

**Town of Haverhill Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2020**

**Draft Subject to Review by the Board**

**Members of the Board Present:** Chair Darwin Clogston, Howard Hatch. Matt Bjelobrk, Tom Friel, Fred Garofalo

**Members of the Public Present:** Dawn Lavoie, Joe Longacre, Margo Longacre, Gary Hebert, Ralph Crosswell, Mary Patridge, Alex Nuti-de Biasi

**Town Employees Present:**

**Town Manager:** Brigitte Codling

**Financial Officer:** Jennifer Boucher

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval:** Matt would like to enter 3 warrant articles under new business.

**Motion 1:** Chair Clogston made a motion to accept the agenda with Matts additions. Fred seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Matt made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and the Selectboard work session. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Sign Manifest, Forms and Other Warrants:** Tom made a motion to sign manifest, forms, and other warrants. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Town Employee Appearances:**

**Ralph Crosswell, Airport Manager:** Chair Clogston asked Ralph to tell the board a little about himself and what his plans are for the Dean Memorial Airport. Ralph explained a bit of his history, including his extensive aviation and military background. Ralph has been busy getting the airport up to code and making it safe and compliant. He is now ready for auditors to come in, in March 2020. He would like to see the airport work more with the public and the school as well. The airport is looking to make the scholarship more like a contract to hold applicants accountable. Ralph will have people coming to the airport to do a static display during the first Airport Appreciation Day in the Spring of 2020. This is basically a show and tell for the helicopters. Ralph is under a bit of a microscope because of previous actions related to the airport, even though he was not involved with any of it. The next steps are to look at the airport hangar leases and make sure all of those are in compliance with state law.

**Scheduled Public Appearances:** None

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**Public Wanting to Address the Board:** None

**Pending (Old) Business:**

**Exemption for the Disabled – Warrant Article Revisit:** Matt explained the exemption is meant to mimic the update to the related law. If approved by the board, they would be putting this on the warrant as an article, and up for vote at the town meeting. The requirement to claim disability they will have to be established as disabled by social security standards. The warrant article goes into detail about what exactly the exemption is, and the income standards people have to meet in order to receive the exemption. The tax collector will be adding a line to the Tax Bill to clarify what exemptions the Town of Haverhill offers.

**Motion 4:** Matt made a motion to accept this warrant article. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Annual Fire Warden request to waive facilities fee:** March 19, 2020 from 6-9 PM. Chair Clogston read the correspondence request. Waiving the fee is a total of \$400. In the past they have always waived the fee, but it has never actually come before the board to be waived.

**Motion 5:** Howard made a motion to waive the fee. Matt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Warrant article – 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Animal Rescue Shelter:** The proposed Warrant Article would give the 2<sup>nd</sup> Change Animal Rescue an appropriation of \$1,500. They have done a lot of great work in the Town and this money would help them to continue doing so. They have never asked the Town for money before, but Matt stated he would like to see the Town support them. If accepted it goes before the Town for a vote.

**Motion 6:** Matt made a motion to accept the article. Tom seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Warrant Article – Increase the Disabled Veterans Property Exemption:** They would apply to Veteran's that are completely disabled. It would be a \$2000 exemption. They have done the most they could to help people so the Town would like to help them. If accepted it goes before the Town for a vote.

**Motion 7:** Tom made a motion to accept the article. Fred seconded the motion and it passed 4-0. Matt abstained from the vote.

**Warrant Article – Selectmen Stipend:** How much the Select Board gets for a stipend has not been raised in 20 years. It would raise from \$1,500 to \$3000 per selectman. Many other towns are considering increases for their selectmen stipends. There was a discussion as to how the board makes a motion for their own raises as it is a conflict of interest. It was

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decided that there was no way around the board needing to make a motion and the people will decide whether the board deserves a raise.

**Motion 8:** Matt made a motion to accept the article. Darwin seconded the motion. Howard wanted to know how it was broken down. Each Select Board would be allotted the same amount of \$3,000 annually. The motion was put to a vote and it passed 4-1.

**Town Manager's Report/Comments:** See attached.

**Comments:** Matt said that they precincts would actively give up their fire departments and the Town would take it up. This would create a completely different entity. So, it is not actually a merger in legal terms.

**Finance Officer's Report/Comments:** Deed that the Board needs to sign in front of the Town Clerk. One of the property owners that they tax deeded wanted to repurchase it and sent in the check, so the Board needs to sign it and it needs to be notarized.

**Commission/Committee Reports:**

**Planning Board:** Subdivision took place in Woodsville. There was a long discussion about the pit.

**Conservation Commission:** Meetings have changed to second Tuesdays at 7:00pm.

**Airport Commission:** Meetings have changed to second Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

**Correspondence:** None

**Comments of Select Board Members:**

Howard said that a representative of Knoxland farm has offered to fix the railroad bed that they may have damaged while hauling manure.

Chair Clogston said that Moderator Jay Holden is looking for Select Board members to man the Presidential Primaries on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> and to assist with counting ballots.

Chair Clogston said that there is a lot of writings in the paper lately about the Woodsville Road money. Many people have spoken to him about it. He is a little discouraged about it. In 1990 and 2004 [correction 2009] this was taken before the legislature, so the current Select Board is not doing anything new. This Board voted unanimously to pursue new legislation. The Town Manager administers the policies that the Select Board sets, she does not make them herself. Chair Clogston has email copies where Woodsville Commissioners have called the Town Manager many terrible names; such as "*useless, psychotic, and bimbo*". Chair Clogston apologized to the Town Manager for the Commissioners because it is disrespectful, stating she is just doing her job.

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The Board is looking to change the formula for the road money and one Precinct Commissioner stated to the Town Manager that “*no review of the process is needed, nor will it be tolerated*”. Different board members have been threatened and feel unsafe. One Select Board member needed an ambulance the previous week and did not feel safe calling for the Woodsville Ambulance and instead drove himself to the hospital. Darwin added that he had been threatened, “*you will not survive this*”. His wife has concerns about him riding his motorcycle this summer. The Select Board have met and tried, on many occasions over the past few months to negotiate with the Woodsville Precinct Commissioners and they have shown that they will not work with the Select Board or negotiate. Darwin ended by stating that he hoped “*the Woodsville Precinct Commissioners did not speak for all of Woodsville.*”

The Town Manager added that she had been threatened by the previous Town Manager Glenn English that he would “crucify” her if she attempted to change the Woodsville highway funding formula.

The Town Manager outlined other intimidation tactics used by Woodsville Commissioners have included; the “*Village of Woodsville will secede*” from the Town and that the Town only has use of the pool out of the “*graciousness*” of commissioners.

The Town Manager also mentioned that Woodsville Commissioners have threatened Howard’s new facility planned for development in North Haverhill, stating “*do they forget that Howard wants to hook up to the sewer?*”; a threat that borders on criminal.

**Non-Public Session (if necessary):**

**RSA 91-A:3, (II)(a)**

**Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

*Minutes Provided by Alex Collins*