

**Town of Haverhill
Select Board Meeting
MINUTES
Monday, August 16, 2021, 6:00 PM
R. E. Clifford Memorial Building
65 South Court St.
Woodsville, NH 03785
Or on ZOOM**

The meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:00 PM by Fred Garofalo, Chair.

Town Employees Present:

Town Manager: Brigitte Codling
Assistant Town Manager: Jennifer Boucher
Financial Administrator: Karen Noyes
Transcriptionist: Joanna Bligh

Members of the Public Present:

In Person

Michael Roberts	Erin Atkinson
Richard Guy	Colton Grant
Ralph Crosswell	Darwin Clogston
Ron Willoughby	Darlene White
Bob Long	Fred White
Doug Dutile	Mike Bonnano
Marilyn Blaisdell	Janice Dube
Joe Longacre	Miguel Vasconcelos
Lorie Aldrich	Thomas Mayo
Paul Kidder	Glen Page
Mary Patridge	Sherri Sargent
Alex Nuti-de Biasi (<i>Journal Opinion</i>)	Dottie Long
Robert Wessman	Cindy Williams
Mark Johanson	Doug and Kathleen Vaillancourt
Robert Clegg	

Online [Participants who do not use their full names online are not included on this list.]

Regis Roy	Robert M.
Kristi Garofalo	Jennifer C.
M. Boutin	Polly Bonnano
Chris Cox	Mike Lavoie
Patty Hammond	Brad C.
D. and L. Gill	Monica Jay
Polly Marvin	B. Choate
April James	Kaylee Heathe
Paul Hayes	Ron DeRosia

Dawn Lavoie
Dennis C.
Amanda Fosse
Dave Joslin
Aprille P.
Janice T.

Mary B.
Mike D.
Caleb Hatch
Ezra Mann
Christina H.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE: Matthew Bjelobrck (Here), Howard Hatch (Here), Steve Robbins (Here), Mike Graham (Here), Fred Garofalo (Here). A quorum was met.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

- Garofalo added to the agenda under Correspondence a letter from Haverhill council.
- Garofalo added a nonpublic session related to Great River Hydro.

MOTION #1: Bjelobrck made the motion and Robbins seconded the motion to approve the Agenda as amended.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

- Graham requested a change on page 6 of the Minutes.
- Garofalo tabled the approval of the Minutes from 8-2-21 until the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

MOTION #2: Bjelobrck made the motion and Hatch seconded the motion to go into a Public Hearing at 6:10 PM.

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

PRESENTATION: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

[Complete slide presentation is available on the Town's website → Meeting Minutes → Select Board Minutes → 2021 Select Board Minutes](#)

Town Manager Codling provided a slide presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), how the municipal process for accepting State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFRF) funds, and more.

- TM Codling stated that \$350 billion in ARPA funds nationally, \$19.53 billion to non-entitlement units, and \$477,908 of that was made available to Haverhill based on population.
- On July 24, the precinct commissioners met to discuss the projects needed in their districts, and, on August 2, they attended the Select Board meeting to present their proposals. However, a public meeting is required to receive public comment for receipt

of unanticipated funds over \$10,000. Therefore, the Select Board must open a public hearing, deliberate again, and revote.

- TM Codling noted that the criteria for the use of recovery funds include public health; premium pay; revenue loss; and investment in water, sewer, or broadband.
- TM Codling held department head meetings to assess their needs, such as extraordinary costs being seen for shelter housing for the homeless in the Welfare Department budget.
- TM Codling stated, she had briefed the Select Board at three past Select Board meetings. Information had included Haverhill's eligibility for ARPA funds and stated that she had addressed the Town's 2020 & 2021 revenue replacement as the preferred option.
- TM Codling discussed other possible uses of the money to include the public MESH WiFi network (but 100MB required) as well as other projects that were considered that were determined to not meet the ARPA criteria. However, revenue loss, shelter housing, cruiser mobile data terminals, and the ambulance service contract are eligible costs.
- TM Codling and the Select Board received infrastructure proposals from the Village Districts for the use of ARPA funds: \$594,000 (Mt. Lakes), \$390,958 (Woodsville), and \$0.00 for North Haverhill and Haverhill Corner who did not submit proposals.
- TM Codling outlined the square miles of the Town, which is 52 square miles with 41.9 square miles not in a Village District. By population: 4,601 in Haverhill, 400 in Haverhill Corner, 662 in Mt. Lakes, 851 in Woodsville, 905 in North Haverhill, and 1,783 outside of the districts.
- TM Codling stated that if the Board was to approve granting districts SLFRF money, the Town could seek an emergency expenditure from fund balance from the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA), if used this would impact the health of our fund balance.
- TM Codling addressed the ARPA timeline: The selected projects must be in the portal by October 21, 2021; by December 31, 2024 funds must be obligated; and funds must have been spent by December 31, 2026 or the money must be returned.
- TM Codling noted that in observing what other towns (non-entitlement units) are doing, most non-entitlement units are pursuing the lost revenue option.
- The "Final Rule" on the use of ARPA - SLFRF funds are projected to come out in November or December, and TM Codling stated that it is recommended to not spend the money until the final rule comes out.
- TM Codling made recommendations to the districts to use their own CRF and to pursue other grants and funds available to the Districts for the District projects.

Questions and Answers

Ron Willoughby thanked TM Codling for putting on the slide presentation showing such great effort. [Applause]

Marilyn Blaisdell stated that after reviewing the Select Board vote at the last meeting before they had all the information and did not know the rules, they have let down the entire Town of Haverhill because they should have taken all the proposals under advisement and waited to be briefed on all information and until they had heard from residents before making a decision.

Alex Nuti-de Biasi asked to revisit the \$728,217.55 under projects and expenses and the timeframe of the estimated figures. *Karen Noyes* responded that they used two past years to compare what the revenue was and what the estimated revenue loss was.

Regis Roy stated that she appreciates what the Select Board was trying to do and thinks they are doing a marvelous job, and she complimented TM Codling on an excellent presentation.

Mark Johanson (Mt. Lakes) asked about the timeline for the receipt of guidance for ARPA. TM Codling stated that there was early guidance in May and then more guidance was released with an interim final rule in July. Johanson noted that districts were mentioned in the state's guidelines when they first came out. Johanson asked how much information was sent to the districts about the ARPA money. TM Codling stated she does not educate the Village Districts, however, at times does share information with them as needed. *Karen Noyes*, Financial Administrator reminded Mtn Lakes Commissioner Johanson that all Village Districts are members of the NH Municipal Association and also must make filings to the Dept of Revenue and receive the same email distributions as Town's do. They should read those emails, visit those websites, and educate themselves.

Miguel Vasconcelos asked if the Town Manager recommended covering lost revenue rather than funding infrastructure projects. TM Codling stated that the Town is not recommending even their own infrastructure projects and yes, that the Town Administration is recommending using the Lost Revenue option, as it is the option that comes with the least risk to the Town and the least administrative overhead to manage.

Bob Long (Mt. Lakes) stated that the presentation was good, and that he has talked to state representatives, and they expressed that the money should be going down to the districts and that infrastructure projects are eligible. Long stated that the intent of ARPA was to be a stimulus. Long stated that the Town would be using the ARPA money as a "pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to take care of budgetary problems." Long stated that he applauds the Select Board for their decision. Long stated that the Board had no input into the decisions. TM Codling responded that the facts are that she had discussed ARPA funding with the Board numerous times, and there were no motions made and no votes taken at those early meetings. Long stated that the distribution of funds will help the community overall, and he hopes they will take that same vote again. Long noted that from the beginning, it is undisputable that the districts and villages were involved. TM Codling noted that two meetings ago, Garofalo asked TM Codling to prepare the information behind the ARPA funding process for presentation to the Select Board. TM Codling stated that slide titled "Haverhill eligibility assessment ..." had already been presented to and discussed by the Board.

Blaisdell asked if the funds did not go to the Town of Haverhill (she noted that she is not a resident of a district), did that mean property taxes will increase because of the shortcomings. TM Codling replied that the administration would have to take money from other areas of the budget this year, and next year it would impact taxes. Blaisdell commented that the entire Town of Haverhill would pay for the shortcomings in the Town budget so that the districts could receive the majority of the ARPA money. TM Codling responded, Yes. Blaisdell noted that there would be higher taxes, which she would get no benefit from.

Darwin Clogston asked if money could go to wastewater systems that he has no access to, and he queried if that was legal. TM Codling responded that in the case of this specific unanticipated revenue (SLFRF money), it is legal because the program cited it as an eligible use. Also, the money is not tax money or utility rate money. However, generally water and wastewater users fund their own projects, but this is different.

Lorie Aldrich stated that in previous years when the Town had unexpected costs, money was moved around among departments, and in past years, the Police Department has supplied funds for other departments' costs. As a result, Aldrich continued, police cruisers and equipment are in need of maintenance or replacement. If the SLFRF are not used for MDTs as the TM cited then they will need to be funded with taxes next year, which will impact the tax burden in 2022 and 2023. TM Codling elaborated on the HPD vehicles and equipment in need of replacement, including cruisers in the fleet vehicle rotation, a cruiser upfit package, and cruiser mobile terminals will need to be in the budget next year.

Vasconcelos noted that for the infrastructure projects, eligibility must be checked, and risks will be assumed that the Town may not be able to cover. TM Codling noted that the eligibility could change with the final rule guidance, and, in the meantime, money must be held up on highway and maintenance projects to ensure we can cover the unavoidable expenses for things such as shelter housing. Vasconcelos noted that the Town Manager is recommending the lower-risk option.

Kathleen Vaillancourt (North Haverhill) asked if the August 2nd Select Board vote was binding. TM Codling and Garofalo responded, No. Vaillancourt stated that she hopes the Board will see the Town of Haverhill in its entirety before they decide. [Applause]

Bob Clegg asked if a project in a district was started and the rules changed, who would be responsible for the lost funds – the Town or the district. TM Codling responded that Town is ultimately responsible.

Janice Dube asked who will make the decision. TM Codling responded that the Board would make the decision.

Jim McKinnon (Head of Haverhill's Maintenance Department) commented that his department is underfunded and understaffed, and he noted that deferred maintenance becomes repairs, and repairs cost a lot. However, he stated he was torn because ultimately, he believes that district infrastructure does benefits the whole Town; at least in Woodsville because it is the economic hub of Haverhill. [Applause]

Long commented that he believes the projects submitted to the Town are eligible. Long stated that the districts have to be bonded for the projects to go forward. Long stated that he believes this fund was not designed to supplement the budget, but rather designed to stimulate the economy. TM Codling responded that the ARPA's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) are just what they are called "Fiscal Recovery Funds". TM Codling read from the ARPA (U.S. Dept. of Treasury):

"The American Rescue Plan Act provides \$350 billion dollars in emergency funding for State, Local, and Tribal governments to remedy the mismatch between rising costs and falling revenues."

TM Codling noted that this was the primary goal of this component (SLFRF) of the ARPA to mitigate the loss of revenue for local entities, and this was not allowed in the 2020 Cares Act. TM Codling discussed at length about the causes and impacts of municipal lost revenue.

Matt Bjelobrk asked about the webinars related to ARPA, and whether revenue loss was a topic of discussion. TM Codling responded, Yes it was the primary topic.

Karen Noyes commented on why the districts did not feel they knew what was happening. Noyes noted that as members of the N.H. Municipal Association (NHMA), the districts received emails and were in attendance at the same meetings she attended. Noyes read from the handouts from a webinar stating that the local governments do not *have to* transfer funds to the special purpose units (districts). Noyes listed the eligibility items as of June 8, 2021, as medical care, support for vulnerable populations to access medical and public health services, public communications, enhancement to healthcare capacity, PPE, nursing homes' services, homeless shelters, ventilation improvement, and more.

Jennifer Boucher commented that ARPA is not a stimulus bill. Boucher read from the Government Finance Officers Association (GOFA) guidance:

“Funding provided under ARPA provides a unique opportunity for local and state governments to make strategic investments [garbled] rebuilding reserves to enhance fiscal stability to cover operating shortfalls until economic conditions and operations improve.”

