



# Town of Hopkinton, NH

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## **SELECTMEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011 Approved February 28, 2011**

Chairman Jim O'Brien called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, February 14, 2011.

### **Present:**

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

Public present: Janet Krzyzaniak, Averil Cate, Mary Leadbeater, Virginia Haines, Denis Goddard, Ron Klemarczyk, Deb Augustine, Bob LaPree and Merle Dustin.

### **I. ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Board approved the following:

Vendor Disbursement and Payroll Manifests  
Building/Use Permit  
For Review – Selectmen's Notes and Correspondence  
For Signature – Intent to Cut Map 235 Lot 2 & 28

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of February 7, 2011. Selectman Langwasser made a motion, seconded by Selectman Pellerin to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, Congoran and Lawless abstaining; 3-0-2.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of February 7, 2011, Session I. 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, Congoran and Lawless abstaining; motion passes 3-0-2.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of February 7, 2011, Session II. Selectman Langwasser made a motion, seconded by Selectman Pellerin to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

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

Awaiting arrival of their 5:45pm appointment, Chairmen O'Brien moved on to Old Business

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

Horseshoe Tavern-Mr. Cass noted the tenants at Horseshoe Tavern were concerned over the amount of propane they used during the month of January. They also noted the roof was leaking and the septic system seems to be backing up. Garrett Hoyt and Greg Roberts worked on the septic system and it seems to be working again. The tenants dealt with the roof issue. The furnace will be checked. It was also noted the building may not be well insulated. Selectmen Lawless suggested the Board may want to sell it. Selectmen Langwasser questioned what should we do in the meantime. Do we want to fix the septic system and roof. He would like to see an estimated cost for repairs. Selectmen Pellerin agreed with Selectmen Langwasser, he would also like to see what it would cost to make repairs. A discussion ensued with regards to selling the building and leasing the land or sell the building with an easement to the Town.

### **IV. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**

Gary Richardson is in with regards to the Town Meeting. He asked the Board if any of the articles would be controversial. The Board indicated that the articles concerning Pay by Bag will probably be the most controversial and that it may have to be a ballot vote. The Board indicated that Articles 27-30 were to correct the easement language.

While Mr. Richardson was still here the Board decided to vote on the Articles that they had not voted on.

**Article 27** to convey a conservation easement (Rice) to Five Rivers

**Article 28** to convey a conservation easement (Beyer) to NH Audubon Society

**Article 29** to convey a conservation easement (Rollins) to Five Rivers. Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend Articles 27, 28 and 29. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 3** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$1,014,625 for General Government Operations. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 4** to raise and appropriate the budget committee's recommended \$1,466,105 for Public Safety Operations. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 5** to raise and appropriate the budget committee's recommended \$2,112,536 for Public Works Operations. Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 6** to raise and appropriate the budget committee's recommended amount of \$123,489 for Health and Human Services. Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 7** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$123,593 for Recreation Operations. Selectmen Lawless made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 8** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$281,265 for Hopkinton Library. Selectmen Lawless made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 9** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$1 for Conservation Commission. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 10** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$400,152 for Principle and Interest of long term debt. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 14** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$58,965 for offsetting the cost of collection and disposal of residential solid waste.... No funds to be raised by taxation. Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Selectmen Lawless noted the amount would be in a Revenue line called Income for Special Revenue. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 15** to see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 19 as amended that was approved at the March 2010 Hopkinton Town Meeting. Selectmen Lawless made a motion to NOT RECOMMEND. Selectmen Pellerin seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to NOT RECOMMEND.

**Article 17** to see if the Town will vote to set the price of the official Pay-by-Bag bags as follows: 13 gallon bags-\$.075; 33 gallon bags-\$1.25. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Lawless. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 19** to raise and appropriate budget committee recommended \$109,074 to purchase and install an emergency back-up power generator at the Hopkinton Middle/High School....Half the sum (\$54,537 to come from a grant from the NH Department of Safety...no amount to be raised from taxation. Expenditure of these funds is contingent upon final grant approval and authorization. Selectmen Pellerin made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion. Vote 3-2(Selectmen O'Brien and Lawless) to recommend.

**Article 20** to see if the Town will vote to modify the Elderly Exemption.....as follows: For a person 65 years of age to 75 years: \$60,000; for a person 75 years of age to 80 years: \$80,000; for a person 80 years or older: \$100,000.....Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Vote 5-0 to recommend.

**Article 33** to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4000 in the interest of public health and safety to provide winter plowing and sanding on the following roads during the winter months...Selectmen Congoran made a motion to recommend. No second. Selectmen Lawless made a motion to NOT RECOMMEND. Seconded by Selectmen Pellerin. Vote 4-1(Congoran) to recommend.

It was noted at this time, the attorney recommended classifying those “private roads” to “emergency lanes”. Discussion ensued. It would require a public hearing as well as input from the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Selectmen Lawless noted a building permit for the Ackerman house, which was destroyed by fire. Selectmen Lawless made a motion to waive the buildings fees in the amount of \$1533.00. Selectmen Congoran seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O’Brien, Congoran, Langwasser, Lawless and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion. No votes against. Motion passes 5-0.

#### **V. PUBLIC APPOINTMENT (continued)**

Tax Collector Sue Strickford requested a non public session with the Board. Selectmen Congoran made a motion to go into non public meeting with regards to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) (Reputation). Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** O’Brien: yes; Congoran: yes; Langwasser: yes; Lawless: yes; Pellerin: yes.

The Board entered non public session at 6:31 pm with Tax Collector Sue Strickford. The Board came out of non public session at 6:50 pm.

Selectmen Congoran made a motion to come out of non public session. Selectmen Lawless seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O’Brien, Congoran, Lawless and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion. No vote against. Motion passes 4-0. (Selectmen Langwasser was unavailable for the vote.)

Selectmen Congoran made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public meeting indefinitely. Selectmen Lawless seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O’Brien, Congoran, Lawless and Pellerin voting in favor of the motion. No vote against. Motion passes 4-0. (Selectmen Langwasser was unavailable for the vote.)

#### **VI. PUBLIC FORUM**

Bob LaPree, who is an abutter to the Ackermen’s, reminded the Board of the dust that was all over downtown Contoocook when Columbia Hall was taken down. He urged the Board to make sure that dust control was in place. The Board agreed and Mr. Cass will look into.

Ginny Haines read a statement with regards to poor building performance. She indicated the Library and Police Department buildings showed heat loss because of the icicles. She also stated the cupola in the Library is a waste of heat. It was noted a helium balloon was released in the Library by Ron Klemarczyk. There are sprinklers in the cupola and therefore it cannot be blocked off. Mr. Cass noted when the cupola was checked during the Energy Audit, cold air was indicated. It was also noted that the Library and its staff have worked hard over the last couple of years and have reduced their energy consumption by 25%.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

The Board invited the members of the Recycling Committee to come forward to discuss the recycling numbers as well as the report from Steve Clough. Denis Goddard, Deb Augustine and Katherine Mitchell came forward. Discussion ensued with regards to commercial revenue and the expense lines, possible ramifications if Article 15 passes. A discussion ensued with regards to the difference in the numbers between Mr. Clough's and Bob Blanchette's figures. Mr. Cass noted that Mr. Blanchette's figures are conservative and that Mr. Clough's numbers are probably closer to the actual figures. A discussion ensued with regards to tipping fees if Pay-by-Bag was defeated. Selectmen Lawless indicated that he has received positive feedback on the Pay-by-Bag program. Summary sheets will be available at town meeting.

It was noted that two articles were presented to rescind Pay-by-Bag, noting there was an issue with on the petitions as it was not written correctly. The discussion turned to the possibility of getting out of the contract with Webster. Mr. Cass stated the contract is clear about getting out. The only way to change anything in the contract is by the vote of both towns.

There being no further business, motion by Selectman Lawless, seconded by Selectman Pellerin to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant

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