

Town of Haverhill
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building

Zoom link to the recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/GGFkdIP6XOwXKNBGIsQfp6vP4TdmlErqbbNBUMi1XLH8Tu6TMcRyjPjfK9Ap4_GO.0BVj6TR8FJx5sEDj

Passcode: YQExA8b1

Select Board Present:

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

Attendees In Person:

Harv Keyes, Greg Mathieson, Darwin Clogston, Vickie Wyman, Aaron Palm, Gary Scruton, Janice Scruton, Nancy Grey, Rick Ladd, Dustin Vigneault, Dick Guy, Regis Roy, Dawn Lavoie, Ron Willoughby, Sylvia Holden, Melissa Gould, Kelley Wile, Howard Hatch, Matthew Bjelobrck, Don Kimball, Emily Loomis, Dottie Long, James Duffy, Alex Nuti-de Biasi (Journal Opinion), Kim Pinkham

Attendees Online:

(issues with the Zoom link)

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: J. Longacre moved to approve the Agenda 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.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #2: J. Longacre made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. R. O'Shana 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 2, 2024

Change the attendance to note that R. Hurlburt was at this meeting.

MOTION #3: R. O'Shana made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of August 2, 2024, as amended. 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.

August 12, 2024

MOTION #4: K. Knapp made a motion to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes of August 12, 2024, as written. 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.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

Rick Ladd - Private Well Testing

Rick Ladd appeared before the Board to describe the private well water testing program that is being offered by the DES. Haverhill is one of three communities the DES has chosen to conduct a workshop and water testing session, which will be held on October 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Clifford Memorial Building. He noted the presence of radon in the water in New Hampshire. He explained the process to have a water sample from a private well tested and shared contact information for Amy Hudnor at DES to set up the test.

Vickie Wyman explained where radon can be found and the associated health risks, and urged people to have their water tested.

NEW BUSINESS

Raffle Permit

MOTION #5: R. O'Shana made a motion to approve the request by the Fourth of July Committee for a raffle permit. 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.

Letter to Taxpayers from Assessor

Chair O'Shana noted that the Board said months ago that a reassessment would be done to square away the equalization ratio, which was not accurate. He pointed out the telephone number in the letter from the assessor and urged residents to call with any questions. He suggested residents visit KTRAppraisal.com for more information. He shared copies of a FAQ document from this website. He urged residents to read the letter and not to apply the current tax rate to the new assessed value.

Announce the Start of Haverhill Road Agent

Chair O'Shana announced that Tom Smith is the new Haverhill Road Agent and will be starting on September 3, 2024. He is the former Road Agent from Lyman, New Hampshire.

Announce the Advertisement of Tax Collector

Chair O'Shana said the job announcement for tax collector has been posted and invited residents to share the announcement.

OLD BUSINESS

Airport Awareness Day - September 7th

Airport Awareness Day will be on September 7, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Chair O'Shana invited the public to attend.

Hub66 Launch Package and Project Update

Chair O'Shana reported that Hub66 has received payment and the Town should be reimbursed by the grant in the next 14 days or so.

Town Administrator Position Update

Chair O'Shana reported they have received 17 applications for Town Administrator.

CORRESPONDENCE

Petition for Certification - New Bargaining Unit

Chair O'Shana reported that the State Employees Association has been in contact with the employees of Haverhill and they have submitted a request to petition for a new bargaining unit. The Board has been working on this and it will be discussed in a non-public session after the public meeting.

COMMISSION / COMMITTEE EX-OFFICIO REPORTS:

Ron Hurlburt – Conservation Commission

R. Hurlburt updated the Board on items being discussed by the Conservation Commission, including putting large tracts of land into a conservation easement and setting up a booth at a BMX competition on October 5 and 6th. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Joe Longacre – Planning Board

J. Longacre gave an update on projects being presented to the Planning Board.

Kevin Knapp – Parks & Recreation Commission

K. Knapp reported on upcoming recreation events.

Rod O'Shana – Airport Zoning Commission

Besides Airport Awareness Day, the Commission will meet on September 16th to discuss the land purchase at the south end of the airport, the safety area.

Joe Longacre - Zoning Board

J. Longacre said the Zoning Board had no reason to meet.

PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE SELECT BOARD REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA (3 minutes maximum)

Vickie Wyman asked when the tax rate will be set. Chair O'Shana said it will not be set this year. Tax bills will be based on the current assessment.

Vickie Wyman asked when the hiring committee will look at the Town Administrator applications. Chair O'Shana said this will not happen until after the position closes on August 31st. So, probably the first week of September.

A member of the public said he appreciated the way the Board selected the hiring committee members and shared a lesson he learned on the School Board about checking references. He suggested offering the job contingent on an investigation to make sure the references are real.

A member of the public asked when the new assessments will be available on the Town's website and Chair O'Shana said he would find out. She asked why the letters were sent out before the information was on the Town website. Chair O'Shana said the letter explains that the assessment can be questioned, so waiting to post them on the website avoids having to make corrections.

Darwin Clogston asked about the rain date for Airport Awareness Day and was told it is September 8th.

Darwin Clogston asked if the Select Board will meet with the hiring committee and when. Chair O'Shana said yes, but there is no date yet.

SELECT BOARD MEMBER FINAL COMMENTS

T. Paige reported the corner on Country Land Drive was completed. The guardrails will be replaced where they were.

Chair O'Shana noted that the Board is doing its best to do the right thing for the Town and get the Town on the right track. He thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting. He acknowledged there are questions about the assessment, but the Board does not have those answers. Members of the public asked if homes were visited as part of the assessment and said they did not believe all homes were visited. Chair O'Shana said to his understanding, they were. However, he will verify this.

NON-PUBLIC MEETING

The Board entered non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a, c, 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; (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; 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,c,e). 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.

The public meeting was closed at 6:43 p.m.

The Board returned to public meeting.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hanggeli