Jennifer Chase asked if there were any other plans to help municipalities recover lost revenue. Boucher replied that there is no other source of funds for municipal lost revenue that she knows of. TM Codling discussed in detail the Welfare Department with the huge demand for shelter housing and the rental assistance program.

Carolyn Hoffman (Pike) asked why the non-district parts of Haverhill are getting such a “puny” amount of the funding. Boucher explained the calculation the commissioners used to come up with 59%. The commissioners used the assessed valuation of the precincts versus the Town as a whole and used this percentage to distribute ARPA funding. Boucher stated that the non-precinct tax receipts came to 41.36% (\$197,686). Boucher added that those remaining funds will be used for the Town as a whole, which calculated to 17% for the non-district residents. Hoffman asked if that means the districts will be double dipping. Boucher responded, Yes. Long responded that this money is from federal government for stimulus with one-quarter for infrastructure projects. Boucher reiterated that, according to GOFA, there is no obligation for the Town to send the funds to the special purpose districts. TM Codling emphasized the numerous aspects of the recent ARPA funding, including the \$1,400 direct economic impact payments, the child tax credit, homeowners' assistance fund, small business credit, emergency rental assistance fund, and more.

Janice Dube asked what money collected from the districts is used for. TM Codling replied that each district has its own tax rate based on the cost of providing those services. Dube directed a comment to the Select Board stating that they were not out of line saying that they do not want to give money to people who have misused money in the past. [Applause]

Robert Clegg asked if any of the money could be used for the schools. *TM Codling* replied that this money is not eligible for schools. *Clegg* asked about the bonds required by the districts who access the ARPA funding for infrastructure projects. *TM Codling* stated that is one of the requirements the Town will put in place. *Clegg* asked if the Town intends to hire an administrator for the project funding. *TM Codling* noted that it is an option under the program.

Blaisdell commented that the tax rate now is high, and a higher tax rate will not encourage people to move here.

Noyes commented that each district has an undesignated reserve fund for these types of projects.

Long commented that the Town does not have the right to tell districts what to do with their funds. *Long* reiterated that this [infrastructure] is what the funds were designed for and should not supplement the budget.

Noyes noted that her intent was to notify the Select Board members that the districts have balances to fund these projects.

Garofalo stated that the Town receives \$238,954 a year for 2 years, and asked if the Board decides not to accept this money, how will the budget be affected. *TM Codling* responded that it would be like giving it away and would not be available for what we need it for.

MOTION #3: *Bjelobrk* made the motion and *Robbins* seconded the motion to come out of Public Hearing at 7:55 PM.

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

MOTION #4: *Bjelobrk* made the motion to accept the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding AND to use that funding as revenue replacement that benefits the whole Town of Haverhill.

- *Garofalo* stated that *Bjelobrk*'s motion is two motions in one.
- *Bjelobrk* rescinded the motion.

MOTION #5: *Bjelobrk* made the motion to accept the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. *Robbins* seconded the motion.

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

- *Garofalo* stated that we should wait for the final rule.
- *Bjelobrk* stated that he does not want the town to miss a deadline.
- *TM Codling* responded that October 31st is the date to input projects into the portal.

MOTION #6: *Bjelobrk* made the motion to use the funds for revenue replacement to benefit all taxpayers. *Garofalo* seconded the motion.

- *Graham* noted that it needs more study and they should wait to vote.

Roll Call Vote: *Matthew Bjelobrk* (Aye), *Mike Graham* (No), *Steve Robbins* (No), *Howard Hatch* (Aye), *Fred Garofalo* (No). The motion did not pass with three Nos and two Ayes.

- Robbins stated that the Town would continue to have projects.
- Mike Bonnano commented that the Board should accept the funds for the Town’s use, re-vote, or table the whole thing.

MOTION #7: Robbins made the motion to support the districts’ plans to distribute ARPA funds according to the plan presented [See slide #25 in American Rescue Plan presentation], and money allocated to projects that are found to be ineligible will revert back to the Town. Graham seconded the motion.

