



Town of Hopkinton, NH

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

Telephone: (603) 746-3170

E-mail: selectmen@tds.net

Fax: (603) 746-2952

Web Address: www.hopkinton-nh.gov

SELECTMEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011 APPROVED NOVEMBER 2, 2011

Chairman Jim O'Brien called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, October 24, 2011.

Present:

Jim O'Brien, Chairman

Tom Congoran, Selectman

George Langwasser, Selectman

Bryan Pellerin, Selectman (arriving at 5:39 pm)

Denis Goddard, Selectman

Neal Cass, Town Administrator

Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board approved the following:

Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (attached). Selectmen Goddard seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser, Congoran
and Goddard voting in favor of the motion;
no votes against; motion passes 4-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of October 17, 2011. Selectman Congoran made a motion, seconded by Selectman Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser, Congoran
and Goddard voting in favor of the motion;
no votes against; motion passes 4-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of October 17, 2011, Session 1. Selectman Congoran made a motion, seconded by Selectman Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser, Congoran
and Goddard voting in favor of the motion;
no votes against; motion passes 4-0.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of October 17, 2011, Session II. Selectman Goddard made a motion, seconded by Selectman Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Non Public Meeting.

VOTE: O'Brien, Langwasser, Congoran
and Goddard voting in favor of the motion;
no votes against; motion passes 4-0.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Beverly Johnson representing the Golden Group was in to speak to the Board about using the Slusser Senior Center. Mr. Cass gave a short history of what has transpired. The Golden Group was given a waiver last year, while the Board considered a change in policy. Mrs. Johnson stated the Golden Group requested a second waiver, however, the Board decided not to renew the waiver. It was explained to Mrs. Johnson that the Senior Center Rules require any group using the Senior Center to have insurance. The Local Government Center offers the TULIP Program which allows a group to purchase a rider on the Town's insurance. The cost is approximately \$250.00 for the year. Mrs. Johnson states the Golden Group cannot afford the insurance. Selectmen O'Brien states this is for all groups using the Center, there are no exceptions. Selectmen Langwasser explained if we allow one group to get a waiver then we are not treating everyone the same. He further questioned what would happen if someone was hurt during one of the Golden Group events. He further stated the Town would probably be sued. That is why insurance is needed.

Selectmen Congoran made a motion to allow the Golden Group to use the facility. No second.

Selectmen Goddard made a motion to expend funds in the amount of \$250.00 to cover the insurance for the Golden Group. No second.

Selectmen Congoran made a motion to waive the fee for any group unable to fund the insurance. No second.

Selectmen Pellerin suggested that Mrs. Johnson speak with Jessica Bailey, the Town's Recreation Director. Mrs. Johnson stated she has spoken with the Recreation Director. Discussion ensued with regards to implementing some of the Golden Group's program with the Senior Center. Selectmen O'Brien suggested that Mrs. Johnson go back and speak with Jessica Bailey and then come back to the Board with a plan.

David Price Sr., David Price Jr. and Attorney Edward Waters were in to speak to the Board about property owned by Frank Swett. The approximate amount of taxes due is \$10,000.00. David Price Jr., would like the Town to forgive the back taxes, transfer ownership to the Prices which will allow them to go in and rehab the home, then sell it and get it back on the tax rolls. He further stated the cost to replace with a new home would be too much and he believed it would take a long time to sell. He believes that rehabbing the current home would be more cost effective. Attorney Waters further stated there is no mortgage on the property. Mr. Cass informed the Board it has not been taken by deed yet. Mr. Price, Jr. indicated he believes it would cost about \$35,000 to rehab the home. The inside of the home is in very bad condition and it smells. Discussion ensued with regards to working together towards a compromise that would satisfy both parties. It was also noted the water is still on in the unit and it needs to be turned off and drained so the pipes do no freeze and burst. Mr. Cass will discuss the situation with the Town's attorney. The Board would like the Prices to get an estimate of how much it will cost to rehab the home.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Ken Wilkens inquired if the tax status of property owners were listed somewhere. Mr. Cass stated that tax information can be obtained from the Tax office.

Merle Dustin inquired if Dustin Road would be striped. She also noted the roof on the Town Hall looks great.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Budget Work Session-Mr. Cass went over the Revenue side of the budget. Noting there were only a few changes. It was noted the amount of money received for Flood Control dropped significantly. The State of Massachusetts is to pay the State of New Hampshire with regards to flood control and the money has not been received. The State will no longer cover Massachusetts' portion. Members of the Board will be meeting with state reps and the governor's offices in an effort to increase the funds for Hopkinton. Selectmen Langwasser stated we had this issue before but it was resolved. Mr. Cass will check into it as well. Discussion ensued with regards to Pay As You Throw revenue, the expected rate of increase for insurance. A discussion ensued with regards to expenses in the Fire, Ambulance, Highway, Human Services and Transfer Station. The Board would like those Department Heads to come in and be part of a conversation to see if they can cut some of the budget. A discussion ensued with regards to the replacement vehicle and equipment lines. Selectmen Congoran inquired if the Transfer Station could close another day.

Mr. Cass noted the taxation of telephone poles this year is new and he would expect those companies may appeal. It was also noted presentations to the Budget Committee will begin on November 15, 2011.

Selectmen Goddard suggested a pay cut for the Board of Selectmen. Selectmen Langwasser stated it was already cut from \$3,000 to \$2,000.00. He would not support another cut. Further suggestions of cuts were discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A discussion ensued with regards to changing the meeting next week from Monday to Tuesday. The Board agreed to meet on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 5:30 pm.

Selectmen Pellerin stated during the last EDC meeting it was noted there are portapotties located at Mr. Mikes. Mr. Cass will send a letter out.

Selectmen Pellerin also informed Mr. Cass that EDC has 3 candidates for committee members. He would like Mr. Cass to send him the applications.

Selectmen Pellerin also informed Mr. Cass of a sink hole on Hatfield Road.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Updates-Mr. Cass informed the Board the Town Hall roof has been completed. Deb Gallant, new finance director, is settling in and things are going well. Tax Rate is in the process of being set.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE: O'Brien: yes;

Langwasser: yes; Congoran: yes;

Pellerin: yes; Goddard: yes

Selectmen O'Brien stated no further business will be discussed after the non public. The Board entered non public session at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan

Administrative Assessing Assistant

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