



# Town of Hopkinton, NH

## Office of the Select Board

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**SELECT BOARD  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015  
APPROVED 01-26-15**

George Langwasser, Vice Chairman, called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:35 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Vice Chairman Langwasser introduced the members of the Board. Sue Strickford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

**Public Present:** Ken Wilkens, residents of Peaked Hill Condos, Rich Houston, Art Cunningham, Dick Horner, Frank Davis

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Consent Agenda**

Board members reviewed documents for signature and approved unanimously (4-0) 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	01-12-15	Approved	\$1,317,893.59
Accounts Payable Manifest	01-12-15	Approved	\$389,415.24
Accounts Payable Manifest	01-12-15	Approved	\$153,781.32
Payroll Manifest	01-12-15	Approved	\$68,242.34
Timber Warrant	01-12-15	Approved	Map 239 Lo5 9 \$15.50
Letter of Commitment	01-12-15	Approved	Hazardous Waste Day
Abatement-Sewer	01-12-15	Approved	Map 102 Lot 49
Abatement-Sheehan	01-12-15	Approved	Map 208 Lot 3.G31
Nobis Contract	01-12-15	Approved	
Extension of Cable Agree	01-12-15	Approved	
CU Application: Chapin	01-12-15	Approved	Map 227 Lot 19
Veteran's Credit-DeWitt	01-12-15	Approved	Map 257 Lot 7
<b>TRANSFER OF FUNDS:</b>			
Human Services to GF	01-12-15	Approved	\$426.09
Special Rev Fund Senior Rent	01-12-15	Approved	\$100.00
Public Safety Rev to GF	01-12-15	Approved	\$124.73

Recreation Rev Fund	01-12-15	Approved	\$2,572.59
Application Capital Reserve:			
Town Hall Renovations	01-12-15	Approved	\$804.27

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the public meeting minutes of December 29, 2014. Mrs. Persechino made a motion; seconded by Mr. Traum, to approve the public meeting minutes as presented, of December 29, 2014.

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

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**Winter Maintenance Policy:** Mr. Traum inquired about the sidewalk plowing, noting that today, it was in bad condition. Often times, the plow comes back after the sidewalk has been plowed and pushes more snow onto the side walk. Mr. Cass will inform John Thayer. Mrs. Strickford inquired if drivers go home or stay at the shop during the rest period. Mr. Cass replied that it depends upon the type and duration of the storm; but sometimes they do go home. Mr. Cass further stated this is not a change from the previous policy. Mr. Cass stated we have 12 plow routes, 8 full time drivers, 2 part time drivers and 2 sub-contractors that can be called in if needed. Mrs. Strickford inquired about a salt shortage. Mr. Cass replied we are in good shape as far as salt is concerned and we will be ordering more at the end of the winter. Mrs. Strickford inquired whose responsibility is it to trim the trees and shrubs hanging over the road. Mr. Cass responded that we request the homeowner trim by a certain date; if it is not trimmed, the Town will do it. Discussion ensued, with regards to right of way. Mr. Cass stated it is different on every road.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve the Winter Maintenance Policy as written. Mrs. Persechino seconded the motion.

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

**Comcast Franchise Agreement:** Mr. Traum stated has been no further discussion with Comcast because the parties have agreed to a delay to work out the issues. Mr. Cass noted that Comcast will not rush and would the Board like to reappoint the committee or just have the Board oversee everything. The decided to not reactivate the Committee; the Board will oversee.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

Ken Wilkens came forward and gave the Board a Petition Warrant Article to rescind Pay by Bag.

Ginny Haines asked the Board to consider putting a crosswalk across Maple Street to the Everyday Café. She inquired if the speed limit from Maple Street to the center could be lower; it is a dangerous intersection. It was noted that the cross walk would be Route 103 and that is a state road, so the request must go to the state. Mr. Cass stated the speed limit issue should be discussed with Police Chief Pecora.

Mrs. Strickford stated that she received wonderful comments with regards to the Charter Signing Reenactment; including the violinist. Mr. Traum thanked Dick Hesse for his participation.