- Hatch spoke to some of the districts’ projects, such as the land to purchase for the water district and water meter replacements and stated that the projects within the districts should be funded by the users. [Applause]
- Graham stated that he tries to represent everyone in the Town.
- Blaisdell countered Graham’s statement.
- Garofalo gaveled the meeting to order.
- Graham stated that this will have a long-term benefit. Graham stated that ARPA money going to the budget is “done and gone.” In the plan for the precincts, roughly half of the money is going back to the Town as a whole. Graham stated that funding the precincts is a collaborative effort, which he will continue to support.
- Bjelobrck stated that the Town has a need and because of Article 2, the budget is on hold. Bjelobrck stated that, as Hatch stated, the projects in the districts should be paid for by the users. Bjelobrck noted that the state mandates that the Town pays for welfare. Bjelobrck noted that budget money comes in taxes from all of us.
- Robbins stated that this is more than just about money. Robbins stated that it is about allowing the districts to work together with the Town.
- Bjelobrck stated that he represents all the Town not just the districts.

Roll Call Vote: Mike Graham (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Matthew Bjelobrck (No), Howard Hatch (No), Fred Garofalo (Aye). The motion passed with three Ayes and two Nos.

- Garofalo provided his rationale for voting Aye and stated that he voted with reservations.
- There was vocal discord in the room among residents in attendance who were unhappy with the way the Select Board voted.

MOTION #8: Graham made the motion and Garofalo seconded to go into a 5-minute recess at 8:26 PM.

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

The Meeting reconvened at 8:36 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

**CRRSA Act (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act)
Dean Memorial Airport Grant Acceptance and Signing**

TM Codling noted that CRRSA Act is a \$9,000 grant through ARPA that goes directly to the airport and can be used for general operations. TM Codling noted that the Board needs to vote to give the Chair permission to sign the grant.

MOTION #9: Bjelobrk made the motion and Graham seconded to give Fred Garofalo, Chair, permission to sign the grant document.

- Graham stated that the airport is an important asset to the Town.

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

- TM Codling noted that Garofalo must sign the document in front of a notary, so he can go to the Town Clerk for signing.

PENDING / OLD BUSINESS: None.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: TM Codling noted that her report was minimal this week with the work on the ARPA presentation.

FINANCIAL REPORT / COMMENTS

- Boucher announced that the assessor is finalizing the Town's valuations and in 2 weeks the valuations will be brought before the Select Board for their approval.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Conservation Commission** -- Garofalo had no comments.
- **Planning and Zoning** – Hatch commented that the Master Plan cost was \$22,000, and Hatch brought up an addendum on the Master Plan contract about meetings on Zoom, about which the Planning Board unanimously disagreed. Hatch noted concern from the Planning Board to the Select Board about the cost. TM Codling responded that originally the North Country Council made an offer of \$10,000, which was to help the Planning Board do an update to the Master Plan.

TM Codling noted that it was determined that rather than a rewrite, we wanted a new Plan because it has been 12 years since the last Master Plan was prepared. The selected vendor who knows the Town and has done work for the Town previously is willing to do all the work for a complete preparation. Her request for Zoom meetings was because of Covid. TM Codling noted that she will not be able to start until the beginning of the year, so Covid infections may be minimized by then. Graham asked that during the process will the Planning Board be updated on how the rewrite will be accomplished. TM Codling responded in the affirmative and that the Planning Board are the ultimate decision-makers for the Master Plan. TM Codling noted that in the vendor's proposal, a Master Plan Committee will be established, and Hatch, as ex officio member, will be part of the process and can report to the Select Board.

- **Parks & Recreation** – Robbins noted that Sherri Sargent has posters everywhere with September events.
- **Airport Zoning Commission** – Bjelobrk stated that the Commission did not meet in August because of a lack of a quorum with many on vacation. Bjelobrk stated there will be no regularly scheduled meeting in August.
- **Fire Committee** – Graham asked TM Codling about the meeting with fire officials and county dispatch, which he did not attend and requested TM Codling update the Board. TM Codling noted that the meeting addressed concerns Chief Blanchard had related to dispatch.

TM Codling reported that Town Fire Chief Blanchard, herself as the Fire Chief’s supervisor, Tom Andross of Dispatch, and Grafton County Sheriff Jeff Stiegler as Tom’s supervisor, had originally been scheduled to meet. However, others were invited from Dispatch and the Town Administration office at the last minute. The meeting focused on fire call concerns and which stations were being toned out related to their established service areas. Specifically, that the North Haverhill Fire Station was not being called to locations within its service area.

