

**Town of Haverhill
Select Board
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, February 27, 2023, at 6:00 PM
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785
Or on ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Steve Robbins called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Select Board Attendance: Kevin Knapp (Here), Katie Williams (Here), Vice Chair Steve Robbins (Here), and Mike Graham (Absent), A quorum was met.

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager (TM): Brigitte Codling (Absent)

Assistant Town Manager (ATM): Jennifer Boucher

Recording Clerk: Joanna Bligh

Members of the Public Present

In Person:

Vickie Wyman

Bob St. Pierre

Marilyn Blaisdell

Josh Aldrich

Dawn Lavoie

Darwin Clogston

Don J. Hammond

Zach Henson Julie Monroe

Shawn Bigelow

Daniel Shapiro

John J. Conti

Justin Boulter

Lynn Graham

Ed Ballam

Dottie Long

Howard Hatch

Matt Bjelobrck

Ales Nuti-de Biasi (*Journal Opinion*)

Online:

Joanne Young

Tom Mangals

Carolyn Hofmann

Renzo Chumbes

Mike Bonanno

Evelyn Elms

Regis Roy

Gary Hebert

Martha Cunningham

Carol Norcross

Gary Scruton

Bob Long

Justin Henson

Zack Henson

Guy Mitchell

Mary Brooks

Delcia Vinnacombe

Lorraine Prescott

R. Newman

Jim McKinnon

Ron DeRosia

Jessica Moody

Dennis Cunningham

Melin Boutin

Skip Gadwah

Michael Bjelobrck

Patty Hammond

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
AGENDA APPROVAL**

MOTION #1: Williams made the motion and Knapp seconded the motion to approve the AGENDA as amended.

- Vice Chair Robbins added under Correspondence a message from Ann Maccini.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Minutes of the Previous Meetings

MOTION #2: Williams made the motion and Vice Chair Robbins seconded the motion to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2023, Budget Public Hearing and the February 14, 2023, SB2 Public Hearing as written.

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

An audience member asked about the availability of the January 17th Select Board meeting minutes, which have not been posted on the Town’s website. Williams responded that the staff member who posts is on maternity leave, but she will email the Town Manager.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Matthew Bjelobrk

Bjelobrk addressed a NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) correspondence relating to the issue with the 2023 tax assessment. Vice Chair Robbins denied that the Board did not act unilaterally, and the lawyers and Councilor Warmington could confirm it. Vice Chair Robbins noted that funding for the two articles was included in the tax rate.

Bjelobrk addressed Williams and Knapp stating that they refused to be briefed by the Town’s attorney in preparation for the Woodsville negotiations, and that Knapp had direct interaction with the attorney when the Town Manager is the single point of contact with attorneys.

Bjelobrk addressed the haverhillbos@gmail “secret” Select Board email address for discussing setting the tax rate and the DRA communication. These communications, Bjelobrk stated, were meetings.

Bob St. Pierre

St. Pierre stated that he is following up on the Select Board meeting discussion of Merchant’s Lane and the contact between the Town and the State on this matter. Research by the Town Manager found that Merchant’s Lane was discontinued by the Town in an affirmative vote in 1969, and the Town has no responsibility to plow it. Vice Chair Robbins stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town and the State is in process

NEW BUSINESS

Richard Dorsett (Contract Assessor, KRT Appraisal, Haverhill, MA) Proposed Exemption Recommendations

Dorsett proposed nine recommendations for a combination of abatements, tax credits, and rebates, as follows:

- Map 417, Lot 73; Current Use Assessment application; to add an additional 7.6 acres to current use (RSA79-A); *Recommended*
- Map 206, Lot 40; Service-Connected Disability (RSA72:35) and Veterans Credit (RSA72:28); *Recommended*
- Map 421, Lot 2; Service-Connected Disability (RSA72:35); *Recommended*
- Map 207, Lot 97; Service-Connected Disability (RSA72:35) and Veterans Credit (RSA72:28); *Recommended*
- Map 421, Lot 81; Elderly Exemption; PA-33 form completed; *Recommended*
- Map 101, Lot 73; Abatement Request; change to EXEMPT; *Recommended*
- Map 101, Lot 109; Veterans Credit (RSA72:28); Does not qualify; *Denied*
- Map 410, Lot 46; Change in Current Use; Recent subdivision no longer qualifies property for Current Use; *Change Recommended*
- Map 102, Lot 5; Prorated Assessment Abatement; fire damage prevented use for 279 days/365 days; *Recommended*

MOTION #3: Vice Chair Robbins made the motion and Knapp seconded the motion to accept the recommendations of the Assessor for abatements, rebates, changes in land-use tax, or veteran credits for the above properties.

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

Election Day Logistics

Vice Chair Robbins stated that Moderator Gary Hebert asked for the Select Board members to be in attendance at the ballot voting all day **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM**. Members' schedule:

- Williams: All day
- Knapp: All day
- Graham: Fred Garofalo will replace Graham all day.
- Vice Chair Robbins: A pro tem will be found.

ATM Boucher noted that the Warrant is all set, and the ballot is complete. The time for the Town Meeting has to have a date certain per the DRA. Vice Chair Robbins determined **1:00 PM would be the start of Town Meeting on Saturday, March 18, 2023**. ATM Boucher noted that the Warrant was approved by the DRA, except for the two petitioned Woodsville articles, possibly because of the legal issues.

ATM Boucher noted that signatures are needed from the Board for the Warrant and the MS-636 (Town Budget). Bjelobrk suggested that red pens be used for the ballot counters, so that there would be no possibility of changing votes during counting.

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAAGER REPORT

Taxes Paid

ATM Boucher reported on the tax payments received at \$4.9M of \$5.7M due and that all precincts have been paid.

ATM Boucher reported that the NH Homeowners Assistance Fund (homehelpNH.org) will cover an additional \$40,000 in back taxes for eligible homeowners.

Election Equipment

ATM Boucher announced that there may be legislative support for state funding of election equipment.

Annual Report

ATM Boucher announced that the Annual Report is now complete and at the printers. The digital version is on the Town's website under Meeting Minutes/Town Reports. Thanks to Joanna Bligh for her work since November compiling the Annual Report.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Robbins asked about negative balances. Boulter replied that the negative balances do not show online at the tax kiosk, but are recorded in the files. ATM Boucher noted that credits can be looked at, as well, and letters can be written to those people who can either get refunds or apply the credit to future billing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Williams expressed interest in joining the Conservation Commission as ex officio, but she would need a change of day. Blaisdell, Conservation Commission member, suggested waiting until after the election for Commission placement.

Knapp (Planning Board): Knapp stated that the next meeting is Tuesday night with a lot line adjustment to address; a building permit to comment on; the Planning Board Handbook to review; and the Master Plan, Chapters 3 and 6, for review.

Vice Chair Robbins (Parks & Recreation Commission): Vice Chair Robbins reported that the Commission meets on Wednesday. Vice Chair Robbins listed the many programs and events planned by the Parks & Recreation Commission, such as the Daddy-Daughter Dance, which had over 100 people attending; corn hole; summer concerts; and more.

Graham (Airport Commission): Bjelobrk spoke for Graham who was absent noting that the Airport Commission has an upcoming meeting on the 8th.

Williams (Zoning Board of Adjustment and Ambulance Advisory Committee): Williams stated that there were no meetings.