Mr. Cass stated the sign up period for public office is from January 21, 2015 to January 30, 2015. The following offices have vacancies:

- 1 Board of Selectmen for a 3 year term
- 2 Budget Committee Members for a 3 year term
- 2 Library Trustees for a 3 year term
- 1 Cemetery Trustee for a 3 year term
- 1 Trustee of the Trust Funds for a 3 year term

### III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

**Webster Select Board:** Roy Fanjoy, Roger Becker and Bruce Johnson, Webster Select Board, were in to discuss the PSNH Easement and the Solid Waste Disposal Study Committee Report. Mr. Johnson stated the Board has read and will sign the easement agreement with PSNH.

With regards to the Solid Waste Disposal Study Committee Report, Mr. Johnson stated shortly after reading the report, which recommends curbside pickup, he polled a few people in Webster. Of the 20 people he spoke with, 19 replied no; 1 stated they would have to look into it. Mr. Johnson stated personally he is not for it. He stated it is a contract change; he also feels the lagoon program is fine and likes how things are run now. Mr. Fanjoy agreed with Mr. Johnson, further stating that if the hours were cut at the Transfer Station, it would be very inconvenient. Mr. Becker agreed, adding it is not economical enough, there are not enough houses per mile to make a profit.

Art Cunningham, from the Solid Waste Disposal Study Committee, commented that septic disposal should not be put on the ground, as it is in the lagoons, sewage should be treated. He further stated the permit runs out in October of 2015. Discussion of where septic disposal would go, as Webster has a ban and will not spread, so other towns will not take their disposal. Mr. Horner stated Concord never mentioned the ban; but the person he spoke to was aware that it was Webster and Hopkinton septic disposal. Mr. Davis stated he spoke with Mich Locker of the Environmental Services Ground Water Division. Mr. Davis stated that Mr. Locker told him that the septic only goes down about one foot into the ground and never reaches the water table. He asked the Selectmen to invite Mr. Locker or another expert in to speak to the two Boards. Rich Houston stated there are monitoring wells all around the lagoon. Gary Rondeau stated our roads are in bad shape if we use curbside, there will be less trucks leaving the Transfer Station. Mr. Langwasser stated that whatever we do, it must be done with Webster and we need a cohesive agreement. Hopkinton is going to have to give on some issues and Webster will have to give on some, everyone has to compromise. Mr. Traum agreed, adding we need to find areas to reduce, but noting that Steve Clough does handle the budget well. Mrs. Persechino inquired if Webster would be willing to reconsider Pay by Bag. Mr. Johnson replied we have had the discussion and people are just not in favor of it. Webster recycles as much, if not more than Hopkinton and therefore, Pay by Bag is not needed. Mrs. Strickford stated the contract is 20 years old, it is time to renegotiate it. Mr. Johnson suggested a work session between the two Boards.

**Peaked Hill Residents re: Taxes**

Residents of Peaked Hill were in to discuss the recent assessments and their taxes. Mr. Stephen Waters and Michael Lambert came forward to speak on behalf of the residents. Mr. Waters thanked the Board for having them. Mr. Lambert handed the board a short list of questions with regards to assessments and taxes. The Board went over and answered each of the questions, except for one and referred them to Cross Country Appraisal. It was decided to have Jeff Earls, of Cross Country Appraisal, come in and speak with the residents of Peaked Hill. The Board also discussed how the school and town budgets affect on the tax rate. Assessment procedures were discussed.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

**Fire Station Update:** Mr. Cass stated everything is going well and is on schedule. Work has moved to the inside of the building. There are no issues at this time.

**Firefighter/EMT Position:** Mr. Cass stated 9 applicants were interviewed by an oral board; 2 of those candidates advanced and references and background checks are being done.

**VII. OTHER**

Mr. Traum inquired when the Bridge Engineers will be in. Mr. Cass replied at the next meeting. Mr. Langwasser stated we should ask about a weight limit on the bridge.

Mr. Traum stated he, Mr. Cass and Jack Ruderman had a very preliminary meeting with regards to solar array.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Mrs. Persechino, seconded by Mr. Traum to adjourn the meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant