

**Minutes of Haverhill Selectboard Regular Meeting  
Monday April 17, 2017  
6:00 PM**

**Draft subject to review, correction and approval at the next meeting.**

**Board Members Present:** Wayne Fortier, Mike Bonanno, Tom Friel, Chris Luurtsema, Fred Garofalo.

**Town Manager:** Jo Lacaillade

**Finance Officer:** Jennifer Collins

**Members of the Public Present:** Howard Hatch, Raymond Thayer, Michael Thompson, Darwin Clogston, Everett Sawyer, Michael Lavoie, Steve Wheeler, Lynn Wheeler, Rich Clifford, Brandon Alling, Judy Bauer, John Bauer, Ron Willoughby, Linda Smith, George Cataldo, Bob Fagnant, Wally Trott, Barbara Marshall, Kim Anderson, Eden Aldrich, Susan Aldrich, Dan Aldrich, Chief Charles, NH DOT Robert Landry, Ron Kleiner, Darren Blood and Ed Ballam-Journal Opinion.

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Approval:** Mike Bonanno made a motion to accept and approve the agenda as written. Fred Garofalo seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting: April 3, 2017 and to sign Manifest, Forms and Other Warrants:** Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Fred Garofalo. Voting yes was Wayne, Tom, Fred and Mike; Chris abstained, as he hadn't had a chance to read them yet.

A motion was made to recess the regular meeting and enter into Public Hearing by Mike Bonanno and seconded by Chris Luurtsema. All approved and the public hearing was opened at 6:05.

**Public Hearing:**

**Mill Street Bridge – NH DOT:** NH DOT Robert Landry spoke of the Mill Street Bridge project that services town roads. Ron Kleiner gave an overview of the current single lane bridge and said it is posted for 6 ton and sees about 150 cars per day. The State has been before the Board a couple of times about this project which that involves engineering a 25' concrete arch to replace the current bridge and would be 2 car widths. He went over the project using the drawings that he had with him. Some of the blocks being removed from the bridge will go to Railroad Park for use there. There was discussion about the traffic count. The project would be state funded but it was explained that the Town would take over ownership and be responsible for upkeep and

maintenance of the new structure once it's built. Should the new bridge be built, the riding trail would need to be closed during construction. Howard Hatch offered an alternative to replacing the structure as proposed. The State said that had been discussed and the State had actually planned to remove the bridge and not replace it with anything and they were told by the Town at that time that they wanted that access to remain. Currently, the estimated cost is \$1.5 million which would be funded by the Federal Gas Tax Funds. Unlike the current bridge, the new bridge would be able to sustain fire truck and/or ambulance traffic and if properly maintained, it would last roughly 100 years; it is the lowest maintenance bridge that they have. Chris gave an overview of what the cost per passage equates to the cost of the bridge. He thinks the cost to replace in the future years is not something the Town should entertain. Should the Town vote against the project, the bridge will be removed. Chief Charles stated the bridge is an important part of evacuation plans for the elementary school. The new bridge will also allow for fire and safety to have more access. Rich Clifford felt that the project should move forward. Steve Wheeler stated that the precinct commissioners want to see the project move forward. It was asked if the State was spending the money to replace the bridge, why don't they keep it. It is Town owned roads on both sides so if it is replaced it would go to the Town. There was discussion about how many houses are on the road. Darwin referred to the road he lived on which is a dead end road and there have been no issues.

Mike Bonanno made a motion to come out of Public Hearing which was seconded by Chris Luurtsema and carried unanimously. The Public Hearing closed at 6:25 P.M.

Tom Friel made a motion to enter back into the regularly scheduled meeting. It was seconded by Michael Bonanno and carried unanimously.

A vast portion of the discussion regarding the Mill Street Bridge involves the Elementary School and whether the building will continue to house the school, or if it will be "abandoned" in the next couple of years. The School Board has received proposals in regards to the elementary school and in regards to the high school; both in which would involve a lot of work. The Facilities Committee and School Board initially wanted to vote on this issue in the Fall, but will most likely require additional time. There is no set time at this point that the elementary school could move. There was discussion about alternative routes to get to the back side of the school. There was brief discussion expressing concern that although the Bridge is "free," it could potentially become a burden to future generations once replacement costs are factored in, and this state funded money could be better served on other projects. Mike Lavoie referred to the Smith Street bridge that had been removed and wondered what the bridge being gone would do to property values on Mill Street. There was more discussion about the bill we might be leaving to future generations when it is time to replace this bridge. Lynn Wheeler reiterated the importance of this bridge to Woodsville. Howard asked that they consider the proposal he made of changing the crossing to not include a bridge.

Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve NH DOT to build a concrete arch as proposed over Mill Street and for the Town to take ownership of the bridge upon completion; seconded by Chris Luurtsema. Chris, Tom and Fred gave an overview of their thoughts on the project. There was more discussion about the gas tax paying for the bridge and the it was said that if the Town doesn't use the money it will just go somewhere else; it would not reduce the gas tax. Mike

Bonanno called for a vote. Voting yes was Mike Bonanno and Wayne Fortier; voting no was Tom Friel, Chris Luurtsema and Fred Garofalo, leaving the motion defeated. The next step for this project will be deciding when to deconstruct the current bridge.

