

Town of Haverhill
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building

Zoom link to the recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/yHcGqRHho4RecpmfaUI0qRVH0f2kJ5MVrrpIJxw1zGRHLCgqOMqslNWCOQmcMcUv.atYb12MURTG1AZxQ>

Passcode: TF7?ecps

Select Board Present:

Chair Rod O’Shana, Joe Longacre, Kevin Knapp, and Theresa Paige. A quorum was met.

Select Board Online:

Ron Hurlburt

Attendees In Person:

Gary Scruton, Janice Scruton, Margo Longacre, Darwin Clogston, Howard Hatch, Matt Bjelobrk, Marie Bjelobrk, Carolyn Hofmann, Vickie Wyman, Judy Harris, Gordy Harris, Regis Roy, Evelyn Elms, Dawn Lavoie, Melissa Gould, Erin Atkinson, Alex Nuti-de Biasi (Journal Opinion), Steve Wheeler

Attendees Online:

Mary Houde, Delcia Vinnacombe, Jessica Young, Joanne Young, Bridget Lanctot, Skip Gadwah, Roger Newman, Julie Harris

CALL TO ORDER

Chair O’Shana called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair O’Shana added Join the Hazmat Mutual Aid under New Business and Hub66 under Scheduled Appearances. Scheduled Appearances will be addressed before review of minutes.

MOTION #1: K. Knapp moved to approve the Agenda as amended. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #2: J. Longacre made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. K. Knapp seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Hub66

Michael and Andrea from Hub66 appeared before the Board to discuss the fiber optic internet lines being installed in a large portion of Haverhill. They hope to have customers online by September/October, but will continue to provide updates. They reviewed how homes will be connected to the fiber optic lines and how residents can sign up for service. They responded to questions about service interruption, who consumers can contact if there are service issues, and installation charges and fees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 29, 2024

MOTION #3: J. Longacre made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of July 29, 2024, as presented. T. Paige seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Petition Warrant Articles 27 and 28 Update

Chair O'Shana said they are working through the attorney and the Woodsville administrator to address this issue. The Board is operating under advice from the attorney.

Accountant Update

Greg Colby hopes to complete 2022 by the end of the week.

Tax Collector Audit

There are personnel issues in the Tax Department. The Board has reached out to Tammy Webb at Vachon Clukay & Company to authorize them to do a tax audit on the Tax Department. This is a routine process.

MOTION #4: K. Knapp made a motion to authorize Tammy Webb of Vachon Clukay & Company to conduct a tax audit. T. Paige seconded the motion.

Discussion: Chair O’Shana has received a list of documents needed to expedite the audit. R. Hurlburt asked if there was a cost estimate for this; Chair O’Shana said there is not. He added that this company has done these audits for the Town in the past.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O’Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Administrator Committee Update and Selection

The Board has decided there are no prerequisites to be on the committee; however, there should be one representative each from Pike, Mountain Lakes, Haverhill, North Haverhill, and Woodsville. The committee will review job applications for the Town Administrator and select five applicants for the Board to interview. The job is posted online and in local papers. Applications are due by August 31, 2024.

A resident asked why representatives are being chosen by drawing numbers out of a hat instead of selecting the best five for the positions. Chair O’Shana explained drawing numbers is objective; everyone has a different idea of who would be best for the positions.

The committee members chosen were:

Woodsville – Steve Robbins

North Haverhill – Julie Harris

Haverhill Corner – Dawn Lavoie

Mountain Lakes – Michelle Regan

East Haverhill/Pike – Darwin Clogston

Country Land Drive Culvert Update

Chair O’Shana reported that road crews are transferring water from one side of Country Land Drive to the other. They will install a 4-foot culvert on Thursday and Friday, August 15 and 16.

Telephone System Update

Chair O’Shana reported that Hub66 and Consolidated Communications are working together to finish the telephone system at the Town offices. He empathized with the frustration being experienced regarding the telephone system.

Hazmat Mutual Aid

This is similar to the mutual aid for Twin State. This will be funded through the Fire Department budget.

MOTION #5: J. Longacre made a motion to join the regional hazmat mutual aid group. T. Paige seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

NON-PUBLIC MEETING

The Board entered non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a, e): (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; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed by or against this board or any subdivision thereof, or by or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled.

MOTION #6: K. Knapp made a motion to close the public session and enter into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a,e). T. Paige seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Paige – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The public meeting was closed at 6:46 p.m.

The Board returned to public meeting.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Haggeli