



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of Selectmen • 330 Main Street • Hopkinton, NH 03229-2627

Telephone: (603) 746-3170
Fax: (603) 746-2952

E-mail: selectmen@tds.net
Web Address: www.hopkinton-nh.gov

SELECTMEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2011 APPROVED FEBRUARY 14, 2011

Chairman Jim O'Brien called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 31, 2011.

Present:

Jim O'Brien, Chairman
George Langwasser, Selectman
Bryan Pellerin, Selectman
Neal Cass, Town Administrator
Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

Absent: Tom Congoran and Chris Lawless

Public present: Stephen Dennis, Richard Montgomery, Police Chief Steve Pecora, Janet Krzyzaniak, Merle Dustin, Averill Cate, 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-Approved Minutes from the Conservation Commission dated 1/25/11 and the Budget Committee dated 1/5 and 1/19/11.
For Signature – Appointment papers for Richard Montgomery, Jr.

II. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Chairman O'Brien asked Police Chief Steve Pecora to come forward. Police Chief Pecora introduced Richard M. Montgomery, Jr. as the newly hired police officer for Hopkinton. Mr. Montgomery was sworn in and a five minute break was called at 5:40 pm.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon returning from the break the Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of January 3, 2011. Selectman Pellerin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser and Pellerin voting
in favor of the motion; no votes against, motion
passes; 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Non Public Session of January 3, 2011, Session 1. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to accept the Non Public Minutes. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, motion passes; 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Non Public Session of January 3, 2011, Session 2. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to accept the Non Public Minutes. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, motion passes; 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Minutes of the Non Public Session of January 3, 2011, Session 3. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to accept the Non Public Minutes. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, motion passes; 3-0.

IV. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Nancy St. Laurent and Mike Poirier from the State Emergency Management office were in to have papers resigned for the grant for the generator. The town recently received funds from the grant in error. Mr. Poirier noted the new forms have been redesigned and they understand it is to go before the voters. The new deadline is September 30, 2012. The Board signed the grant forms in the amount of \$54,537.50. It is a 50/50 grant, the Town will need to match the \$54,537.50. Chairmen O'Brien thanked Chief Pecora for taking charge of the grant process.

Bob Blanchette, Finance Director, is in to answer questions from the Board with regards to the fund balance, expenses and revenue. Mr. Blanchette stated due to the hard work of several departments staying under budget as well as receipt of revenue above estimates, the fund balance is up by \$155,000. He noted the Board's intention to fund the Capital Reserve Funds from the fund balance. The tax rate should be stable. Mr. Blanchette noted the only unknowns are the Rooms and Meals and what NH Retirement will require. It was noted 15 town employees would be effected by the NH Retirement changes, but the school will be hit harder.

V. PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Dustin inquired about seating at the skate rink. Mr. Cass stated there is a bench there and the rink is flooded as the road crew has time.

Mary Congoran is in to discuss the location of a sign that she would like to put up. The Board explained there are no signs allowed in the fountain triangle, ever. Selectmen Langwasser stated the triangle needs to be kept clear. It was suggested the space where the Farmer's Market sign is would be an ideal location for signs advertising special events for the benefit of the town. Mrs. Congoran agreed noting the area by the bridge is very busy and with trying to merge in traffic, you don't have time to read any of them. Mr. Cass will look into using the same area that the Farmer's Market uses.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cass handed out the revised draft warrant and narrative warrant noting there were few changes. He would like the Board to review them for the next meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cass noted the Sign Committee voted 6-0 in favor of moving the ordinance forwarded.

Mr. Cass noted the Board has a draft of the Pay by Bag Report from Steve Clough. Chairmen O'Brien asked if the report could be streamlined for Town Meeting. Steve Clough will be present at the next meeting.

Mr. Cass met with the occupants of the Horseshoe Tavern. They have a concern with the furnace, noting their consumption was high. Mr. Cass will check with Sandy Henio, the previous tenant, and inquire about their consumption. The next day the septic was backing up into the sinks. Garret Hoyt and Greg Roberts spent most of that day, working on the system. It is currently up and running but work will have to be done in the spring. Mr. Roberts will continue to look for options. The next day Mr. Cass received a call, the roof was leaking. The renters had someone come and shovel the roof, which help with the leak, but it is apparent that working will need to be done to the building, the heating system and the septic. The Board would like to revisit the report by MOIC about the building. Selectmen Pellerin suggested looking for grants to help with the work. An energy audit was suggested.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Cass noted the Budget Public Hearing will be Wednesday, February 2, at 6:30 pm at the High School.

Mr. Cass informed the Board that he was recently made aware of the fact that the Highway department maintains the two buses that the school owns. Herm Blanchette, Superintendent of Public Works called noting that he was concerned with doing a brake job on the bus which is expected to take a day to fix. He is concerned about taking someone off a plow route to fix the brakes. He states it is okay during the summer months, but during the winter it can become a problem. It was noted no written agreement has been found. Selectmen Langwasser stated it was probably a gentlemen's agreement. Mr. Cass will be meeting with Steve Chamberlin on Tuesday and he will bring up this issue.

With regards to a petition article the Town receives every year for the plowing of private roads, Mr. Cass stated town counsel suggested declaring those private roads emergency lanes and that would eliminate the need to continually bring forward a petition article. It was noted a public hearing would be required. It would not be a solution for this year, but it could be in place for next year's town meeting. Selectmen Langwasser cautioned that there are private roads within the mobile home complex and may want to be included in the creation of emergency lanes. Mr. Cass will look into.

Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to go into Non Public session with regards to RSA 91:A-3 II (a) personnel. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: O'Brien: yes; Langwasser: yes;
Pellerin: yes.

The Board entered Non Public session at 6:50 pm. There will be no further business conducted after the Non Public Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan

Administrative Assessing Assistant

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