

**Town of Haverhill  
Select Board Meeting  
OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION  
MINUTES  
Saturday, November 13, 2021, 1:00 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 1:00 PM by Fred Garofalo, Chair.

**Members of the Public Present:**

*In Person*

Lorraine Prescott  
Steve Wheeler  
Sandi Pierce  
Don and Kathleen Vaillancourt  
Darwin Clogston  
Jim McKinnon  
Colton Grant  
Regis Roy  
Dawn Lavoie  
Aaron Palm

Gary Scruton  
Paul Kidder  
Dennis Cunningham  
Martha Cunningham  
Ralph Crosswell  
John Nelepovitz  
Lorie Aldrich  
Greg Mathieson  
David Appleby  
Guy Mitchell

*Online*

Phillip J.  
Cassie Moulton  
Winston Currier  
C. Hebert  
Elizabeth Elliot  
Joanne Young

Karen Noyes  
Dorothy Long  
Paul Hayes  
Bernard Marvin  
Robert Mancini

**OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The moderator, Doug Dutile, opened the meeting at 1:10 PM with the Select Board members were seated at the front of the room with microphones ready to reply to questions from the audience.

**HOUSKEEPING**

Dutile offered recommendations for the attendees stating that the Select Board will take questions and comments for 3 minutes each from the attendees in person or online. Scruton stated that when someone stands up to ask a question, they are to state their names and where they live.

## INTRODUCTIONS OF TOWN ADMINISTRATION AND SELECT BOARD

### Town Administrative Officers Present:

**Assistant Town Manager:** Jennifer Boucher

**Town Manager:** Brigitte Codling

### Select Board Present:

Matthew Bjelobrk, Vice Chair

Steve Robbins

Howard Hatch

Mike Graham

Fred Garofalo, Chair

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

- 1. Greg Mathieson (N. Haverhill):** Mathieson stated that the airport is 75 years old, has lost money for each year of operation, and is a growing burden on the taxpayers. Mathieson stated that Dean Memorial Airport charges nothing for aircraft to land, to stay overnight, or to use a hanger. Mathieson asked why there are no fees like other airports charge.

Mathieson continued that the airport was reported to have 3200 take-offs and landings and with fees that would generate \$37,000 coming to the airport.

Bjelobrk replied that the airport is a Town asset. Bjelobrk stated that this Clifford Building is owned by the Town and does not make money, either does the airport at this point, but with the safety steps and the card reader, we believe the airport will be making money. Bjelobrk noted that there are no transient hangers available at the airport; all the hangers are rented. Bjelobrk continued that what was keeping the airport back were the safety issues and the lack of federal funding because of those safety issues.

Mathieson comments that the closing of Airport Road burdens the Town's taxpayers.

Bjelobrk replied that there is ample funding in the Highway budget for changes in Airport Road, and that unanimous vote will minimally impact the Hanson family's property and it is within the budget that has already been allocated.

Mathieson stated that the Town is diverting funds from other projects, like fixing potholes.

Town Manager Codling responded that the airport over the years has had the necessary maintenance minimized to keep within budget, which caused degradation of the airport. The Town has put together a capital improvement plan (CIP) for the airport, and the Town is working with the state and federal agencies to go forward with safety and maintenance plans. TM Codling noted that as part of the CIP, the Town is setting up a strategic plan for the airport to sustain itself. TM Codling stated that with the use of grant monies (\$51,000), the Town was able to offset the maintenance and operation costs, so it

cost the taxpayers nothing. TM Codling discussed the benefits of the credit card reader for fuel purchases at the airport. TM Codling discussed the NPIAS grant money (\$150,000/year) that the Town was previously not taken advantage of, and the Town now has \$600,000 for use at the airport. The money was used for the Safety Study and will go to any work needed to close Airport Road, acquisition of easements, and any other construction needed to meet the FAA safety requirements.

TM Codling noted that Assistant TM Boucher has done a complete audit of the airport books for the last 4 years, and found that currently there is a small amount that the Town is covering for the airport.

Assistant TM Boucher stated that only in the last few years has the airport not had enough revenue to support expenses because of the loss of rental property and fuel sales have dropped.

2. Audience member stated that a majority of voters voted not to close Airport Road, and the Select Board overrode the will of the people. The attendee asked why that happened.

Bjelobrk stated that it is within the law for the Select Board to modify the use of roads, but in 2022 there will be a warrant article about Airport Road for the voters to address.

3. **Regis Roy (Woodsville):** Roy asked if the Town votes to keep Airport Road open, can the Select Board override that vote. Roy asked what if the voters vote the road closure down.

TM Codling replied that there will be two warrant articles related to the airport. One regards Airport Road to keep it open or to close the road, and if the Town votes the road closure down, the Town will have to start over reassessing the mitigation of the airport safety obstructions.

4. An audience member asked what the end game of the airport is. The audience member asked why expansion is needed and that it looks like bigger airplanes will be able to land.

TM Codling replied that the goal for the airport includes no expansion. TM Codling stated that the airport is not going to get larger. TM Codling continued that a small portion of the Henson property is needed for the safety area surrounding the airport. TM Codling noted that the runways will not change, and the size of aircraft will not change. TM Codling added that more hangars are needed for transient or local rentals.

Bjelobrk stated that he has not flown in 10 years since the military, but he knows about aviation. Bjelobrk stated that the 2500-foot runway is only suitable for single engine turboprops, and there will never be jets at the airport. Discussion continued.

TM Codling addressed the question about the benefit of the airport to the Town, which included Airport Day, local business people using the airport, medical personnel flying in, and, in the future, freight transport services.

Audience member commented that an expansion of the airport does not only mean the runway, but it also means an increase in services. TM Codling replied that is not actually an expansion, just more services in the same area.

5. **Gary Scruton (Woodsville):** Scruton asked if there will be a fee for landings. TM Codling replied that the Town has not considered that at this point because we do not have 24/7 staffing. Bjelobrk noted that the airport does not have a tower, so landings are not monitored.
6. **Mathieson:** Mathieson asked about other activities at the airport. Mathieson asked why the snowmobile club cannot use the trail behind the hangars or have the speed runs along the runway. TM Codling replied that we do have to get permission to shut down the runway.

Croswell, airport manager, replied that we are allowing a snowmobile trail on the right side of Industrial Park Road and follow a route 225 feet off Runway 19. Croswell stated that during the winter months, there will be a Notices to Airmen (NOTAMs) on Runway 19 for special snowmobile events. Discussion continued. An audience member asked how many property owners need trees cut down around the airport. TM Codling noted that the map on the website identifies the trees as red dots that need to be removed. TM Codling noted that all the abutters to the airport are aware.

7. An audience member asked [garbled]. TM Codling stated that the Woodville Precinct lawsuit against the Town will be on the agenda at the next Select Board meeting. TM Codling noted that the Town filed a motion for reconsideration not an appeal.

**Bjelobrk stated that because Haverhill has a Town Manager, the Select Board voted to defer the lawsuit logistics to the Town Manager and the Town's attorneys.**

8. An audience member asked about getting internet service in her area. TM Codling stated that with the multiple broadband providers in Haverhill, service in Town varies. TM Codling stated that there is a remedy, and that is the Grafton County Broadband Committee, which will bring middle-mile, backbone service to every community in Grafton County in the next 12 months. Discussion continued. The Town will obtain grants to build the last mile, high-speed broadband to every household in Haverhill within 24 months.

TM Codling invited residents to join the Broadband Committee to provide oversight to the broadband project.

Assistant TM Boucher asked for volunteers for the Zoning Board of Adjustment committee because there are variances to consider for a cell tower on Teepee Road near Newbury Crossing. Assistant TM Boucher stated that the site plan was approved by the Planning Board, but the Building Permit was denied because the Town's ordinance allows for 100 feet in elevation and this proposed tower is 161 feet high.

An audience member stated that he works in Lisbon and has internet, but discussed others in Landaff who have no internet at all. Discussion continued.

Mathieson stated that there is a lot of broadband and fiber around Haverhill, but there is no company bringing the broadband from the poles to the houses. Discussion continued.

Assistant TM Boucher explained the Vertex Tower company that has the proposed tower plans for the Teepee Road site. Discussion continued.

**9. Sandi Pierce:** Pierce asked about the status of the Woodsville lawsuit. TM Codling stated that there is much more than just the Summary Judgement, and because it is ongoing, we cannot talk about it freely. TM Codling stated that Woodville asked the court for a judgement on one aspect of the lawsuit, which lacked clarity. The complete lawsuit (the calculation for highway funding) is scheduled for court in February 2022.

**10. Regis Roy:** Roy asked about the school gym at the Morrill building, and wondering if more gym space is going to be taken up because kids use the gym.

TM Codling responded that two offices were added for staff and the offices go up to the edge line of the court and allows for the continued use of the court. Roy stated that let us not take the space away because our kids matter.

**11. Doug Teschler:** Teschler commented on how to pull the Town together and asked what the administration is doing to pull the Town together.  
[Applause]

**12.** Roy asked about the Veterans' Day event that was not listed on the town webpage, and how many police are on staff in Haverhill.

TM Codling stated that the Town does not organize the Veterans' Day parade. Chief Appleby stated that on the police force in Haverhill, there are three officers, five part-time officers, and two detectives. Chief Appleby stated that the parade had two scheduled officers, and one was pulled away to respond to an emergency.

The audience member stated that she is a bus driver and asked if there could be a one-way for buses to pass by a parade or event. Discussion continued about buses on King Street. TM Codling stated that the Woodsville Commissioners are in-person, and it sounds like they will take that busing route issue back to the Road Agent in Woodsville.

Roy asked what the holidays are in Woodsville. The Commissioners stated that holidays are Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans' Day with parades that start at 11:00 AM. Scruton noted that he is Commander of the American Legion in Woodsville and head for the Fourth of July Committee, which are two separate committees. The Veterans' Day parade was discussed in detail by Scruton.

**13.** An audience member asked about marketing Industrial Park lots. TM Codling responded that at this point the Town is working on the sewer connections at the Industrial Park, and she is not comfortable selling a lot with the current sewer issues, such as the allotment of sewer discharge. TM Codling also noted that Woodsville recently revised their Sewer Use Ordinance.

**14.** An audience member asked about the North Haverhill out-of-district sewer system. TM Codling explained the Haverhill sewer components and the changes in the Woodville Sewer Use Ordinance.

**15.** An audience member commented that it is not good that Woodsville and Haverhill are fighting; they need to sit down and work it out. Bjelobrk stated that on his 2 years on the Board, the Select Board has had numerous meetings with the Commissioners that were unsuccessful. The precinct sued the Town and, once in litigation, it is out of our hands.

- 16.** An audience member asked about the tax bills. TM Codling stated that the budget process is happening right now and soon the budget will go to the Select Board for their consideration. TM Codling stated that overall, the goal is to level fund. TM Codling stated that the taxes will artificially lower because of the vote in 2021 that cut the Town budget by \$25,000 and because the Town did not fund the nonprofit agencies. The Town administration has worked toward reallocating funds in a more strategic way to do more with the Town's money. TM Codling noted that the reorganization of the Fire Department and the funds not transferred to Woodsville subsequent to HB 26 result in a significant reduction in costs.
- 17. Guy Mitchell (Haverhill):** Mitchell stated that last year as a member of the Budget Committee, he asked about Town employees' health insurance and asked if the employees could contribute a portion to the expense. TM Codling stated that health insurance will not affect this year's budget because the administration is working on a reorganization of plans and premiums.
- 18.** An audience member asked if the money being taken away from Woodsville will affect their taxes. Dutile stated that she would have to go to the Woodsville precinct Commissioners' meeting to ask that question.
- 19.** An audience members asked if there would be a Budget Committee next year or not. TM Codling replied that when the budget failed in 2021, one of the articles was about the Budget Committee, and because of the vote, the Town cannot provide the funding for a Budget Committee in 2022. The Town has invited Jay Holden, Moderator, if he wishes, to bring together residents to volunteer their time to review the budget; however, department heads cannot attend per the DRA.
- 20.** Garofalo spoke on the budget and Budget Committee stating that anyone who wishes to attend the Public Hearing on the Town budget is welcomed, and he encouraged all to attend.
- 21.** TM Codling spoke about the Town Public Opinion Survey that has been out to the public for 2 months. TM Codling wished to address on part of the Survey related to the Woodsville lawsuit and audits. The question was: "Do you hear just enough, not enough, or too much about ...." TM Codling stated that 90% of respondents said they are not hearing enough. TM Codling discussed how the Administration disseminates information via Facebook, newspapers, the Town's website and calendar, and streaming meetings. TM Codling asked the audience how the Town can get information to residents.

An audience member asked if the meetings are recorded. TM Codling suggested that the links to the meeting recordings be placed on the website for residents to review.

The audience member asked about the status of road project near McDonald's in Woodsville. TM Codling stated that the road project at the McDonald's intersection was one of the road projects that was cut because of the Town voting down the 2021 budget. TM Codling stated that the goal is to get back to that in the spring.

**22. John Nelepovitz:** Nelepovitz asked about the meeting minutes posted on the website. TM Codling confirmed the untimely postings of minutes on the website, and is training others to be able to post.

**ADJOURN**

Dutile adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.

**ZOOM LINK TO RECORDING**

Topic: Open Public Discussion (11/13/2021)

Date: Nov 13, 2021 01:44 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/dpNPPC\\_5ZJdEVelhHW0e3UlpzL4nmITPp0d9DisWTb1LvJUxZMLqQd44R1AZxlc.v5DO-Oh316BmYXN9](https://zoom.us/rec/share/dpNPPC_5ZJdEVelhHW0e3UlpzL4nmITPp0d9DisWTb1LvJUxZMLqQd44R1AZxlc.v5DO-Oh316BmYXN9)

Access Passcode: WY8ke\*fD

*Transcribed by Joanna Bligh*