



# Town of Hopkinton, NH

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**SELECT BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013  
APPROVED April 4, 2013**

Town Administrator Neal Cass called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:30 PM on Monday, March 25, 2013.

**Select Board Present:** Jim O'Brien, George Langwasser, Sue B. Strickford, Sara Persechino and Ken Traum

**Staff Present:** Neal Cass, Town Administrator and Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

**Public present:** Bonnie and Lester Cressy, Peter and Shannan Tawney, Jan Sheen, Mary Leadbeater, Tom Pratt, Ruth Pratt, Shawn and Ann Mills, Ginny Friberg, Peter Marchant, Tony Quinn, Cheryl Roberts, Mel Myler, Dick Hesse, George W. Chase, Gary Rondeau, Jack McDevitt, Andrea Nielsen, Jed Merrow, Ken Locke, Shannan Hudgins, Beth Hauschild, Eric Hauschild, Stephan Yianakopolos, Richard Horner, Stephen Adams, Krista Helmboldt, Renee Adams, David Young, June Young, Priscilla Reinertsen, Terry Reinersten, Edward and Martha Fairfield and Ken Wilkens

## **I. ADMINISTRATIVE**

Ken Traum made a motion to nominate Jim O'Brien as chair of the Board. Sue Strickford seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Ken Traum made a motion to nominate George Langwasser as vice chair of the Board. Sara Persechino seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Chairman O'Brien introduced the three new members of the Board: Sue Strickford, Sara Persechino and Ken Traum.

Selectmen Strickford inquired if we could open the meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Strickford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Cass explained that packets with information about the meeting are sent out on Friday by e-mail. Packets will be printed out for the meeting. All board members received a thumb drive with the town ordinances, policies, meeting schedule for board and other committees, budget numbers, right to know, reasons for non public meetings, etc.

Chairman O'Brien further explained the Right to Know, RSA 91-A. He also explained that e-mail should not be used for discussion or decision making purposes. All decisions need to be made at the meetings. Mr. Cass stated that after all the committees have made their appointments, we will have the town attorney in to discuss RSA 91-A.

Mr. Langwasser further stated that it is important not to discuss the issues with other board members outside of the meetings.

A discussion ensued with regards to the reasons for going into non public. Mr. Langwasser stated that the Board does not micro-manage the department heads or employees. If there are personnel issues, they go through the Town Administrator.

Mrs. Strickford inquired about speaking with the papers. Chairmen O'Brien stated all board members can speak with the press, just be careful you note that you are expressing your opinion and not speaking for the Board.

Mr. Cass suggested meeting with Department Heads and touring all facilities that the Town owns.

Chairmen O'Brien suggested that the meeting schedule for April be every week. All board members agreed. Mr. Cass will schedule a working session for next Monday.

Chairmen O'Brien informed the members of the Consent Agenda, which lays out all paperwork to be signed.

George Langwasser made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as written. Ken Traum seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of March 25, 2013. George Langwasser made a motion, seconded by Ken Traum to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting. Neal Cass noted an error in the spelling of a name.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser and Strickford voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; Persechino and Traum abstaining; motion passes 3-0-2.

## **III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**

Chairmen O'Brien gave a brief summary of the presentation done by AT&T with regards to placing a cell phone tower on town owned property on Putney Hill. Discussion ensued with regards to using other cell towers, impact on value of property. Mr. Langwasser stated that even if the Board approves it, AT&T still must go through the Planning Board and ZBA.

At this time, Chairmen O'Brien asked for public comment.

Krista Helmbolt is concerned for the impact on health and property values. She feels the people in the neighborhood have strong feelings about it and we need to honor that.

Steve Yianakopolos inquired if the Board has an estimate of what revenue it would generate. One side of town should not be responsible for service to another part of the town.

Linda Dunning, who lives on Old Putney Hill Rd, states she has no service at her house.

An unidentified woman spoke about protection the wildlife and its habitat. Further stating once the cell tower is put up the wildlife leaves. Land is used for walking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

David Luneau stated it is in the best interest of the town to insure that the residents have high speed internet and wireless services. He stated that if that were not the case, we would be having a different conversation. He further states there is technology out there to help increase your cell service.

Lucia Kittredge stated the Board follows the Master Plan, which encourages open space. She explained how the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee is working together to create trails connecting all the open spaces and this is one of the pieces that they plan on using.

Jed Merrow from the Conservation Commission stated the Commission has discussed the matter. He further stated that putting a tower up would be a non-conservation use on conservation land.

An unidentified person spoke to the historical value of the land, noting that 6 markers out 30 are on this property.

Discussion ensued as to the average height of the tree mark, possible future timber cuts and the effect that would have on the area.

Shawn Mills, Old Putney Hill Rd, stated if that land had been sold to developer, it would provide more in the way of tax revenue. It is in tax revenue that the land has the most value.

Jack McDevitt stated he has purchased land at 1715 Hopkinton Road and it was the abutting conservation land that was the appeal in buying it. The property needs to be preserved.

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board received a large amount of letters in opposition of the cell tower. He further stated the Town has no obligation to move forward. He believes a cell tower is not the best use of property.

Mr. Traum stated he was overwhelmed by the turnout and response to this issue, he agrees with the residents present.

Peter Marchant, from AT&T stated this is at the very beginning of the process, he further stated the whole town would need to vote on it.

Krista Helmbolt asked if AT&T had looked at other towers. Mr. Marchant answered those towers are at full capacity.

David Luneau stated the voters determined the road to be scenic.

Chairmen O'Brien stated there is no conservation easement on this property. It is a piece of town owned property received by tax deed.

Mr. Langwasser thanked everyone for their letters and participation in tonight's meeting. This piece is for public use and he is against the tower.

Mrs. Persechino thanked everyone for coming. She stated she would vote no.

Mrs. Strickford stated she has spoke with many people, have read the letters, and although she is looking for new revenue and challenged those present to do the same, she stated she would vote no.

Mr. Langwasser made a motion to decline the proposal of AT&T to proceed with erecting a cell tower on town owned land, located on Putney Hill Road, Map 239 Lot 50.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Chairmen O'Brien called for a 5 minutes recess at 7:06 pm.

Chairmen O'Brien called the meeting back to order at 7:11 pm.

Chairmen O'Brien opened the Public Hearing on the Petition to Expand the Boundaries of Contoocook Village Precinct (CVP). Chairmen O'Brien explained the Board had received the Petition before the Annual Meeting of CVP; however, they did not act on it. At CVP Annual Meeting they voted to accept the Petition pending approval of the Board of Selectmen. Chairmen O'Brien read the Petition into the record:

The undersigned registered voters registered in the Town of Hopkinton, pursuant to NH RSA 52:5 hereby Petition the Selectmen of the Town of Hopkinton as follows: To extend the boundaries of the Contoocook Village precinct to include all of the property currently owned by William M. Turner, located off Bound Tree Road, Hopkinton (Contoocook), New Hampshire being Tax Map 221 Lot 71.

Chairmen O'Brien asked for public comment.

There being no public comment, Chairmen O'Brien closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve the Petition for Extension of Precinct Boundaries to include the property currently owned by William Turner, Map 221 Lot 71. Mrs. Strickford seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Steve Clough, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, came forward to explain the Modification to the Solid Waste Management Facility Permit. Mr. Clough explained as the town is always looking for ways to increase revenue, this modification would allow him to look into accepting certain recyclables from certain towns. Mr. Clough stated we would have the control over whom, when and how it comes into the Transfer Station. This would give the committee other options for revenue. It will require a Public Hearing. Mr. Clough stated that over the years, he has made an effort to have a good relationship with the abutters to the Transfer Station by keeping them informed. A certified letter was sent notifying abutters about the modification. He further stated that this permit will not exceed current limits.

Mr. Traum inquired if Mr. Clough had a ball park number for increased revenue. Mr. Clough stated he would anticipate at some time having the transfer station to be funded completely by fees and not taxes.

