

**Town of Haverhill
Select Board Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 6:00 PM
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785
Or on ZOOM**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Fred Garofalo, Chair.

Select Board Attendance: Matthew Bjelobrk (Here), Steve Robbins (Absent), Howard Hatch (Here), Mike Graham (Here), Fred Garofalo (Here). A quorum was met.

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager: Brigitte Codling

Assistant Town Manager: Jennifer Boucher

Members of the Public Present:

In Person

Mike Conrad

Guy Rouelle

Ralph Crosswell

Rick Henson

Melissa Roy

D. Arenson

Miguel Vasconcelos

Ezra Mann

Darwin Clogston

Susie Tann

Don Kimball

Cassie Moulton

Don and Kathleen Vaillancourt

Alex Nuti-de Baisi (*Journal Opinion*)

Online

Christina Hebert

Matthew Bjelobrk

Mary Patridge

Paul Hayes (*Caledonian Record*)

Tom Mangels

Robert Maccini

Jen Ricciardi (Dubois & King)

Dorothy Long

Dennis Cunningham

Winston Currier

Brad C.

Aprille Paradise

Mike Bonnano

Patty Hammond

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: Bjelobrk made the motion and Hatch seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2: Garofalo made the motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to approve the minutes from **September 27, 2021**, as amended.

- Graham provided a correction to Motion #6 on the Minutes from September 27– Graham stated that he abstained from that Roll Call Vote.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: None

TOWN EMPLOYEE APPEARANCES:

- **Elizabeth Elliot, Detective in Training (postponed)**
- **Matthew Yao, Detective in Training (postponed)**

PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- **Mike Conrad** offered an alternative plan or suggestion for the airport, which included installing drop gates on each side of Airport Road just like a train crossing with signs that flash “Aircraft Approaching.” Conrad stated that it would make many people in the Town happy. Town Manager Codling stated that she spoke with a staff member from the Bureau of Aviation and there are airports with gates and signals for vehicular traffic with the runway is being used; however, those airports have ground control, which Dean Memorial does not have. TM Codling spoke with Guy Rouelle, Dubois & King, and they will look at the proposal.
- **Howard Hatch** (speaking as a Town resident) stated that in 2016 he was issued a NHDOT driveway permit. Hatch continued that in 2018, he was issued a 6,000-gallon permit with the Woodsville wastewater system, and the issue permit said 3,000 gallons. Hatch continued that the process stalled, and he planned an on-property sewer system for the bakery, kitchen, and ice cream store. Hatch stated that he was told that if a sewer line passed within 150 feet of the source, they would be compelled to hook up. Haverhill, Woodsville, and the Hatch’s worked to find a solution with an engineer. Hatch continued that in 2021, an engineer firm committed to completing the work in July. Hatch continued that no work was done, and in September of this year a report was received from the engineering firm. Hatch noted that he paid the \$25,000 hook-up fee to the Town of Haverhill in June, and he has not been hooked up and requests his money back.

TM Codling responded stating that the engineering firm needed pressure tests from River Meadow Campground, which, it appears have not been completed. Codling stated that she spoke to the NHDES, the sewer pump operators, and the Woodsville Fire District. TM Codling asked how she can help further to complete the hook-up. TM Codling noted that from an agreement years ago, Woodsville oversees connections outside of their precinct.

Hatch noted that he is producing 320 gallons/day. Discussion continued. TM Codling stated that a new ordinance was passed last year that dictated new requirements. Discussion continued. TM Codling noted that one-half of the \$25,000 hook-up fee goes into a sewer reserve fund in Woodsville. Hatch stated he wished to bring this to the Board.

Garofalo stated that this situation is not good because new businesses cannot hook-up to the sewer system in Haverhill. TM Codling agreed and stated that she has been working on a feasibility of a wastewater treatment facility in North Haverhill. Discussion continued.

Hatch continued that he has never seen the hook-up requirement of being 50 feet of a sewer line. TM Codling stated that the number is in the RSAs. Discussion continued. Hatch is looking for information and to get the business going. Garofalo stated that the Select Board has no authority over the NH DES, so the regulations must be complied with. TM Codling addressed the engineering report and stated that she will reach out to the engineering firm for details. Boucher noted that getting all the parties in one room to discuss next steps might be helpful. Graham suggested working with the engineering firm first.

Hatch asked why the Town cannot have a list of steps for sewer hook-ups. TM Codling noted that all the agreements for out-of-district hook-ups determine that hook-ups to the Town's sewer line is to be fully coordinated by the property owner.

Garofalo stated that this needs to be resolved.

PENDING/OLD BUSINESS

Airport Runway Safety Alternative Decision

Garofalo stated that this discussion will be tabled because Robbins was unable to attend, and he has some concerns, and he wishes to speak to that.

MOTION #3: Bjelobrck made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to table the discussion of the Airport Runway Safety Alternative Decision until the next meeting.

- Graham asked if anyone in the audience came to speak to the Airport Runway issue.
- Garofalo stated that Robbins would not be able to hear the discussion, and he preferred to postpone the discussion until the next meeting.

Roll Call Vote Not Taken

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION #4: Garofalo made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to suspend the Select Board meeting and go into the **Public Hearing** at 6:47 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrck (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

Great River Hydro (GRH) Settlement / Public Benefit

Garofalo stated that the Town will be in receipt of funds. TM Codling stated that it is a settlement letter, and Great River Hydro has accepted the settlement, then the Select Board has to accept their letter. Boucher noted that it is for a 10-year period, and the funds come directly into the Town Administration office. Boucher continued that the tax bill this year is \$20,247 and, once this is approved, GRH will remit the balance of \$6,726. Hatch noted that today the land value is \$10,000/acre, and the value of feed taken away by the flooding today would be \$2,000/acre. Hatch stated the values were unheard when mentioned previously, and the values have changed drastically. Graham asked about the version of this settlement, which is a negotiation between lawyers for GRH, the Town, and the Select Board.

Tom Mangels asked if there were any conditions that would trigger renegotiations during the 10-year period. Boucher responded that the payments stay the same for 10 years, the appeals get dropped, and, at the 1-year mark, renegotiations can take place. Graham asked about the meaning of “pilot,” if it was payment in lieu of tax revenues, and Boucher concurred. TM Codling asked about readdressing the new land and feed values.

Boucher stated that the lawyers believe that this is the best settlement they could get.

MOTION #5: Garofalo made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to leave the **Public Hearing** at 6:54 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION #6: Garofalo made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to accept the Great River Hydro settlement agreement.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT / COMMENTS:

TM Codling stated that she has been focused on the 2022 budget. TM Codling stated that will a draft completed, and it will then go to Department Heads. TM Codling is hoping to have the budget complete by the first week in November to be passed along to the Board and to Jay Holden, although she has received no information about an unofficial community budget review group. TM Codling noted that there can be no Town resources expended for an unofficial budget group; however, Garofalo noted the Board will look at the report, if there is one produced and provided by an unofficial budget group. TM Codling noted that the Select Board’s Public Budget Hearing will be scheduled in February 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT / COMMENTS:

Boucher addressed the setting of the tax rate with the valuations now completed. Boucher noted that Tim Northcott, Assessor, had open phone days to speak with residents who had property assessing questions. Boucher stated that the database is now complete and is awaiting the utility assessor. Boucher stated that the auditors will be in the office during the last week in October to wrap up.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Conservation Commission** -- Garofalo passed because they are meeting next week.
- **Planning Board** – Hatch stated there was a lot of commotion at the last meeting.
- **Airport Zoning Commission** – Bjelobrk stated that the meeting is upcoming.
- **Fire Committee** – Graham stated that there was no meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Garofalo announced a trapping notice from the USDA Department of Agriculture with the 2020 trapping notice. TM Codling stated that the Town signed an agreement with the USDA last year allowing them to trap and bait for rabies. Garofalo noted they had no traps in Haverhill.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Hatch: None.

Bjelobrk: No comments.

Graham: None.

NONPUBLIC SESSION

Garofalo stated that the Nonpublic Session will be tabled until the next meeting.

ADJOURN

MOTION #6: Hatch made a motion and Garofalo seconded the motion adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ADJOURNED at 7:02 PM.

Transcribed by Joanna Bligh