### **Pending (Old) Business:**

- **Animal Control:** Linda Smith presented the Board with a petition containing 172 signatures from townspeople in favor of keeping the Animal Shelter open. Concerns were expressed that if the Town entered into a contract with the Enfield shelter, that costs would be higher than originally anticipated, as stray/loose cats will be eligible to be taken in at the Town's expense. Though the Town's animal control services currently do not include cats, Linda still receives an average of 4-5 calls per week in regards to cats. Other concerns discussed included the inconvenience factor of people having to travel to Enfield to pick up a pet and should Linda be unavailable to transport a dog, a police officer would be required to do so; the cost of vaccinations needed for animal control officers and training that will be needed. It was agreed that the Town should not offer private pet boarding anymore. Rich Clifford said that the North Haverhill Precinct Commissioners were going to discuss a break in the water bills for the shelter at their next meeting. There was discussion as to whether dogs can be transported over State lines and Linda said that is because we have no proof of shots. She talked about the many donations received at the kennel that keeps the cost down. Linda is looking for a second person that can replace her down the road but it is a thankless job. Darwin questioned if Vermont not being able to transport into New Hampshire and how she can then use a veterinarian in Vermont. There was discussion about the added costs of having cats come into the picture at Enfield and Linda's numbers regarding the potential were questioned by Darwin. Mike Bonanno made a motion to keep the Animal Shelter open. Fred Garofalo seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.
- **Connecticut River Watershed Council-Landowner Agreement:** Mike Bonanno made a motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.
- **Prosecutor Contract:** Tom Friel made a motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Mike Bonanno and carried unanimously.
- **Health Insurance:** Jennifer Collins and TM Lacaillade discussed and answered questions about the proposed new insurance provider for Town employees. The proposed insurance provider will possess the same network as the current insurance and will not cost Town employees any more than the current plan. If the Town continues its contract with the current provider, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, there will be a 19.6% cost increase. Because the goal is to reduce the cost of insurance for the Town while ensuring its employees can afford proper coverage, this alternate provider is being considered. Benefits of the "new" plan include vision insurance for both adults and children and dental coverage for children. Employees were encouraged to open FSA accounts, as the Board mentioned the possibility of the Town matching up to \$250 annually into the account. Out of pocket reimbursements under the "new" plan are estimated to take 7-30 days to process. The Town needs to notify its current insurance if services will be continued or not by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chris Luurtsema made a motion to approve the 2053 plan offered through Melcher and Prescott with the Town funding the Health Reimbursement Account in full for any change to the employees out of pocket costs over the current plan; the motion was seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously. Chris Luurtsema made a motion to fund an FSA account for each employee on the Town Health Insurance up to \$250 as long as the employee matches it dollar for dollar so that they have money to help offset some of the possible upfront costs associated with the new plan while waiting for reimbursement. The motion was seconded by Tom Friel and carried unanimously.

- **Recycling:** Tom Friel stated he had been approached by Ed VanDorn who is a resident of Town and he had asked if the Board would form a committee to look into recycling options that they could bring back to the Town. After a brief discussion about the options currently available to those who want to recycle the Board took a vote on whether to form a committee. Voting no was Wayne, Mike and Chris. Fred abstained and Tom was unpersuaded. Chairman Fortier stated that a private group could form on their own to research the issue but not as a Town Committee.

**Town Manager's Report:** The Town Managers report covered the following topics: Hazard Mitigation Plan Revision meetings; Woodsville Business owners meeting; auditors; Granite State Power Link Project and the sewer line study.

**New Business:** None at this time.

**Commission/Committee Reports:** Mike Bonanno spoke of the Airport Commission meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. They have 2 potential members but needed a clarification as to whether they had to be residents, which they do. The house is vacant as of Wednesday 4/12/17 and will be advertised again. Bids are going out for the snow removal equipment in May. Airport Awareness Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. TM Lacaillade asked about the minutes that have been requested on the Beacon Public Hearing and Mike stated that they will be produced.

**Correspondence:** The Board received a letter from Connecticut River Conservancy stating that their name had been changed, as it was previously Connecticut River Watershed Council. The group has asked for continued support from the Board. Also in correspondence was the Municipal Legislation Bulletin.

**Comments of the Public:** The Board was asked whether the airport had a true benefit to the Town and Chairman Fortier explained that the airport brings in revenue from the hangar rentals, as private individuals rent them out and that the airport is also self-sufficient. Raymond Thayer stated that there is a bad frost heave in the new portion of Clark Pond Road by Wayne Foote's property. Thayer also questioned the amount of delinquent taxes and what the Town's plan of action is. TM Lacaillade stated that there is generally a reason why the Town does not possess delinquent properties as soon as possible, generally due to cost, IRS liens and maintenance of these properties. Darwin Clogston requested that the Board review the minutes better because he feels they are not summary minutes, but they are edited minutes. Ed Ballam spoke of the recycling center in East Ryegate being free and a fully sorted facility. Mike Thompson asked if

the Ryegate facility was profitable and Ballam stated he was unsure if a profit was being made. Rich Clifford thanked the Selectboard for listening.

**Comments of the Town Manager:** None at this time.

**Comments of Selectboard Members:** Tom Friel would like to review the policy for minutes again at the next meeting.

**Adjourn Meeting:** A motion was made by Mike Bonanno to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Chris Luurtsema and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25.

*Minutes produced by Katie J. Moyse*