Renee Adams thanked Mr. Clough for all his hard work at the Transfer Station and she inquired if this change in the permit would allow someone from Manchester to dump asbestos siding at the Transfer Station. Mr. Clough stated this permit would not allow that, today or any day.

Mr. Clough stated we are able to be very specific about what items we will accept and we have no legal obligation to take anything. All this would be specified in the ordinances.

Terry Reinertsen suggested the facility shorten the hours; reduce capacity and what we take in. The consequences to expanding are noise, traffic and the impact on residents nearby.

Gary Rondeau stated the first time he heard about the Modification was a letter he received in December of 2012. He stated he has read the minutes from the committee and it was mentioned in the town report. He presented the selectmen with a petition, signed by 146 registered voters, requesting that the Board withdraw the Modification. He further stated it would increase traffic through the village, there are too many unknowns.

John Madden stated the change makes it a commercial operation; this is not a modification but a major change. He continued that this should be a town decision and we should withdraw the modification until after the 2014 town meeting. We are moving too fast.

An unidentified person inquired as to why Hopkinton has to use the Pay-by-Bag bags and Webster doesn't. Chairmen O'Brien stated that Hopkinton voted to use the bags and Webster choose not to. He further stated that we cannot force Webster residents to use the bags.

Barbara Corliss, a representative Webster that is on the committee stated that any changes would need the approval of both Boards.

Russell Miller, whose home is near the Transfer Station states they are always picking up trash along the road, as well as having the noise of the backup alarms on the vehicles, feels that expanding the facility is not the way to go.

Mr. Langwasser stated our facility is underutilized. No changes can go through unless both boards approve. There would have to be public hearings in both Webster and Hopkinton.

Steve Clough stated that he cannot look into increasing tax revenues without this modification.

David Price stated he is worried about any kind of change. He further stated getting this permit will make it a business and increase traffic.

Steve Adams asked if this is the direction we really want to go. This should go before the town, stop the request now and bring it to town meeting in 2014.

Rich Houston stated that after Pay-by-Bag, trash amount dropped, recyclables dropped, the facility is only trying to expand its revenue base.

Gary Rondeau inquired when the Board would be making a decision. Chairmen O'Brien stated within the next couple of meetings.

Chairmen O'Brien thanked everyone for coming.

#### **IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

Lester Cressy thanked Sue Strickford for the pledge.

Ken Locke inquired as to the cost of the town report, stating we should cut it. He also stated we should cut money from the Highway Garage.

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Cass stated the Bond proposals for the Highway Garage are in the packets. On Thursday, he will be meeting with the architect and the builder.

Mr. Langwasser made a motion to approve the bond for the construction of a new highway garage in the amount of \$530,566 at a rate of 2.21% for a period of 10 years from Northway Bank. Mrs. Strickford seconded the motion. Mr. Traum inquired if there were any up-front fees and if it can be paid off at any time. Chairmen O'Brien stated there were no upfront fees and we can pay it off at any time.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Chairmen O'Brien inquired about a groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Cass will check into.

Mr. Traum inquired about the audit report.

Mrs. Strickford stated that someone needs to be in charge of food for the elections next year.

Mr. Cass stated we need to have a public hearing to change the sewer rates. The expenses are starting to exceed the income. Public Hearing has been scheduled for April 8, 2013.

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Cass stated Central NH Regional Planning Commission has a transportation advisory committee and the Board needs to nominate someone for the committee.

Mr. Langwasser made a motion to nominate John Thayer to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Mrs. Persechino made a motion to approve Neal Cass as the Health Officer for the Town of Hopkinton. Mrs. Strickford seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Mr. Cass informed the Board there will be a meeting for Shared Services on Thursday at Webster. Mrs. Strickford will attend the meeting.

#### **VII. TA UPDATES**

Mr. Cass informed the Board that their packets will include an FYI file instead of the read file.

Mrs. Persechino announced there will be a roadside trash pickup day, April 20, 2013. Everyone will meet at the Depot at 9:00 am for bags. Rain date will be April 27, 2013.

Chairmen O'Brien updated the Board on the Flood Control issue.

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

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Langwasser, Strickford, Persechino, and Traum voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; motion passes, 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant

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