



Town of Hopkinton, NH

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SELECTMEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010 APPROVED January 19, 2010

Acting Chair Scott Flood called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 4, 2010.

Present:

George Langwasser, Selectman

Scott Flood, Selectman

Chris Lawless, Selectman

Jim O'Brien, Selectman

Neal Cass, Town Administrator

Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

Absent: Tom Congoran

Public present: Ken Wilkens, Merle Dustin, Lester and Bonnie Cressy

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board approved the following:

Vendor Disbursement and Payroll Manifests

Building/Use Permit

For Review – Selectmen's Notes and Correspondence

For Signature –

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting dated December 28, 2009. Selectman O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Selectman Lawless to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

VOTE: Lawless, Flood, Langwasser and O'Brien voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

The Board reviewed the non-public minutes of December 28, 2009. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to approve the non public minutes. Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion.

VOTE: Lawless, Flood, Langwasser and O'Brien voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to go into non-public session with regards to RSA 91-A:3 II (3). Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Langwasser: yes; O'Brien: yes; Flood: yes; Lawless: yes. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

The Board went into non public session with Steve Clough at 5:35 pm.

The Board returned from non public session at 6:00pm. Selectmen O'Brien made a motion to come out of non public session. Selectmen Lawless seconded the motion.

VOTE: Lawless, Flood, Langwasser and O'Brien voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

Selectmen O'Brien made a motion to seal the minutes for a period of one (1) year. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion.

VOTE: Lawless, Flood, Langwasser and O'Brien voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Dustin inquired about the closing of the Hopkinton Independent School and what kind of impact it would have on the public school system. Selectmen O'Brien stated most of the students were pre kindergarten.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Sign Ordinance: Public hearing will be held January 12, 2010.

Budget Items: Selectmen Langwasser stated the Budget Committee's concern about the Acting Fire Chief position. The Budget Committee will not approve Fire Department budget with the title of Acting Fire Chief. The Budget Committee feels the Board of Selectmen did not have the authority to change the title, that a vote of the time is required. After some discussion, Selectmen Langwasser stated the Board had two (2) choices

1. Take no action
2. Do want the Budget Committee wants

A further discussion ensued with regards to acting fire chief vs. fire chief. In further discussion it was noted the Fire Company makes the recommends the appointment of Fire Chief. Further noting the Board of Selectmen then approves the appointment. It was the consensus of the Board to let the budget stand as the Board presented. Mr. Cass will make sure that Acting Fire Chief Schaefer is aware of the situation.

Selectmen Langwasser stated the Budget Committee did not seem to understand the process of selection for police chief and how the patrolmen's position may be affected depending upon if an in-house candidate is chosen for the Chief's position or an outside candidate. After some discussion, Selectmen O'Brien made a motion to revoke the warrant article placed that was to be placed on the ballot with

respect to the police department and place the patrol office position back into the operating budget. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion.

VOTE: Lawless, Flood, Langwasser and O'Brien voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

Selectmen Langwasser also stated the Budget Committee was concerned with the reduction of funding to the Capital Reserves. However, the Board of Selectmen feel the action was necessary to balance the budget.

Easement Information-Mr. Cass gathered all the information on the easement situation and has forwarded to town counsel.

Selectmen Flood reminded the Board that the Bohanan easement would be 2 separate easements. Further stating as a co-owner, we are giving up are rights as co-owner to a third party. There was back and forth discussion, ending with Selectmen Flood recommending that each board member read the easement language carefully.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

It was noted the Town of Warner sent out an abutters notice with regards to a wireless tower.

Mr. Cass handed a draft copy of the warrant articles. This is a work in progress and it not yet complete.

Mr. Cass noted the Safe Routes to School proposals have come in and he will bring to the meeting on Thursday morning. He also informed the Board that he is currently reviewing the personnel policy, he will be recommending some updates and then have Department Heads review.

Mr. Cass inquired as to how the Board would like to handle the attorney interviews. It was decided the Board would meet on January 25, 2010, open the meeting and then go into non public for the interviews. The interviews will be scheduled for about 45 minutes each, with each interview lasting about 30 minutes.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, Selectmen Lawless made a motion to go into non-public session with regards to RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion. Selectmen Flood noting that no further business will be dealt with after the non public session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Langwasser: yes; O'Brien: yes; Flood: yes; Lawless: yes. No votes against. Motion passes 4-0.

The Board entered non public session at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting.