



TOWN OF HOPKINTON
New Hampshire

Hopkinton Select Board
Hopkinton School Board



Above All, Care

Joint Meeting

Monday, October 17, 2016
5:30 PM

APPROVED BY THE HOPKINTON SELECT BOARD 10-24-16

Slusser Center

PUBLIC SESSION

School Board Members Present: Steve Chamberlin, Dave Luneau, Henry Yianakopolis, William Jones and Matt Cairns.

Select Board Members Present: Jim O'Brien, Ken Traum, Sue Strickford, Bob Gerseny, and Steve Lux.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Hopkinton Select Board Chair Jim O'Brien opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and introduced the Select Board and School Board Members in attendance. Steve Chamberlin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Additions/Deletions from Agenda

3. Public Comment (1)

4. Comments from the Hopkinton School Board and Hopkinton Select Board

Chairman O'Brien thanked Town Administrator Neal Cass and Superintendent Steve Chamberlin for keeping both Boards on track.

Dave Luneau thanked the Select Board and the Town Administrator and the School Administration for working closely together and noted that the meetings are very positive.

Matt Cairns stated we are moving into Budget season and the School will be meeting with the Budget Committee on Tuesday, October 18, 2016.

Other members of each Board attended the Cemetery Walk and Red Hawks football over the weekend.

Mrs. Strickford stated that Hopkinton Cares was held on Saturday, October 15, 2016 and it pairs the elderly who need projects done with those in the community that can do those projects. She also noted that Mr. Chamberlin and Mr. Cass were among the volunteers who participated.

Mr. Lux stated it was nice to see that the sidewalks are almost completed.

5. Presentations and Staff Reports

Bob Gerseny and Meredith Astles, Economic Development Committee (EDC) Presentation:

Mr. Gerseny stated that in the past, the EDC has had a series of up and down. The committee is now focused on the “big picture.” He further stated that the EDC is trying to build an environment where people want to work and live. Mr. Gerseny continued that the EDC is planning a big presentation for the 2018 Town Meeting to open opportunities to enhance retailing, starter homes, work force house, senior housing and bring businesses to town, however, the EDC understands that finances are an issue.

Mr. Gerseny stated that for the 2017 Town Meeting, the EDC has 3 amendments that will be on the ballot, all concerning zoning changes. Currently, many properties are in two districts. The EDC is proposing to move the zoning lines to follow the property lines in the area of Route 202/9 and Route 127 (near Dunkin Donuts in Henniker), in the Maple Street area and on Kast Hill. Mr. Gerseny stated the EDC is currently in talks with Francis Hart who own the large farm on Kast Hill. Mr. Cairns inquired as to what the School could do to help. Mr. Gerseny stated just continue to be excellent. Mr. Cairns stated the School has many talented students and perhaps the EDC has some intern opportunities. Ms. Astles stated she is very interested with that prospect and would like to discuss it further at another time.

Mr. Gerseny mentioned the forming of the Contoocook Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Astles also noted the new town website and its focus on economic development.

6. Items for Discussion

a. Town of Gilford – Initiative – State Support of Retirement: Chairman O’Brien stated that the Town of Gilford sent an open letter to the State to reinstate the payments to NH Retirement that the State stopped paying and had shifted the burden to the towns and cities. Now the State has a surplus and should meet its commitment to towns and cities with regards to NH Retirement payments. Chairman O’Brien inquired if the School would like to co-sign that letter with the Select Board, as the schools were also affected by the cuts. Mr. Luneau believes this is a good idea and that the State needs to honor its commitment. Mr. Cairns stated that he will bring it to the School Board at tomorrow’s meeting for a vote. Chairman O’Brien will draft the letter.

b. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) – Funds and Legislation: Mr. Luneau stated that after reading an article in the Concord Monitor that was unclear about how PILOTS (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) work. It was noted that the Town gets 100% of PILOTS. Mr. Cass explained that

PILOTS are on properties that are considered tax exempt. However, many of these property owners enter into PILOTS, as they do use town services and the PILOTS are a form of reimbursement. Mr. Cass also stated that most of the exempt properties in Hopkinton belong to either the Town or State government.

c. Georges' Park and Related Items: Mr. Traum stated that George's Park is owned by the Town and not the School; however George's Park is used for school activities. Discussion ensued, with regards to the School obtaining ownership or management of the park. Mr. Cairns stated there has been some talk of George's Park during School Board meetings; however, the School Board needs to do more research on the matter.

d. Hopkinton/Hillsboro-Deering Football Program: Mr. Luneau stated this is the first year that the Red Hawks are playing at varsity level. There are 35 players, 61% from Hopkinton. The biggest concern is the home game venue. Right now, games are played at Houston field. However, there is a lack of parking, and bathroom facilities are not adequate. He noted it was cut from the budget last year, but was put back in the budget at Town Meeting. Mr. Luneau stated it is clearly an important part of the school.

Chairman O'Brien stated the Board has been supportive of football; however the Town struggles with field use. The Field Schedule is difficult to put together due to the amount of teams and lack of fields that we have. The cost of maintenance, the lack of parking and bathroom facilities are real issues and we need to have a better handle on it.

Mr. Gerseny inquired if the School Board has a plan for the future of football. Mr. Chamberlin stated that originally Hillsboro had the majority of players on the team and there was talk of building a field in Hillsboro for the games. However, Hillsboro Deering was not able to invest the money into it. Mr. Chamberlin stated the football program will be reviewed at the end of this season and he will have a better handle on it after that meeting.

e. Annual Meeting Schedules

i. School District Meeting Date – Saturday, March 11, 2017

ii. Town Meeting Date – Saturday, March 18, 2017

Mr. Cass stated that voting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

f. Town Initiatives: Working with EDC to bring more economic development to town. Mr. Traum stated the Road Committee is working with Complete Streets. Complete Streets goal is to have all streets safe for all types of traffic, cars, bicycles, and pedestrians.

g. School District Initiatives: There will be a deep review of all school policies, as some of the policies are outdated.

The Steering Committee with regards to the school buildings, will be receiving a new charge for the committee. It will be based on three (3) buildings for a plan and costs for correcting security issues within the school.

h. Possible Budget Drivers:

i. School District: Mr. Cairns stated the drivers this year will be the cost of health insurance and full day kindergarten.

ii. Town: Jim O'Brien stated the goal for the Town is not to increase the tax rate; however, we have committed to a salary increase for employees. Also health insurance costs will increase the Town budget as well.

i. Next Meeting Date: To be determined.

7. Public Comment (2): Ginni Haines would like the School Board meeting to be noted on the Meeting Calendar on the Town's website. Chairman O'Brien stated the information needs to be sent to Robin.

8. Adjournment: Mr. Cairns made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chamberlin, to adjourn the meeting. All present voted in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant