



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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SELECT BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014

APPROVED October 22, 2014

Jim O'Brien, Chairman, called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:33 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2014, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board. George Langwasser led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator; and Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant; Jessica Bailey, Recreation Director; John Thayer, Highway Superintendent; Steve Pecora, Police Chief

Public Present: Ken Wilkens, Merle Dustin, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob LaPree, Janet Krzyzaniak; Edith Carr and members of the Carr family, Luciele Gaskill, Bill Chapin, Jr., Michael Charron, Bonnie & Lester Cressy.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Presentation of the Boston Post Cane-Edith Carr

Chairman O'Brien stated that occasionally, the Board gets to do something fun. It is a tradition in Hopkinton to give the Boston Post Cane to the oldest living resident, Edith Carr. Chairman O'Brien stated Edith Carr was born in April of 1915 and has lived in town her entire life. Chairman O'Brien read the Proclamation:

Whereas, The Boston Post on August 2, 1909 provided the Town of Hopkinton with a fine cane manufactured especially for this purpose by J.F. Fradley & Co., of New York. The stick is carefully selected Gaboon ebony from the Congo, Africa, and the head is made of rolled gold of 14 karat fineness.

Whereas, the head of the cane is artistically engraved as presented by The Boston Post to the Oldest Citizen of Hopkinton (to be transmitted).

Whereas, the Hopkinton Select Board acts as trustee of the cane and see that the stick is duly presented and duly transmitted when such a change of holders becomes necessary.

Whereas, it has been determined that you are the "Oldest Citizen of Hopkinton".

The Board of Selectmen does hereby present to you, the Boston Post Cane on this, the 6th day of October 6, 2014.

The Select Board and the Residents of the Town congratulate you on receiving this honor.

Mrs. Carr stated it was an honor to have the Cane; she will take good care of it. She also thanked her family and friends for coming.

The Board recessed until 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., Chairman O’Brien called the meeting back to order.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Consent Agenda

Board members reviewed documents for signature and approved unanimously (5-0) the Consent Agenda, taking the following action on motion made by Mr. Traum and seconded by Mrs. Persechino.

Item	Date	Action	Comments
Accounts Payable Manifest	10-06-14	Approved	35,395.00
Accounts Payable Manifest	10-06-14	Approved	1,408,091.02
Accounts Payable Manifest	10-06-14	Approved	138,194.58
Payroll Manifest	10-06-04	Approved	61,019.99
Building Permit	10-06-14	Approved	Evergreen Coffee 905 Main
Building Permit	10-06-04	Approved	Karen Joyce 24 Moran Rd
Building Permit	10-06-04	Approved	Cub Scouts-Temp Sign
Building Permit	10-06-14	Approved	Martha Keene 222 Deer Path
Building Permit	10-06-14	Approved	Jody Reynolds 981 Upper St
Building Permit	10-06-14	Approved	Donna Forte 956 Hatfield
Building Permit	10-06-14	Approved	Jessica Dunlap 2 Maple
Boston Post Cane	10-06-14	Approved	Edith Carr
Letter of Recognition	10-06-14	Approved	
GIS Agreement	10-06-14	Approved	
Yield Warrant Tax	10-06-14	Approved	Map 203 Lot 21
PAYMENT FROM TRUST	10-06-14	Approved	Fire /Vehicle Cap 35,140.00
PAYMENT FROM TRUST	10-06-14	Approved	Library 13,946.00
PAYMENT FROM TRUST	10-06-14	Approved	Recreation 630.00
PAYMENT FROM TRUST	10-06-14	Approved	Town Facilities 666.14
TRANSFER OF FUNDS to GF	10-06-14	Approved	Sestercentennial 2,016.70
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GF	10-06-14	Approved	HS Energy/Fuel 1,949.64
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GF	10-06-14	Approved	HS Donation 2,425.81
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GF	10-06-14	Approved	FD Auxiliary 364.02
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GF	10-06-14	Approved	Sewer Fund 23,921.54
TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO GF	10-06-14	Approved	Recreation Rev 46,031.27
Tax Collector’s Deed	10-06-14	Approved	Map 209 Lot 58
Tax Collector’s Deed	10-06-14	Approved	Map 256 Lot 27.1
ELECTION WARRANT	10-06-14	Approved	

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the public meeting minutes of September 22, 2014. Mr. Langwasser made a motion; seconded by Mrs. Strickford, to approve the public meeting minutes as presented, of September 22, 2014.

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

The Board reviewed the Joint School Board/Select Board public meeting minutes of Tuesday, September 30, 2014. Correction was made to the wording on Page 2, #5 e. should read Mr. Traum suggested the School Board be the host facility and Mr. Traum will offer any assistance he can. Mr. Traum made a motion; seconded by Mr. Langwasser, to approve the Joint School Board/Select Board public meeting minutes of September 30, 2014 as amended.

VOTE: Langwasser, Persechino, Traum and Strickford voting in favor of the motion; no votes against; O'Brien abstaining; MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS**Public Hearing: Acceptance and expenditure of Unanticipated Funds**

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board is seeking input with regards to unanticipated revenue. Chairman O'Brien gave a brief history of why the Town received these funds. Chairman O'Brien stated the Board has had discussion on this matter and the Board wanted to put the money towards paving the roads, however, we are too late in the year to do that. Mr. Traum reported the Road Committee met and discussed the matter. They feel it is too late in the season to pave and suggested the storm drainage on Cedar Street would be a better project. John Thayer, Highway Superintendent, agreed that the project on Cedar Street would be a good use of the funds. Mr. Thayer stated we can reline some of the pipe, but will have to do more extensive work where homes have connected to the system. Mr. Cass stated some roads will still get a base coat. Mr. Langwasser stated the Board struggles with how to fix the roads, as we have continually cut the Highway Department's budget to the point that we can no longer catch up on the maintenance of the roads without incurring a high price tag. Mrs. Dustin inquired if we have received all the past due flood money. Chairman O'Brien stated no, this is only one year; new legislation needs to be brought forward to get the rest of it. There being no more public comment, Chairman O'Brien closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 pm.

Mr. Traum made a motion that the Select Board under RSA 31:95-b after the required Public Hearing, accept the unanticipated flood money from the State in the amount of \$139,528 and authorize the expenditure of said funds on the Cedar Street drainage system as recommended by the Highway Superintendent and Road Committee. Mr. Langwasser seconded the motion.

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

NH Cooperative Extension re: Emerald Ash Borer

Tim Fleury and Molly were here to inform the Board that the Emerald Ash Borer is in Hopkinton. All firewood in Merrimack County must remain here so the infestation can hopefully be slowed down. Their focus is to educate landowners for signs of infestation and to report it. Flyers have been placed at the Town Hall and at the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office.

Field Use Policy: Chairman O'Brien started the discussion by stating currently we have no policy for the use of the fields. We do, however, have policy for use for all other town facilities. Long ago agreements and handshake deals no longer apply; we need a policy as more outside organization request to use Hopkinton's fields. Chairman O'Brien further stated the other piece of this discussion is about the cost to the town to maintain the fields. As more and more outside organization request use of the fields; should they be charged a fee, as they would if they rented any town facilities? Chairman O'Brien stated until now, the taxpayer has been paying; however, a proposal has been brought before the Board to charge fees and the Board wanted input from the public, as well as the organizations that use the fields before moving forward. He reminded everyone that it is a draft. He further stated the volunteers who work the programs are doing a great job and this policy is not meant to under mind those that run the programs. An unidentified person stated why do we need to define anything—there are no problems; parents do maintenance to the fields that the town does not do and handshake agreements should not be ignored. Chairman O'Brien responded that many users mean we need a more formalized schedule especially with many outside organizations requesting field time. He continued that the Town has liability when someone uses the Town's fields, same as with the use of any other Town facility. Jeff Donohoe inquired what outside organizations are coming in. Chairman O'Brien stated British Soccer Club; they come in; charge a fee to those wishing to participate; and need the field for a specific sport at specific times. We have never charged for the use of the field; but it still must be maintained. Michael Charron inquired as to a Master Schedule. Chairman O'Brien stated scheduling can work; but no policy for clean up; no expectation of how the field should be treated. Lance Klinger stated British Soccer is a good example of an outside organization coming here using the fields and then leaves; however, what about HSYA, that is a different type of organization. Mrs. Persechino stated in town non-profit organization would be different; the policy allows for different types of groups. Chairman O'Brien stated the Board also discussed a waiver for those organizations that make improvements. Amy Bogart stated that would be messy bookkeeping. Bill Chapin, Jr. stated it does feel like a slap in the face. Mrs. Persechino stated we don't want to give it away free. Jeff Donohoe inquired how the fee for the lights was determined. Mr. Cass stated it was based on actually use. Mr. Donohoe inquired if any other organizations use the lights; Mr. Cass stated no other organization uses the lights as often as men's softball. Discussion ensued, regarding the proposed policy of practice once a week; which is not enough practice time. Tom Sullivan stated he hoped there would be more time spent on these issues than just tonight. Chairman O'Brien stated government moves slow; there will be no decision tonight. Mr. Langwasser stated he believes there is a real lack of communication between all the parties involved. As Board Members, we have no idea what each team or individual is doing with regards to maintenance and improvements. Mrs. Persechino suggested that if the Board could make a decision on the fee section of the policy, we may be able to save some time and discussion. The consensus of the Board is that outside organizations should be charged a fee; in town non-profits should not be charged. An

unidentified person suggested that a member of each group be involved in the redraft of the policy. Mr. Cass stated we should also include those that are currently maintaining the fields, Building and Grounds. Jessica Bailey, Recreation Director, stated the reason for the policy is for a guideline. Hopkinton is unique in that we have many in town non-profit organizations that run the sports programs; in most towns the Recreation Department runs the sports programs. Lance Klingler stated any agreement should be vague. Mr. Langwasser replied that is the problem, it is too vague. Mr. Klingler stated if it is too heavy handed, the volunteers will no longer fix things. Things are fine the way they are. Mr. Cass stated no they are not; I as well as Jessica, receive complaints from one group about another group. Chairman O'Brien stated issues need to be resolved. Amy Bogart suggested the use of two different forms; one for in town groups and one for outside organizations. Chairman O'Brien stated that Mr. Cass will be in touch for a future meeting and post it. Any policy would need a public hearing. As there were no new comments or input; Chairman O'Brien called for a 5 minute recess.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Amy Bogart inquired as to the status of the Hopkinton Fair's request for charitable exemption. Chairman O'Brien stated the Town denied their request; we have requested information from them, which was to be here at the end of August. Mr. Cass stated someone from the Fair came in and told the office that the information would not be available until September. We have not received any further information.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

EDC Membership: Chairman O'Brien inquired if there were any active applications. Mr. Cass replied he has not seen any. It was suggested that an application be mailed out to those that express an interest.

2015 Holiday Schedule: Mr. Cass stated this is the holiday schedule for 2015. Mr. Langwasser made a motion to approve the 2015 Holiday Schedule as presented. Mrs. Persechino seconded the motion.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Review of 3rd Quarter Financials: Mr. Cass stated he feels better about this month end than last. Expenses are good, revenues are good; he noted the flood money received and also an elderly deferral that was paid.

Chairman O'Brien stated he has spoken to Ben Wilson, who volunteered to look at the Houston Barn, as there are restoration grants available. The board was agreeable to letting Mr. Wilson look at the barn.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Main Street Trees: Mr. Cass stated he received a letter from Lawrence Collins regarding the trees on Main Street, some of which are dead and he believes they are a safety hazardous. The

trees are on private property and within the State's right of way. Mr. Cass has notified the State but has received no response. The homeowner can remove the trees.

Fire Station Update: Mr. Cass stated everything is on schedule and on budget.

VIII. OTHER

At this time, Lawrence Collins inquired about the dead trees on Main Street, noting that he has written to Mr. Cass about it. Regina Hawley, who lives across the street from the Town Hall, stated she has tried several times to get answers from the State and has not heard anything. Discussion ensued, as to why the town cannot remove the trees; the trees are on private property, not town property. Lester Cressy stated that as a matter of public safety, the town should remove the trees. Chairman O'Brien stated he would contact someone he knows at the State to see if the State will respond to the letter.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION III-RSA 91-A: 3 IV (e) Legal

Mr. Langwasser moved to go into a non-public session regarding a legal issue under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (e). Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members Langwasser, Persechino, Traum, Strickford, and Chair O'Brien voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 8:25 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 8:46 p.m.

Vote to seal nonpublic minutes:

Mr. Traum moved to seal the minutes of the just completed nonpublic session indefinitely. Mrs. Persechino seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members Langwasser, Persechino, Traum, Strickford, and Chair O'Brien voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

NON-PUBLIC SESSION I -RSA 91-A: 3 IV (a) Personnel

Mrs. Persechino moved to go into a non-public session regarding a Personnel issue under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (a). Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members Langwasser, Persechino, Traum, Strickford, and Chair O'Brien voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 8:47 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 9:10 p.m.

Vote to seal nonpublic minutes:

Mr. Traum moved to seal the minutes of the just completed nonpublic session indefinitely. Mrs. Persechino seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members Langwasser, Persechino, Traum, Strickford, and Chair O'Brien voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mrs. Strickford, seconded by Mr. Traum to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Buchanan