combining of the meetings. Mike Bonanno said that they have the Mountain Lakes annual meeting on a Saturday and it is always a packed house. There was discussion about the School Board not being able to find members of the public to serve on a budget committee. Rick Ladd made a motion to hold the annual business Town Meeting on a Saturday, seconded by Tom Friel. TM English provided the Board with RSA 39-2 a: which states that for the Town business meeting to be held on a Saturday in requires an action of the voters to allow that. Rick Ladd amended his motion, that if we can't move our business meeting to a Saturday this year, that a warrant article be on this year's ballot to be able to do this starting 2017; the amended motion was seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

New Business:

- **Investment Policy:** Lynn Wheeler made a motion to approve the Investment Policy as presented; the motion was seconded by Rick Ladd and carried unanimously.
- **Fund Balance Policy:** AA Lacaillade reviewed the DRA recommendation for fund balance and what we have typically done in the recent years. An overview of the available fund balance was provided. Tom Friel made a motion to approve the Fund Balance policy with a recommended 4% retention; the motion was seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.
- **Inter-fund transfers and carryovers:** There was a discussion regarding new State mandates for the animal kennel. Rick Ladd made a motion to approve the inter-fund transfers and carryovers as presented; the motion was seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.
- **Mildred Page Request:** The Board reviewed a request from Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall for a \$6,600 disbursement from the Mildred Page Fund. There are no other requests pending. Darwin Clogston questioned their need to have funds from this fund when the Town already gives them an allocation through the budget. It was clarified that this is a completely separate fund and can only be used for public buildings in Haverhill Corner. Rick Ladd made a motion to approve the disbursement;

seconded by Lynn Wheeler and carried unanimously.

Commission/Committee Reports: Tom Friel said that the Planning Board is currently a 7 member Board and with the lack of membership on that Board there is always a problem with quorum. The Planning Board discussed at their last meeting; and is supporting a warrant article to go from a 7 member to a 5 member Board. Tom Friel made a motion to place this warrant article on the ballot, which he later withdrew to address closer to when the final warrant is presented.

Correspondence: Chairman Fortier referred to correspondence from Geoffrey Sewake regarding two programs available to the Towns. One is a bite sized community evaluation program and the other highlights the interconnection and job impacts have on the local community. After a brief discussion about the immediate tasks in front them it was decided that this is not something that the Board wants to undertake at the current time.

Comments of the Public: None

Comments of the Town Manager/Administrative Assistant-Finance Officer: AA Lacaillade said that she had asked Woodsville Guaranty to give a quote for a tax anticipation note (TAN) for 2016; they have offered the TAN at 1.5%. Lynn made a motion to proceed with a TAN with WGSB at 1.5%; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Non-Public Session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(c):

Tom Friel made the motion to go into non-public session at 7:15; seconded by Lynn Wheeler. The Board was polled and all agreed to go into non-public session.

Rick Ladd made the motion to come out of non-public session at 8:07 pm; seconded by Tom Friel and all agreed. Public session reconvened at 8:09 pm. No motions made; no action taken, and minutes are to be sealed. All approved.

Rick Ladd made the motion to appoint Robert Maccini to fill the vacancy created by Robert Roudebush's resignation until Town Meeting in March; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

Comments of Selectboard Members: None

Ed Ballam asked where Bob Maccini resides to which was responded Haverhill Corner. Ed Ballam said that when Lynn Wheeler left the building during the non-public session she stated she had quit. Chairman Fortier said that they will wait to see if a letter of resignation is forthcoming.

Adjourn Meeting: Tom Friel made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Rick Ladd and all approved. Chairman Fortier adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Minutes transcribed by Jo Lacaillade