

**Town of Haverhill  
Select Board Meeting  
MINUTES  
Monday, September 13, 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

**Members of the Public Present:**

***In Person***

Chris Higgins

Mark Locke

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

Laraine King

Connie Sanville

Robert Maccini

Joanne Young

Mike Bonanno

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

- Garofalo stated that are two additions to the agenda under New Business:
  - Department Head credit card increases
  - Mask-covering policy

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION #2:** Bjelobrck made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to approve the minutes from **August 2, 2021**, and **August 30, 2021**, as written.

- Hatch noted a correction in the August 30 minutes.

- Bjelobrk amended the Motion.

**MOTION #2A:** Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to approve the minutes from **August 2, 2021**, as written and the **August 30, 2021**, as amended.

**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**

### **Mark Locke, Office Assistant**

Boucher outlined Locke's almost one-year successful temporary, part-time employment with the Town Administration, and his current project of working on veteran's and elderly property tax credits in preparation for the DRA audit. Locke discussed his 15-year residency in Haverhill. Town Manager (TM) Codling noted Locke's work sorting and digitizing documents for Administration and for the Police Department.

Hatch asked about digitizing all Town documents, and TM Codling noted that is the goal. TM Codling discussed the historical documents they found, including old land records and other documents from as early as the 1800s; however, the Town Charter has not been located.

The Board members thanked Locke for attending. TM Codling noted that Locke will stay for the Nonpublic Session discussing veterans' tax credits.

## **PUBLIC WANTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

### **Chris Higgins, Building Permit Application**

Higgins stated that he submitted a Building Permit application for County Road and has heard nothing. Boucher noted that the Town needs the State sewer permit approval before the permit can be issued. Higgins stated that is a prefab shed he wants to put on the property, and Boucher understood that it was a structure for occupancy. Higgins responded that the shed is arriving in October and the house will be built next spring.

TM Codling noted that a driveway permit was applied for, but cannot be issued, which includes an e911 address, until the maple trees are cut. TM Codling also stated that Higgins will need to return to the office to finish filling out the Intent-to-Cut permit for the number of white pine trees that will need to be cut for the building lot.

The Board and Administration thanked Higgins for attending.

**PENDING OLD BUSINESS:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Department Head Credit Card Increases**

TM Codling presented to the Board the explanation of credit card uses and the \$500 credit limit among the department heads, other than Administration and the Rec Department. TM Codling noted that all department heads are responsible for their budgets and expenditures, but this will

ease the burden of having to use an Administration credit card for department purchases over \$500. Hatch asked about the 3% fees when using credit cards. Boucher responded that the Town prefers an invoice from a company, and the last resort is using the credit card.

Hatch asked about how many invoices are coming by email. Boucher responded that Diane Thompson will know the exact number, but her guess is a large number.

Hatch discussed a specific bill that drew funds from multiple sources, and Boucher and TM Codling addressed that as part of a maintenance department expenditure that had different codes for each building.

Bjelobrk addressed purchasing policies and suggested having a policy outlining when to use the card.

TM Codling stated that the Town's bank requires a vote from the Board that is memorialized in the meeting Minutes because an extension of credit is a responsibility of the Select Board.

Boucher noted that three departments (Maintenance, Highway, and Police) are requesting a credit limit increase to \$3,000.

**MOTION #3:** Robbins made the motion and Bjelobrk seconded the motion to approve the increase in the credit limit for the Maintenance, Highway, and Police Departments to \$3,000.

- Hatch addressed the sales tax on the loader broom because it was picked up in Vermont. Discussion ensued. Boucher and TM Codling noted that delivering from Vermont is often much less than the sales tax.

**Roll Call Vote:** Matthew Bjelobrk (Aye), Steve Robbins (Aye), Howard Hatch (Aye), Mike Graham (Did not respond), Fred Garofalo (Did not respond). The motion passed with three Ayes and two nonresponses.

### **Mask-Covering Policy**

Garofalo read the FAA Executive Order #1399 related to Covid-19 and domestic and international travel. Garofalo stated that the Town of Haverhill established this as a policy, which requires that masks to be worn at all times at the Dean Memorial Airport. Garofalo continued that the candidates exempt from mask wearing include children under the age of 2 or persons with disabilities who cannot wear masks.