Graham asked if dispatch decisions are related to the distance to the fire. TM Codling stated that service areas are set and that the Fire Chiefs work together to determine service areas. She further clarified that dispatch does not have the latitude to “decide” who gets called; the established service area decides which station gets toned out. The service areas are a list of addresses, if the address has an emergency then the station listed gets called.

TM Codling noted that there was a service area change discussed, based upon District boundaries. However, TM Codling noted that there were no changes made to the service areas as the Chiefs would need to negotiate that change themselves.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Garofalo announced a Block Grant Award letter announcing the award for Haverhill of \$170,756.08, which will come in four payments: July 2021, October 2021, January 2022, and April 2022. TM Codling noted that this is over \$10k lower than last year.
- Garofalo read a legal opinion letter from the Mitchell Group related to Haverhill Corner district establishing a Planning Board. Highlights of the letter are as follows:
 - TM Codling had inquired whether it is legal for the Haverhill Corner district to establish a planning board, and, if so, whether land-use applicants require approval from both planning boards.
 - The legal opinion stated “Yes and Yes” according to RSA 674:1, which allows legislative bodies, including districts, to establish planning boards; however, the Mitchell Group stated that applicants’ approvals from the Haverhill Corner Planning Board are not exempt from receiving, and still need approval from the Haverhill Planning Board.

- Gary Hebert sent in his resignation as Health Officer, and because Lorie Aldrich stepped into the role during Hebert's leave of absence last year, Hebert recommended Aldrich as the Select Board's choice as replacement Health Officer.

MOTION #10: Bjelobrk made the motion and Hatch seconded the motion to accept Gary Hebert's resignation as Health Officer for the Town of Haverhill.

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

MOTION #11: Bjelobrk made the motion and Hatch seconded the motion to appoint Lorie Aldrich as Health Officer for the Town of Haverhill.

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

The Board congratulated Aldrich on her appointment. [Applause]

- Graham received correspondence by email from the Town Moderator about the process of the new citizens' advisory budget committee. Graham stated that the Moderator would like a letter from the Town's council that the committee is legal and to include a list of restrictions. Bjelobrk noted that the committee was considered ad hoc and unsanctioned. TM Codling noted that the Town's council has given their opinion that the Town could not be involved, and the Town cannot spend any tax dollars on the process. Graham asked for a communication from the Town's council, and TM Codling responded that she doubted Town council will be willing to provide such feedback, but that she would try to obtain guidance from the Town's council.
- Graham read from a letter to the property owners in Town, which stated that property owners who are veterans receive a tax credit and were sent a letter requiring certain documents. Graham asked if there is a Town audit going on. Boucher replied that the Town is undergoing an assessment review of all the Town's property records, including exemptions, credits, and current use status.
- Bjelobrk asked a question about an email correspondence directly between Graham and one of the Town's attorneys about the ARPA Public Hearing. TM Codling replied that Joe Driscoll is a lawyer for the Town. Bjelobrk noted that in the Select Board rules, TM Codling is the single point of contact to the Town's attorneys because collectively the Board makes all decisions together and that unilaterally each of the members has no power. Bjelobrk stated was surprised to see an email directed to Graham only, who had engaged an attorney with billable time without a vote of the entire Select Board. Graham stated that he understood the rule, would not do that again, and he is willing personally pay for the attorney's time.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:

- Bjelobrk commented that tonight the Board again failed the people of Haverhill because the Board did not represent all the taxpayers in the Town fairly and equally, and he stated that it [the vote] was a mistake. Bjelobrk noted that the Board should treat every resident equally.

NONPUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION #12: Bjelobrck made the motion and Robbins seconded the motion to adjourn the public meeting and reconvene in a Nonpublic Session according to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) at 9:07 PM.

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

The Board came out of NONPUBLIC SESSION at 9:20 PM.

MOTION #13: Robbins made a motion and Bjelobrck seconded the motion to seal the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session because it is determined that divulgence of this information would render a proposed action ineffective.

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

Transcribed by Joanna Bligh