



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013 APPROVED MARCH 25, 2013

Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:35 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2013, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall.

Members Present: Jim O'Brien, Chair, Bryan Pellerin, Vice Chair, George Langwasser and Denis Goddard

Members Absent: Tom Congoran

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator

Others Present: Craig Dunning, Linda Dunning, Merle Dustin, Ed Fairfield, Martha Fairfield, Janet Krzyzaniak, Don Lane, David Luneau, Peter Marchant, Brenda Quinn, Shirley Quinn, Terry Quinn, Tony Quinn, Patti Cass Smith, Sue Strickford and Ken Traum

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

Board members present reviewed documents for signature and signed the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Account Payable Manifest	2/19/2013	Approved	Checks 47514-47550 \$ 48,080.10
Account Payable Manifest	2/25/2013	Approved	Checks 47551-47594 \$1,254,151.36
Payroll Manifest	2/25/2013	Approved	Run 2013/02/28-01 \$62,223.06
Approval to Expend Fund	2/25/2013	Approved	\$4,242.22 from Fire Dept. Vehicle & Equip. CRF
Application for Current Use	2/25/2013	Approved	Map/Lot 256-030-000 15.132 Acres
Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral	2/25/2013	Approved	225-123-000 \$3,042.43
Tax Abatement 2012	2/11/2013	Granted	239-038-000 Reduce assessment \$40,100
Tax Abatement 2012	2/17/2013	Granted	225-080-000 Reduce assessment \$32,900
Tax Abatement 2012	2/15/2013	Granted	230-016-000 Reduce assessment \$5,900
Tax Abatement 2012	1/23/2013	Granted	209-019-000 Reduce assessment \$9,200
Tax Abatement 2012	2/11/2013	Granted	106-015-000 Reduce assessment \$54,200
Tax Abatement 2012	1/23/2013	Granted	259-027-000 Reduce assessment \$27,200

After discussion, the Board decided by consensus to not meet on March 11 as previously scheduled. The next meeting will be on March 25, 2013.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the Public minutes of February 11, 2013. Mr. Pellerin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Select Board Meeting held on February 11, 2013. There being no discussion, Chair O'Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O'Brien, Pellerin, Langwasser and Goddard voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. **MOTION APPROVED 4-0.**

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Proposed Cell Tower on Town Property – Peter Marchant, AT&T Wireless

Chair O'Brien informed those gathered that the Town has been approached to lease Town land on Old Putney Road to a company wishing to erect a cell tower. The Board did not want to continue discussion without giving those living in the area an opportunity to provide input. Notices were sent to abutters, but the Board wanted a "wider net" of people notified. Because of that, the Board listened to discussion tonight and will put the topic on the agenda for the Select Board meeting on March 25, 2013 for discussion when the new Board members are in place.

Peter Marchant from AT&T wireless presented the following information:

- There is a need for improved coverage on Interstate 89 and in Hopkinton Village.
- In order to be able to erect a new tower, they would have to prove that an existing tower would not meet the coverage needs.
- The site for the tower would be 150-200 feet off Old Putney Hill Road accessed by 12 ft. wide gravel road.
- Site is unmanned and wouldn't be plowed in the winter.
- Tower would go 20 ft. above the tree line (Town Ordinance). It is estimated to be a 100 ft. tower.
- Compound around the tower would be fenced and have a shelter for the equipment.
- A diesel generator would be at the location. This would run in an emergency and run to test it once per week.
- Power lines would need to be installed to the site. A regular residential power line and phone line is what is required.
- Old Putney Hill Road would not have to be upgraded. The only requirement during construction is that a cement truck be able to reach the site.

When asked the benefit to the Town, Chair O'Brien said that the sample lease agreement calls for a lease payment of \$1,200-1,300 per month and the Town would receive tax revenue on the improvements to the site.

David Luneau said that in 2000 a cell tower at this site was proposed, but was not erected because reception was not good, the Conservation Commission was against it, old wells were found on the site, and more suitable commercial land was available on the other side of Interstate 89.

Ron Klemarzyk, speaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission said that the Commission has not taken a position on the tower, but wanted to bring forward the following items:

- The proposed site is believed to have been voted to be a Town Forest.
- The proposed trail around the village goes through this property. The trail does not go through the area where the tower would be placed.
- If a tower is built, the Commission would like to "piggyback" on the construction to put in trailheads.
- The Conservation Commission would like the money from the cutting of timber to go into the forest fund.

Residents from the area shared their thoughts:

- Most of the residents of the road have been approached to have a tower on their property and have all said “no”.
- Both roads in the area are designated “Scenic” roads.
- The possibility of locating on another tower should be ruled out before this site is pursued.
- Neighbors hike and snowshoe on this forest and it is “astoundingly beautiful”.
- It is not easy to sell property near a power line or cell tower.
- Many said they already have cell coverage in the area, but one couple shared that they don’t and wouldn’t buy a home again that wasn’t near a tower.
- Historic and scenic costs far outweigh revenue gained.
- Power lines on Old Putney Hill Road would destroy the esthetic value of the road.

A straw pool of those presented showed that 4 supported the tower and 10 were against it. Those wishing to share further information with the Board attend the meeting on March 25, or send it to the Town Hall in care of the Town Administrator.

Cemetery Management Software – Patti Cass Smith and Don Lane, Cemetery Trustees

Cemetery Trustee Don Lane presented the Board with a handout providing information about the cemeteries in town. Presently, the data management for the cemeteries is done with an Excel spreadsheet. The Cemetery Trustees are proposing that Potem Cemetery Management Software be purchased to manage the data. This product was chosen because it is able to electronically convert the existing Excel database, has robust database capable of expansion, accommodates extended files such as photographs and obituaries, has excellent list of reports and search mechanisms, is capable of expansion to accommodate remote inquiry, enjoys strong user endorsement, and is reasonably priced. The budget for the project is:

- Software - \$4,415
- Maintenance - \$604 per year after the first year
- Optional backup - \$180 annually
- New hardware requirements - \$800 to \$1,200
- Contingent local consulting requirement - \$2,000 to \$3,000

Mr. Langwasser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pellerin to support the Cemetery Trustees quest to purchase Potem Cemetery Management Software. There being no further discussion, Chair O’Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O’Brien, Pellerin, Langwasser and Goddard voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. MOTION APPROVED 4-0.

Contoocook Carry 2013 – Mary Congoran

Mary Congoran presented the Board with a letter requesting that the Town once again sponsor the Contoocook Carry tri-athlon this fall. Rev. Gordon Crouch, working with other church leaders in the community will organize and stage the event. Mrs. Congoran thanked the Board for its support in the past and the Board thanked Mrs. Congoran for leading this for so many years.

Mr. Pellerin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Select Board Meeting held on February 11, 2013. There being no discussion, Chair O’Brien called for the vote.

VOTE: O’Brien, Pellerin, Langwasser and Goddard voting in favor of the motion; no votes against. MOTION APPROVED 4-0.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Krzyzaniak requested that the Town Administrator look at the intersection of Spring Street and Kearsarge Avenue, and reported that a hole has developed there.

Merle Dustin thanked the highway crew for their assistance with her mailbox after the recent storm.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Precinct Boundary Petition

The Board reviewed the petition requesting that the Contoocook Village Precinct be expanded by one additional property. They decided to hold a Public Hearing as required by law on March 25, 2013. The abutters to the property, the Precinct Commissions, and those that signed the petition will receive notice of the hearing.

Flood Bill Update

Chair O'Brien reported that both he and Mr. Langwasser attended and testified at Public Hearings on proposed Flood Control bills last week at the Statehouse. The Senate bill is a strict appropriation bill and the House bill is to have Massachusetts pay the money it owes to New Hampshire. No one is opposed to the bills, but the issue is where the money to pay the towns will come from.

Highway Garage Energy Report

The Board reviewed the highway garage energy report. They favor the pellet option if possible. The building team is meeting on Wednesday and will review options as well as continue to work on the presentation for Town Meeting. All members of the Board will work to turn out voters.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Speakers for Town Meeting

The Board determined the following members will be assigned to speak to warrant articles at Town Meeting:

Article 2	Highway Garage	Langwasser
Article 3	Operating Budget	Congoran
Article 4	Discontinue Community Center CRF	Congoran
Article 5	Funds to pay down existing debt	Congoran
Article 6	Appropriation to CRFs	Pellerin
Article 7	Appropriation to Expendable Trusts	Pellerin
Article 8	Establish Dam CRF	O'Brien
Article 9	Change purpose of sludge CRF	O'Brien
Article 10	Appropriate from PbB Special Revenue	Goddard
Article 11	Rescind Pay-by-Bag (petitioners move)	Goddard
Article 12	Set PbB Price	Goddard
Article 13	Appropriate funds for the fire station	O'Brien
Article 14	Appropriate from SSC Rental Special Revenue	Langwasser

Trail Agreement

The Board reviewed a Trail Agreement between the Town and Timothy and Bonnie Sweatt of 207 Old Stagecoach Road.

Mr. Langwasser made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pellerin to enter into a Trail Agreement with Timothy and Bonnie Sweatt and authorize Chair O'Brien to sign said agreement. There being no further discussion, Chair O'Brien called for the vote.

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

Mr. Pellerin had to leave the meeting at this time.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the following items:

- The posting for the Firefighter/EMT position was in the Board packet for review. They agreed that this position will be advertised internally.
- The Police Association is holding a raffle for a bicycle. The Board by consensus approved the raffle.
- The Planning Board minutes were distributed in the Board's packet. Attention was called to the addition that was approved at McLane's.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair O'Brien expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to Mr. Goddard who will be leaving the Board at the close of Town Meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Goddard, seconded by Mr. Langwasser to adjourn the meeting.

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

Chair O'Brien declared the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal A. Cass, Town Administrator