**MOTION #4:** Robbins made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to approve the mask policy, FAA Executive Order #1399, for the Dean Memorial Airport.

- TM Codling noted that this policy is ordered by the FAA and mandated for all airports, but applies to indoor spaces; however, if the Board does not approve this policy, the Town will lose all grant funding related to the airport.

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

### **Federal Vaccinations and Testing Policy**

Robbins stated that because the EMS services accepts Medicaid and Medicare, the service will have to comply with the federal mandates. TM Codling noted that she has not heard anything on this topic yet.

### **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT / COMMENTS**

TM Codling presented her report, as follows:

#### **Dean Memorial Airport Safety Study:**

There will be a public hearing on September 27, at 5:30 PM, and the Dubois & King consultant Guy Rouelle will present the final report for the Dean Memorial Airport runway safety study. The Select Board will take public comment, and TM Codling noted that the goal of that meeting is for the Select Board to decide on which one of the five options to approve. After which, the process of producing a construction project will begin.

#### **Grafton County Broadband Committee:**

The Grafton County Broadband Committee has selected EX<sup>2</sup> Technology (<https://www.ex2technology.com/>) to design and implement the “middle mile” Grafton County broadband build-out project. The committee hosted two informational sessions in coordination with Drummond and Woodsum Law offices on September 7 and 9. One session was held at the Clifford Memorial Building and was well attended by members of our neighboring communities. The Grafton County Broadband Committee has identified the following steps that towns should begin now:

1. Convene a local (5 member) Broadband Committee.
2. Budget funds for use by the Broadband Committee.
3. Create a Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for Broadband.
4. Appropriate via Warrant Article funds to be placed in the CRF.
5. Acquire grant writing and grant management services (NCIC, St. Johnsbury).
6. Begin planning for a local broadband “last mile” build out.
7. Start building relationships with local partners.

#### **Economic Revitalization Zones:**

There are two areas of Haverhill that have been designated as Economic Revitalization Zones (ERZ) by State of NH standards -- the Village District of Woodsville and the Village District of North Haverhill. Businesses within a designated ERZ who make capital investments into their businesses that resulted in the creation of at least one new full-time job in the last 12 months could qualify for a tax credit. The tax credit would reduce their business profits tax and business enterprise tax when filing their next tax return. For more information, business owners in these two districts should visit the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs website. TM Codling noted that she will send letters to the districts with this information.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste Event:**

This year’s waste collection event will be a Household Hazardous Waste Event on September 26 from 9 AM to 12 PM at the Center Haverhill Armory. This is not a free event, but there is a significantly reduced cost to dispose of household hazardous waste, such as motor oil and oil-based paints. There are strict COVID-19 protocols in place for this event so please visit the Town’s website under Announcements for more details.

**Public WiFi in Woodsville Project:**

The Haverhill Public Mesh Wi-Fi Network is now live. We currently have three hosts: Vickie Wyman of The Atlantic Real Estate Network; Robert Welsh of Welsh Reality Apartments; and Mike & Brie Choate of Mike's Garage in Woodsville Village. We are looking for more hosts along Central Street to complete a contiguous network. TM Codling noted that there has been a lot of good feedback from residents.

**Woodsville Lawsuit:**

The Woodsville Fire District filed a lawsuit against the Town of Haverhill in Grafton Superior Court in 2019 related to Town funding of the Woodsville Highway Department. The Woodsville Fire District filed for Declaratory Judgement in early June and the Town responded on Monday, June 28th. The Town requested that with the passing of SB26 that both parties agree to drop the case, but the Woodsville District Commissioners declined.

The court hearing for the original lawsuit scheduled to go to trial this month. However, due to the pending Declaratory Judgement motion made by the Woodsville Village District, the court hearing for the original lawsuit has now been "continued" or postponed until December 2021. All filings are public record.

**American Rescue Plan Act – State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:**

Letters were sent to the Districts to formally let them know the Select Board reconsidered the previous vote and revoted not to distribute any of the Town's ARPA-SLFRF to the Districts. The letter also outlined available grant options for their water and wastewater projects.

**North Haverhill Crosswalks:**

The Town has sent its formal request for approval to install five new pedestrian crossings along Route 10 in North Haverhill Village. The State will examine each site and report on their findings. The sidewalks will need to be ADA accessible and pedestrian signs and crosswalk markings need to be installed. Street lighting may be included. The locations have tentatively been identified, one near the entrance to River Meadow Campground where the sidewalk ends, one near Aldrich's Store, one near the Town Administration Office, one near the Fire Station, and one near the Post Office. The installation of one crosswalk (depending upon elements needed at the location) range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 each.

Robbins mentioned a crosswalk at Beckett School that has not been painted for many years. Discussion continued.

**Mailbox Relocation Requests:**

After concerns were raised about the safety of residents due to the location of their mailboxes along Route 10 in North Haverhill, the Town submitted a request asking for permission from the USPS to work with twenty-four (24) homeowners to relocate their mailboxes to the side of the street their homes sit upon.

Hatch noted that some residents expressed that the No. Haverhill Commissioners should be focusing on this issue. Bjelobrck noted that in speaking with the No. Haverhill postmaster, the Town needs to write a request letter, but the postmaster said the route is predetermined and will probably not change. Discussion continued.

**White Mountain Drive:**

The Town entered into an agreement with the Mountain Lakes District to widen and make other improvements to and along White Mountain Drive (Killer Hill). The purpose being to allow for year-round, two-way traffic on, which will provide for better traffic flow around the lake and will allow for development along the roadway, which had been requested by a property owner who wanted to build. This work has been rescheduled and will take place the week of September 19. It is expected that work to reconfigure the intersection of Lake Side Drive, Vernon Drive, and White Mountain Drive will take place September 21 and 22. During that time, the intersection will be closed. The precinct and the landowners have been notified.

**Open Public Discussion:**

The next open public discussion will take place on Saturday October 16, 2021, at 2:00 PM at the Robert E Clifford Memorial Building, 65 S. Court St, Woodsville, NH 03785. Over 100 Haverhill residents attended the last Open Public Discussion and it proved to be a wonderful forum for residents to ask questions, offer comments, and discuss items of public interest with the Select Board, Town Administration, and their neighbors. This event will again be moderated by Doug Dutile and will follow the same format as the Open Public Discussion the Town hosted prior to the 2020 Town Meeting. Once a subject comes up, it will be exhausted before we will move onto another subject.

Discussion continued about the Select Board involvement in the Open Public Discussion format.

**Grant Writing & Grant Management Services:**

The Town put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for grant writing and grant management services that closed on Thursday September 9, and we will be formalizing selection soon. Having a Grants Management firm NCIS contracted will assist us with planning, identifying, applying, and managing grant opportunities. With the highly anticipated influx of grant funding coming available through federal, state, and private entities, the Town of Haverhill needs to be ready to take advantage of these programs and acquire as many grant dollars as possible.

NCIS charges an hourly rate, but occasionally, the grant pays for the consulting fees.

TM Codling provided the Department Head Reports, as follows:

- **The Tax Collector** is reviewing her list of 2018 outstanding taxes and making phone calls to property owners stressing that if they pay their outstanding taxes, they can avoid the issuance of a tax deed notice, which resulted in some payments.
- **The Dean Memorial Airport** staff and the Airport Commission will host Airport Awareness Day on September 25. The updated CIP was reviewed and approved by NH BOA. The Safety Study has concluded, and a public hearing scheduled for September 27.
- **The Highway Dept** is working on preventative paving will take place this week, work along “Killer Hill” will take place the week of September 19, and work on Allagash Road has been scheduled for the week of September 27. The crew continues grading, roadside mowing, ditching, and other related work. With the recent weather events there has been a lot of tree clearing from roadways and cleanup of debris from roadways due to heavy rains.
- **The Maintenance Dept** has been working on regular maintenance as well as special projects such as troubleshooting plumbing issues at JRM building. Managing the work of

hired contractors, repairs needed at the Sewer Pump Station, and assisting with the set up and break down for meetings and events.

Graham asked what the Town's policy is on bidding out on contracts. TM Codling responded that the bidding cycles vary, but there are some ongoing maintenance agreements like for the pump station service.

- **The Welfare Dept** is working on updates to the Welfare Guidelines, monitoring, tracking, and managing active cases. Bjelobrk asked if the Town was a member of the Association of Welfare Directors, and TM Codling responded, "Yes." Boucher explained a welfare online system, which the Town is a member of. Hatch discussed the Town of Haverhill-generated bills from the shelter motels. Boucher noted that because of confidentiality, direct billing is not possible. Graham asked how money coming in from Tri-County CAP is captured. Boucher responded that the CAP money does not come to the Town, it is paid directly to the businesses. Discussion continued.
- **Emergency Management** Director Codling has been sitting in on Emergency Operations Center (EOC) calls and keeping apprised of COVID-19 and weather-related events.
- The **Public Health** officer is still working on the vacated house in Woodsville, while addressing other concerns around Haverhill.
- The **Parks & Recreation Dept** is hosting a Cornhole Tournament on Sunday September 19, at 10:00 AM at Railroad Park. For more information, contact Mona Sanville. Concerts in the Park series are wrapping up. Many programs are continuing, including senior stretch, drums alive, and other regularly scheduled programming. Robbins asked about the Cornhole Tournament stating that it is really a drinking game, and there is a no-alcohol policy in the parks.

**MOTION #5:** Robbins made the motion and Graham seconded the motion to waive the ban on alcohol at Railroad Park during the Parks & Rec Department Cornhole Tournament on a BYOB basis.

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

- **Town Fire Department** announced that Richard Morris is retiring from the Haverhill Corner Fire Department, and Keith Charpentier has been appointed as the Haverhill Corner Assistant Chief. In coordination with Chief Phillip Blanchard, Keith has started reassessing the Haverhill Corner fire service roster and will be soliciting to reappoint officer positions for the Haverhill Corner Station.
- **Police Department report:**
  - Two certified officers have been hired as Detectives-in-Training.
  - Budget compilation underway.
  - Participated in three 9/11 ceremonies on September 11th.
  - CRASE course completed, second class set for September 23, 2021.
  - Ground fighting mat received and ready to conduct training.
  - The minor remodeling of the PD main entrance / waiting room is underway.
  - Still awaiting electrical for the Temporary Hold Dog Trailer.
  - Administrative Assistant DeFosse completed evidence management training and is preparing to test for certification.
  - Continued transfer of hard copy reports to digital format.
  - Record cleanup is underway (seeking mobile shredding service).

- New uniforms and gear nearing conclusion.
- ACO training for Officer Brown scheduled in September.
- Seeking new training opportunities for Cpl. DiDomenico.
- SOP rewrites continue.
- Officer Mitchell signed up for two firearm classes better preparing him for firearm instruction.
- Department ground fighting and de-escalation training set in lieu of Gracie GST.
- Still seeking Officer candidates and Deputy ACO candidate.

TM Codling provided this tribute to 9/11 from Chief David Appleby:

*September 11, 2001 (9/11) Tribute*  
By Chief David Appleby

*On September 11, 2001 (9/11), 19 suicide bombers linked with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four airliners and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two planes were flown into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. A third plane hit the Pentagon just outside of Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed into a field in Pennsylvania.*

*20 years ago, this was a blatant horrific act fundamentally answering the question of why we fight. What you can ask yourself today is why do I fight and what do I fight for. As Law Enforcement Officers we can make a meaningful impact in our communities and help improve their quality of life while earning a degree of pride for the career you have chosen and the job you do.*

*Honor never grows old, and honor rejoices the heart of age. It does so because honor is, finally, about defending those noble and worthy things that deserve defending, even if it comes at a high cost. In our time, that may mean social disapproval, public scorn, hardship, persecution, or as always, even death itself. The question remains: What is worth defending? What is worth dying for? What is worth living for? ~ William J. Bennett - in a lecture to the United States Naval Academy November 24, 1997*

*Because you have chosen to be a first responder, a police officer, and sheepdog, and because of your capacity to protect and fight out of a deep love for your fellow citizens, your community, and our way of life, you have chosen to walk the hero's path. With that decision comes the responsibility to be the role model for moral and ethical living, presenting the best qualities of what a partner, teammate, spouse, and citizens have to offer.*

*Understand that there is nothing morally superior about being a sheepdog; it is what you choose to be, so be it, walk the walk in all aspects of your life, not just while in uniform.*

*America is not guaranteed to go on forever. Never forget how magnificent our country is because of the principles of our great nation, what we stand for, and why we fight.*

**FINANCIAL REPORT / COMMENTS:**

- Boucher stated that she and Locke have been working on the veterans' tax credits, which will be discussed in nonpublic session.
- Tim Northcott, Assessor, is providing open phone hours from Thursday through Friday of this week for residents to discuss property assessments.
- Boucher and TM Codling will be attending the Budget and Finance Conference later in the week in Portsmouth, NH.



## **COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Conservation Commission** -- Garofalo announced that the Commission will be meeting on September 20.
- **Planning and Zoning** – The Planning Board meets later in the month.
- **Parks & Recreation** – Robbins noted that Sargent has a lot going on – haunted trail for Halloween.
- **Airport Zoning Commission** – Bjelobrk stated that September 25 is the Airport Awareness event, and the rain date is the 26th. Bjelobrk noted that Tann, Batchelder, Crosswell, and Vasconcelos have done a great job getting the event together. It has been a team effort.
- **Fire Committee** – Graham stated “None.”

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

## **COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Hatch road around Town on a Saturday afternoon and noticed how many people were having a good time, including in the past two motorcycle groups. Hatch stated that it was a good week to read Robbin’s speech and see the Town. (see speech attached)
- TM Codling stated that Don and Kathleen Vaillancourt approached TM Codling to say that they work with an organization called Connecting Consciousness with national and state chapters. The Vaillancourt’s stated that the goal of the organization is develop humanitarian projects within communities, such as a center for families and especially kindergarteners for sharing, caring, and developing social skills. TM Codling continued that the organization also would like to sponsor a re-education center; a camp for youth; housing, re-employment, and rehabilitation for the homeless; a center for substance abuse rehabilitation; and a basic needs network that provides resources for the residents who need help. Discussion ensued. Robbins shared situations relating to substance abuse he has experienced on the EMS squad and about how their grant is expiring soon. TM Codling noted that at the next meeting of the Ambulance Service, the Vaillancourt’s could possibly attend.

## **NONPUBLIC SESSION:**

**MOTION #6:** Bjelobrk made the motion and Garofalo seconded the motion to adjourn the public meeting at 7:20 PM and reconvene at 7:25 in a Nonpublic Session according to RSA 91-A:3, II(c).

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

## **The Board came out of NONPUBLIC SESSION at 8:15 PM.**

**MOTION #7:** Bjelobrk made a motion and Robbins seconded the motion to seal the Minutes of the Nonpublic Session because it is determined that divulgence of this information would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board.

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

**The meeting ADJOURNED at 8:20 PM.**

*Transcribed by Joanna Bligh*

**A beautiful speech written and recited by Steve Robbins at a ceremony held in the Village of Woodsville on Saturday September 11, 2021 as published in the Caledonian Record.**

September 11th 20 years later, as I've tried to prepare for tonight, so many thoughts have gone through my head. I thought I would start by asking September 11th 2001, do you remember where you were when the planes hit the towers, the Pentagon, or crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania? I thought, should this be a somber talk? Or should I talk about the good since that gloomy day in 2001? Then we began a troop withdrawal in Afghanistan and frankly\*\*\*\* hit the fan. It saddens me that 20 years later a great country is still battling over this heinous act. I write this as headlines report 13 US service members died trying to get our people out of Afghanistan. This mess makes me feel for those that watched the events of Saigon after their tireless service in Vietnam.

20 years ago today our great country was attacked, killing 343 NY firefighters, 23 NYPD officers, 37 NY Port Authority officers, and citizen bringing the total dead that day to 2753. 184 people died at the Pentagon, largely members of our military working there, and then in Shanksville 44 souls were lost fighting for their lives on an airplane reportedly heading to crash into the White House.

