

Town of Haverhill
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 PM
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St. Woodsville, NH 03785

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Blanchard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Select Board Attendance:

Chair Phil Blanchard; Vice Chair Joe Longacre; members Rod O’Shana, 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

In Person:

Judy Harris	Don Kimball
Gordy Harris	Margo Longacre
Shawn Bigelow	Bob St. Pierre
Dawn Lavoie	Dottie Long
Darwin Clogston	Don Hammond
Howard Hatch	Alex Nuti-de Biasi (<i>Journal Opinion</i>)

Online:

Joshua Aldrich
Joanne Young
Jessica Moody
Joe Driscoll
Skip Gadwah

ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Blanchard added items to the New Business and Correspondence agenda items.

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

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 3, 2023, Select Board Meeting Corrected Minutes

The date on the minutes was corrected from January 3, 2022, to January 3, 2023.

MOTION #3: C. Hofmann moved to approve the January 3, 2023, Select Board Meeting Corrected Minutes as amended. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

September 25, 2023, Select Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION #4: J. Longacre moved to approve the September 25, 2023, Select Board Meeting minutes as written. R. O'Shana seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

October 10, 2023, Select Board Meeting Minutes

Inviting the Commissioners was edited to read, "the Woodsville Fire District Commissioners."

MOTION #5: P. Blanchard moved to approve the October 12, 2023, Select Board Meeting minutes as amended. J. Longacre seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting Machine Discussion

The Board discussed purchasing electronic voting machines, the cost of which is included in the budget. B. Codling noted voting machines will make it easier to count the ballots, especially when numerous warrant articles are included. While only one machine is typically used, a second is calibrated as a backup. J. Longacre noted the Town Clerk is waiting for information from other Towns currently using these machines and would like to hear their opinions before making a decision.

MOTION #6: J. Longacre moved to table the discussion. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Haverhill Library Association and Court Street Arts Mildred Page Fund Request

The Board discussed requests for funding to upgrade the Library and the Court Street Arts buildings. There is \$5,280.79 remaining in the Mildred Page Fund that can be allocated.

MOTION #7: C. Hofmann moved to approve \$2,600 for the Haverhill Library and \$2,600 for the Court Street Arts building out of the Mildred Page Fund. P. Blanchard seconded the motion.
Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

Renaming the East End of Airport Road

The Board discussed renaming the east end of Airport Road to facilitate emergency response. B. Codling reached out to the residents who would be impacted by the name change for their opinions. The Board decided to rename it Aviation Drive.

MOTION #8: J. Longacre moved to rename the east end of Airport Road Aviation Drive. K. Knapp seconded the motion.
Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

TOWN MANAGER/ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER REPORT

There were no reports.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Conservation Commission:

C. Hofmann said a letter of support was sent to the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust (ACT) supporting their efforts to seek funding to protect the Moulton generational farm, which is 207 acres on Pinnacle Road in Franconia. The ACT suggested including a request for dues as well.

Planning Board

K. Knapp reported the next meeting will be held on October 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission

J. Longacre reported the next meeting is on November 1, 2023. He shared information on Halloween and ongoing programs.

Airport Zoning Commission

R. O'Shana reported the Commission discussed revamping the scholarship application form as well as the responsibilities for the recipient. The next meeting is November 8, 2023.

Zoning Board

There was no report.

Public Safety Facility Planning Committee

P. Blanchard reported the Committee will meet on November 1, 2023, and will discuss two responses to the request for quote.

CORRESPONDENCE

Response from Woodsville Fire District

P. Blanchard reported they reached out to the Commissioners, who requested waiting to schedule meetings until all Commissioners were available. This will be revisited at a later date.

Department of Labor Notice of Decision to Read

P. Blanchard read a notice of decision from the Department of Labor regarding a whistleblower report made by a former fireman, which was found to be invalid.

PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE SELECT BOARD REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Select Board.

SELECT BOARD SHOUT OUT

J. Longacre gave a shout out to the department heads for the excellent management of their budgets.

B. Codling also gave a shout out to the departments for managing their budgets. She reviewed the current situation in the state and the Town regarding the overwhelming requests for shelter and housing needs, and how it is impacting the Town's welfare budget. She explained the efforts being made to compel the Legislature to change laws and enact welfare reform in the state to assist Towns with handling these issues. She also said that residents from neighboring towns request help from Haverhill, and Haverhill is having difficulty obtaining reimbursement from those towns.

The Board discussed their ability to limit and budget for these expenses moving forward.

B. Codling also noted that healthcare premiums increased 17% in July, which was not considered in the budget, and will increase at least 13% next year. The Town will propose as part of the 2024 budget a premium share by employees to help address this cost.

C. Hofmann noted Lime Kiln Road is in excellent condition and commended the Highway Department for the recent grading work.

SELECT BOARD MEMBER FINAL COMMENTS

J. Longacre noted Dave Robinson will attend the November 20, 2023, Select Board meeting with a School Board update.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION #9: J. Longacre moved to close the public portion of the Select Board meeting and enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(1) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

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

The meeting room was closed at 6:59 p.m.

The meeting room was reopened at 7:44 p.m.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

MOTION #10: J. Longacre moved to seal the minutes. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURN MEETING

MOTION #11: K. Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. C. Hofmann seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All approved, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed unanimously.