

**Town of Haverhill
Select Board Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, January 18, 2022, at 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 6:00 PM by Fred Garofalo, Chair.

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

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager (TM): Brigitte Codling

Assistant Town Manager (ATM): Jennifer Boucher

Members of the Public Present:

In Person

Joe Longacre
Darwin Clogston

Alex Nuti-de Blasi (*Journal Opinion*)
Chris Cadreact

Online

Mike Bonanno
Tom Manages
Joanne Young
Mike Lavoie
Katie Williams
Connie Sanville
Dawn Lavoie
Marilyn Blaisdell
Guy Mitchell
Regis Roy
Delcia Vinnacombe

Cassie Moulton
Mary Patridge
Bob Long
Robert Clegg
Ron DeRosia
Ben Moulton
Mary Brooks
Gary Hebert
Dave Joslin
R. Newman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION #1: Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as written.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of the Last Meetings:

MOTION #2: Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to approve the minutes from January 3, 2022, January 18, and January 24.

Roll Call Vote: Mike Graham (Abstain), Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed with three Ayes and one Abstention.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES: None.

TOWN EMPLOYEE APPEARANCES: None.

PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Darwin Clogston: Clogston comments about the \$500 performance stipend for the Police Department discussed at the Budget Meeting on 1-24-22. Clogston asked Graham about his views on that stipend, and Graham replied that he did not hear the discussion because he was absent, but he is generally in favor of the Police Department budget.

PENDING/OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Final Warrant Discussion

TM Codling noted that the re-review of the Warrant articles by the Board includes changes, as follows:

- Article 18 is about the discontinuation of a section of Airport Road.
- The tax impact for public knowledge is now included.
- Article 20 is a lease/purchase of a Highway Department backhoe that was voted down, but a petitioned article come in that adds it back to the warrant.
- Articles 32 and 33 are the Woodsville Highway Department and Woodsville Fire Department petitioned articles, which are under review by the legal council and the DRA.
- A cost and service comparison for highway and fire service is included.
- The third Highway grader payment article was removed from the warrant.
- The Maintenance vehicle was changed by the Board to \$50,000.
- Article 13, the Purchase of a Highway Dump Truck, was changed to \$125,000.

Discussion

Hatch: Hatch discussed the cost of new versus used vehicles, and Graham noted insurance issues with using a private vehicle in the pursuit of Town business, so he approved the purchase of a new vehicle. Discussion continued.

Budget Advisory Committee

Garofalo provided the Board with the short history of the Committee from 2020. Garofalo commented that the Advisory Committee acted as accountants during their meeting negotiations, and the Town paid overtime for department heads to attend the meetings to defend their current and past budgets.

MOTION #3: Garofalo made the motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to strike Article 3, Appointment of an Advisory Budget Committee.

- Hatch provided a history of the Budget Committees in Haverhill and commented that, once the Town Manager-type of government was established, the Budget Committee is not useful anymore.
- Bjelobrk noted that budget committees are advisory only.
- Graham noted that the citizens' Advisory Budget Committee is a link between the voters, the Select Board, and Town Administration, and removing that link is "dangerous." Discussion continued.
- TM Codling noted that it is important for the public to attend the Budget Workshop, the Budget Hearing, and Town Meeting to discuss budget issues.

Roll Call Vote: Mike Graham (Nay), Matthew Bjelobrk (Nay), Howard Hatch (Nay), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion did not pass with three Nays and one Aye.

Garofalo stated that Article 3 will remain on the warrant.

Accept Grant from FM Global / Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

Garofalo read the grant criteria of \$2,500 for smoke alarms to fire departments. ATM Boucher noted that this grant is unanticipated revenue, and the Select Board needs to vote to accept the grant money.

MOTION #4: Garofalo made the motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to accept the grant funds for \$2,500 from Factory Mutual.

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

Resignation of Melinda Boutin, Tax Collector

Garofalo read Boutin's resignation letter as of February 10, 2022, and stated that she is willing to train whomever the Town hires for the Tax Collector position. M Codling stated that in April the NH Municipal Association offers training for tax collectors in regulations and tax systems.

MOTION #5: Garofalo made the motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to accept the resignation of Melinda Boutin, Tax Collector, with regrets and accept her denial of the Deputy Tax Collector position.

- Hatch asked if the financial officer's and the tax collector's positions could be a full-time job. TM Codling noted that the two positions may create a conflict of interest.
- Going forward in 2 or 3 years, TM Codling discussed the possibility of elected town clerk/tax collector and deputy town clerk/tax collector positions.

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

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT:

TM Codling noted that the focus of her office right now is on the budget and the warrants, the Town Report, and getting ready for Town Meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT / COMMENTS:

ATM Boucher stated that she is focusing on the budget hearing on Monday, updating revenues and calculating tax impacts, the Zoning Board of Adjustment “nonmeeting” with legal counsel, the Planning Board Master Plan and Subdivision Regulations, and the Welfare Department guidelines.

COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fred Garofalo (Conservation Commission): Garofalo noted there was no meeting.

Howard Hatch (Planning Board): Hatch stated that Donnie Hammond is back from medical leave and progress is being made with the Board running smoothly.

Matthew Bjelobrk (Airport Zoning Commission): Bjelobrk stated that there is a meeting coming up next week.

Matthew Bjelobrk (Zoning Board of Adjustment [ZBA]): Bjelobrk noted that a meeting is coming up tomorrow night.

Michael Graham (Fire Department): None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Garofalo read a letter from Robert Every of Franconia, NH, to TM Codling and Garofalo addressing the fire at French Pond Road and complimenting Chief Blanchard and his crew of the Haverhill Fire Department and their rapid response, which saved his house.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

Hatch: None.

Graham: Graham asked if the Select Board ex officio members in all the committees vote. Garofalo noted that they cannot chair the committees, but they can vote. ATM Boucher stated that in the Planning Board the ex officio is actually a member and votes.

Graham asked about absentee ballots. TM Codling responded that Graham needs to see the Town Clerk for an absentee ballot.

Bjelobrk: Bjelobrk noted that the Board needs to set up a schedule for covering the elections. Garofalo stated that he will be in attendance throughout the day and evening. TM Codling noted that the Town’s voting is from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Tuesday, March 8. Hatch stated that he will be there as much as possible. Bjelobrk will be away. Robbins passed a message along the he will be at the polls on and off.

Garofalo: None.

NONPUBIC SESSION: None.

ADJOURN