That day our country rallied; thousands of people ran to New York City to help try to recover even one living soul from that pile of rubble. These selfless people had no idea of the possible long-term health effects of their actions, for some, this was essentially a suicide mission. Since that day many, many people have perished from the long-term health issues that being a hero caused.

After September 11, 2001, Americans couldn't wait to help, couldn't wait to join the military, their local fire department, or become a police officer. Everyone flew a flag, songs were written, our country became something that many of us had not seen before, THE UNITED STATES of AMERICA, we were one, we were all brothers and sisters, our country was strong, we were going to rebuild, we were going to be stronger than ever.

Since September 11, 2001 much has changed. This unity, this sense of country and community has frankly been forgotten. We have become a country where violence in our streets has become normal. Hearing of cities burning, businesses being looted, and property being destroyed is not a source of outrage. We have become a country where rewriting history is expected. A country where police officers are killed sitting in their patrol cars on a street corner. A country where disagreeing on politics has turned to hatred. A country where simple disagreements over relatively unimportant things have destroyed lifetime friendships.

On September 11, 2001 I had a few titles. I was a son, a husband, a father, a paramedic, a firefighter, a National Guardsman, and possibly a couple more. I felt that I was a proud American that was trying to do his part for his community and country. How wrong I was, there was so much more to come. Fast forward to the next chapter, around Thanksgiving 2003, my phone rang, "SSG Robbins, our unit is being deployed," the remainder of the conversation is gone, I was alone at the moment, not completely shocked by the call, but still not completely prepared.

In early 2004 myself and 180ish other members of the NH Guard packed up and headed to Fort Dix, New Jersey for pre-mob, and eventually made our way to our duty locations in Iraq. The next year was not something that I could have ever prepared for, or dreamed that I would be doing.

That year earned me my next title, Combat Veteran. Probably one of the most confusing titles that I have had. It comes with a sense of honor, and pride, it comes with heartbreak, it comes with a complete change in who you are. The honor and pride comes from the thought of serving, events like receiving my 1st ID Combat patch on the 60th anniversary of D Day, Joining the VFW and building relationships with the likes of Earle Aremburg, Fred Delman, the late Don Stevens, Wayne Fortier, Steve Wheeler, Dale Pierson, Larry Elliott, and the list goes on, many of which you can see lining this street on banners. The heart break, the loss of your brothers in war, Alan Burgess would never join us on the way home, and the change in who you are, this is probably the toughest battle that I face, I am not the same guy that left, all the counseling or medications in the world will not bring my family the same guy that left. Many out there cannot handle this, I have had my brothers that have fought addiction, fought demons, and fought the stresses of everyday life. Some have lost this fight, Jimmy Kennan, Robbie Boutin.

Where am I going with this? Great question, it kinda flows like my brain some days, all over the place. I guess that my take home message to you tonight is this:

20 years ago today a heinous act of terrorism struck our great nation, it started a series of events that affected everything that I knew in life, the fire service, paramedicine, and my military career, and my family. It affected each of you as well, whether it was your career, your family, or something as simple as taking a family vacation, it hit us all.

20 years ago tomorrow, we all swore that WE WILL NEVER FORGET. What did this mean? Did we forget? Where did the volunteerism go? Where did our pride in the country go? Where did the flag in front of every home go? Why are there riots in our streets? Why don't I ever see these lifelong friends together anymore. Why is our very own community falling apart? Did we forget?

I did not forget, I will not forget! I remember. I remember growing up in a great community where everyone knew everyone, they were friends and neighbors. I remember traveling, and feeling safe pretty much everywhere. I remember disagreements without hatred. I remember this great community, and my family of firefighters, military brothers and sisters, and my blood family rallying to remodel my home so I could come home after an accident. I refuse to FORGET.

Tonight I ask each of you to turn to the persons beside you and shake hands, or give a hug, and promise each other that you will not forget, go home, rebuild relationships with your childhood friends, do not forget the good times for politics.

Tonight I am joined by 3 special folks that gave me my last title, GRANDPA. Colby, Tyler. Sarah, I will not forget, I will give every ounce of myself to give you a better place to grow.

As we leave, I say to you. Never forget 9-11, strive for 9-12-2001, may God bless you all, may God bless our great country.