

**Town of Haverhill**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 25, 2024, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Robert E. Clifford Memorial Building**

**Select Board Present:**

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

**Attendees In Person:**

Heidi DeBrino, Kevin Shelton, Melissa Gould, Judy Harris, Gordon Harris, Ann Maccini, Robert Maccini, Dick Guy, Evelyn Elms, Matthew Bjelobrk, Alfred Holden, Greg Mathieson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair O’Shana called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

**MOTION #1:** K. Knapp made a motion to approve the Agenda as written. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Vote to Release Funds to Woodsville – Article 27 & 28**

**MOTION #2:** J. Longacre made a motion to release funds to Woodsville Fire District from Article 27 & 28 from the 2022 Town Meeting, according to the previously agreed payment schedule. R. Hurlburt seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** R. Hurlburt said that there appeared to be a misunderstanding stemming from the September 23, 2024, Selectboard meeting. The Board had no intention of burying or not making this payment. The Board wanted to do the appropriate due diligence on behalf of the citizens of the Town regarding a law that is on the books. The Board wants to conduct business legally and be transparent. Nothing is being hidden. The law has not been followed regarding a bond agreement; however, as the money has already been spent, he sees no benefit in trying to have a

bond agreement. He would like to see a bond agreement going forward. He is in favor of releasing the funds to Woodsville.

J. Longacre added that going forward, the Board will work with the Woodsville Fire District on a bond agreement that satisfies the law. They need to work together to create a unified document that satisfies Haverhill and Woodsville's issues. There will be ongoing dialogue regarding any monies owed to the District moving forward.

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

Chair O'Shana allowed public comment.

A member of the public thanked the Board for approving the payment. He asked if the Board had spoken with the District regarding the new payment schedule. Chair O'Shana clarified the attorneys are taking care of that.

Gordon Harris, Woodsville, asked if going forward, everything should be bonded. Chair O'Shana said it is supposed to be, according to the law. G. Harris asked if that applies to Haverhill as well as Woodsville, and Chair O'Shana clarified that the law specifically states Woodsville.

Kevin Shelton said the Board is mistaken on the bonding. Chair O'Shana said this would be a continuing conversation. K. Shelton expressed appreciation for the funds being released. He said taxpayer money was spent to get the Town of Haverhill to do this, which is disappointing. He looks forward to not spending that money in the future. Chair O'Shana noted Haverhill did not bring this forward. K. Shelton said this was not true; from January 16, 2022, the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager lobbied the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). He said when the Moderator declared the Articles passed, the Assistant Town Manager was emailing the DRA. R. Hurlburt noted the Staff has changed since that time and the Board has been trying to move forward as best as possible. This Board has not instituted any lawsuits and has not tried to not pay. The Board has tried to ensure everything being done is legal, which caused the delay.

Greg Mathieson asked for the specific amount being paid per this motion. Chair O'Shana said the amount is in the 2022 Annual Report. G. Mathieson asked about the payment schedule. Chair O'Shana said it is the amount being paid divided in half.

Robert Maccini, Haverhill Corner, asked if the Board is going to work collaboratively with Woodsville to try to put these issues behind them. Chair O'Shana said yes.

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

**MOTION #3:** K. Knapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. J. Longacre seconded the motion. **Voice Vote:** A roll call vote was taken. O'Shana – aye, Knapp – aye, Longacre – aye, Hurlburt – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Haggeli