

Town of Haverhill
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 26, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building

Select Board Present:

Chair Phil Blanchard; members Rod O’Shana, Joe Longacre, Kevin Knapp, and Carolyn Hofmann. A quorum was met.

Town Employees Present:

Brigitte Codling, Town Manager
Jennifer Boucher, Assistant Town Manager

Members of the Public Present:

Matthew Bjelobrk	Marilyn Blaisdell
Don Vallencourt	Lorraine Prescott
Kathleen Vaillancourt	Regis Roy
Margo Longacre	Dottie Long
Barbara Leete	Kathy Hatch
Robert Maccini	Jim Graham
Richard Guy	Dawn Lavoie
Barbara Bullard	Mike Lavoie
James Bullard	Renzo Chumbes
Darwin Clogston	Judy Harris
Howard Hatch	Gordy Harris
Tuesday Griffin	Vickie Wyman
Lynn Graham	Sarah Greenwood
Ron Willoughby	

Members of the Public Online:

Joanne Young
Ann Maccini
Jim McKinnon
Leslie Ramsay
Alex Nuti-de Biasi

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: J. Longacre moved to approve the Agenda as written. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Blanchard – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2: R. O'Shana moved to approve the Consent Agenda as written. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Blanchard – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 12, 2024, Select Board Budget Hearing

MOTION #3: C. Hofmann moved to approve the February 12, 2024, minutes of the Budget Hearing as written. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye, Blanchard – abstain. The motion passed 4-0-1.

February 13, 2024, Select Board SB2 Public Hearing

Change "Rover Newman" to "Roger Newman" in the online attendees.

MOTION #4: J. Longacre moved to approve the February 13, 2024, minutes of the SB2 Public Hearing as amended. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Hofmann – aye, Longacre – aye, Blanchard – abstain. The motion passed 4-0-1.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Woodsville Fire District

The Woodsville District Commissioners appeared before the Board for a discussion. The Commissioners requested there be no public comment and the Board agreed.

Kevin Shelton, Woodsville Fire District Administrator, provided background on the original request to merge the fire and highway districts. He said the District and the Town have been at odds for four years and there is an opportunity to move forward. Although a merger was

proposed, a plan was never agreed upon. He also reviewed the ideas of creating special districts, with the fire and highway departments being assessed individually, and a group of open-minded people meeting to discuss this situation and present a solution. He referred to SB 448 introduced by Senator Gray and suggested that he facilitate the discussion between the District and Town.

Chair Blanchard stressed the need to save taxpayers money. He agreed the issue needs to be addressed at the state level, as municipal control has not worked. He invited Senator Gray to address the Board.

Senator James Gray, Chairman NH Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Senator Gray appeared before the Board. He reviewed the background of SB 448 and noted that much is covered by RSA 52. He explained the current situation as it stands. He referred to the working group being held in Concord the following day, where this will be discussed by the involved parties. He noted the meeting will be recorded.

Ms. Hofmann asked for bullet points for SB 448 and Senator Gray reviewed the highlights of the bill.

Chair Blanchard asked for public comment.

Marilyn Blaisdell asked why any money needs to go to Woodsville roads, if they choose to have their own department. Senator Gray said he believes every resident has a responsibility to support the Town and the Town roads. He explained the formula involved in determining the cost of maintaining roads and the role assessed value plays. He stressed if the Town can come to an agreement, the state does not have to be involved.

B. Codling noted a point of contention has been that if there are two departments, sufficient capital infrastructure is needed to run two departments, including two sets of equipment that needs to be maintained. Senator Gray said if someone wants their own department, they should pay for it. He noted that for both sides to win, any plan must be fair to both sides.

Senator Gray described the governmental process for approving SB 448. He expressed his hope a consensus would be arrived at between the involved parties.

A resident asked how amendments can be added to bills at the last minute, referring to a recent situation. Senator Gray said he wrote the amendment, and followed the rules and published the information on the website. He urged the public to contact his office, if they need more information.

NON-PUBLIC MEETING

The Board entered non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) The dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such

employee, or the investigation of any charges against him or her, unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a public meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted.. P. Blanchard seconded the motion.

MOTION #5: K. Knapp moved to re-enter public session at 5:57 p.m. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Hofmann – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Longacre – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

MOTION #6: R. O'Shana moved to adjourn the meeting. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Blanchard – aye, Longacre – aye, Hoffman – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli