



Town of Hopkinton, NH

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**SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016
HOPKINTON TOWN HALL
APPROVED AUGUST 8, 2016**

II. CALL TO ORDER

Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2016 at the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board.

Chairman O'Brien asked Janet Krzyzaniak to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Jim O'Brien, Ken Traum, Sue B. Strickford, Steve Lux, Jr. and Bob Gerseny arriving at 6:30 pm.

Staff Present: Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

Public Present: Janet Krzyzaniak, Ken Wilkens, Billie Jean and Bob Arseneault. Denis Goddard, and Robert Saunders

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board members reviewed documents for signature and approved unanimously (4-0) the Consent Agenda, on motion made by Mr. Traum and seconded by Mrs. Strickford.

CONSENT AGENDA 07-25-16

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

\$94,678.15

\$1,531,734.51

PAYROLL MANIFEST

\$72,189.98

BUILDING PERMITS

Sean Carroll bldg. permit deck 174 Brockway Rd Map 256 Lot 25

GoSolar solar 89 Amesbury Rd Map 225 Lot 44
Gould Hill Farm temp special event sign permit PICK YOUR OWN BLUEBERRIES
Hopkinton State Fair agricultural building 392 Kearsarge Ave Map 222 Lot 61

Application for Reimbursement to Town & Cities for Federal Forest

PAF

Fire Department hire FT employee Matthew Demers

RIGHT TO BURY

Carlson Revocable Trust
Thomas Dolan

TIMBER WARRANT

James & Heather Robertson Map 242 Lot 15
Sandra Weston Map 265 Lot 32

Acknowledgement Under Forbearance of Tax Collector's Deed

Map 223 Lot 52 (2 copies to sign)

Acknowledgement letter re: Audit complete for year ending 2015

Approval of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 11, 2016. Mr. Lux made a motion, seconded by Mr. Traum, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2016. Discussion ensued, with regards to two changes: (1) wording in the section of the Cable Franchise Agreement and a correction in the Non Public vote. Mr. Lux made a motion to accept the amended Minutes of July 11, 2016. Mr. Traum seconded the motion. Chair O'Brien called for a vote.

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

The Board reviewed the Select Board Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 11, 2016. Mr. Lux made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Strickford, to approve the Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2016. Chair O'Brien called for a vote.

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

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Bob and Billie Jean Arseneault were in because they have not received the deeds to the property to 13 Penacook Road. Chairman O'Brien stated that he will e-mail them in the morning to them. Mr. Arseneault stated they have lost another sale due to the right of way; the town has to help

him. Chairman O'Brien inquired if the Arseneaults have contacted the Cemetery Trustees. Mr. O'Brien stated the Town is unlikely to abandon the right of way.

Janet Krzyzaniak stated the right of way has been there for years. And, how do we know whether or not that is why the house is not selling. This has never been an issue with any previous owners and the Arseneaults purchased the home with knowledge of the right of way.

I. POINTS OF PRIDE

Chairman O'Brien, the Select Board members and Neal Cass received a thank you from the Recreation Director, Paula Simpkins, thanking them for their work during the Senior Luncheon held at Elm Brook in July.

Mrs. Strickford wanted to thank the Highway Department for all their hard work on Kearsarge Avenue and Penacook Road. The weather has been extremely hot and they have been out there every day working in it.

Mr. Traum stated that the Swap Shop will be opening soon.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON COMCAST FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Chairman O'Brien opened the Public Hearing on the Comcast Franchise Agreement at 6:00pm. Mr. Traum stated that we do not have much room to negotiate because of all the federal and state regulations. Comcast did not offer free internet for town buildings; however, they did offer free basic TV service. Comcast also offers lower internet rates (\$9.95 per month) for any family with one child that is eligible for reduced or free lunch. They also offer those families a computer at \$150.00. The schools will be sending out information about these programs.

Chairman O'Brien asked for comment from the public. Robert Saunders, Hopkinton Road, inquired what would happen if we did not renew the agreement. Mr. Traum replied that Comcast would stop operations in Hopkinton. Mr. Saunders questioned why the TDS agreement and Comcast agreement were not done at the same time. Mr. Traum stated that TDS wanted to expand their coverage and so a new agreement was drawn up. Denis Goddard inquired about public access TV. Mr. Traum stated public access is available but the town would have to pay for it. Chairman O'Brien inquired if Mr. Goddard knew of any towns that shared a public access channel. Mr. Goddard replied that he would check into that. Discussion ensued with regards to the customer service of both TDS and Comcast.

Mr. Saunders inquired if an exemption on his property taxes was available, as he did not have internet service available to his property. Chairman O'Brien stated that exemptions are state regulated and therefore, the Town could not do that.

There being no further public comment, Chairman O'Brien closed the public hearing at 6:20 pm.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve the proposed renewal for the Comcast Franchise Agreement. Mr. Lux seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Strickford and Lux voting in favor of the motion;

no votes against; MOTION APPROVED 4-0.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

i. 2017 Budget Process and Priorities

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board needs to make sure that we provide guidance to the Department Heads during the budget process. He further stated that there have been years that the Board has given clear instructions for the Department Heads and other years the Board seems to provide little to no guidance. He believes there are pros and cons to each approach.

Mr. Traum stated we need to hold the tax rate level, but not the budget. He suggested that Mr. Cass work with the Department Heads to help them prioritize. He also suggested that the Board bring up the issue of a \$5.00 fee added to the motor vehicle registrations.

Mr. Lux stated the priority is to keep the tax rate level.

Chairman O'Brien stated the merit pool increase is also a priority, also building maintenance, recreation fields, and lights at George's Park.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the Capital Improvement Program Committee and their role during the budget process.

Mrs. Strickford inquired if the Economic Development Committee (EDC) had any new ideas. Mr. Gerseny, who is on the EDC, stated there seems to be some meaningful proposals on the table. They are revisiting all the old plans, and exploring partnership opportunities. However, he cautioned that the EDC proposals will not be a quick fix.

Discussion ensued with regards to creating 2 budgets one with a +4% and one with a -4%.

Chairman O'Brien updated Mr. Gerseny with regards to the discussion with the Arseneaults during Public Forum. Mr. Gerseny, also a Cemetery Trustee, stated the Trustees need to come up with a proposal and find a meaningful solution. Discussion ensued, with regards to the maintenance of the cemetery software.

IX. OTHER

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Traum, seconded by Mr. Lux to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant