



# **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

## **Office of the Select Board**

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### **SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018 APPROVED JANUARY 29, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 22, 2018, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board.

**Members Present:** Jim O'Brien, Chair, Ken Traum, Vice Chair, Steve Lux, Jr., Bob Gerseny and Sabrina Dunlap (arrived at 5:40pm).

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

**Public Present:** Janet Krzyzaniak, Dijit Taylor, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Nadeau, Sue Strickford, Ginni Haines and Rob Knight, representing Five Rivers.

#### **APPOINTMENTS:**

**Dijit Taylor, Open Space Committee-Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3 II (d)**

#### **NON-PUBLIC SESSION IV-RSA 91-A: 3 IV (d) Acquisition of Property**

Mr. Traum moved to go into a non-public session to discuss the acquisition of property under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (d). Mr. Lux seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Select Board Members O'Brien, Traum, Lux, and Gerseny voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (4-0).

The Board, Dijit Taylor, Ron Klemarczyk, Rob Knight, and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 5:32 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 6:17 p.m.

#### **Vote to seal nonpublic minutes:**

Mr. Traum moved to seal the minutes of the just completed nonpublic session. Mr. Gerseny seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Select Board Members O'Brien, Traum, Lux, Gerseny, and Dunlap voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried

Steve Lux, Jr. led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**POINTS OF PRIDE:** Mr. Cass stated he wanted to recognize the Department Heads for the amazing job they did with their 2017 budgets. He noted that revenues were up, and expense were under budget.

Mr. Gerseny noted all the work that Neal Cass has done for the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Gerseny further stated it was extra work and he did a great job.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

### **Consent Agenda**

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

22-Jan-18

#### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST**

\$195,172.03

\$511,218.84

#### **PAYROLL**

\$73,071.57

#### **BUILDING PERMITS**

##### **Yield Tax Warrant**

\$670.32

Charles Rose \$384.23

James Robertson \$286.00

##### **Yield Tax Warrant**

\$184.36

Roger & Carolyn Keilig \$184.36

#### **Equalization Municipal Assessment Data Certificate**

#### **VETERAN'S CREDIT**

Charles Bagley Map 240 Lot 22

#### **TAX MAP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (4/1/2018 TO 3/31/2019)**

\$3,750.00

**PLANNING MAP MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (4/1/2018 TO 3/31/19)** \$550.00

**Sanders Searches, LLC Contract (Tax Collector)** \$1,261.53

**Reimbursement of prepayment of property taxes** \$10,061.00

Barton Mayer 219 Moran Rd Map 215 Lot 6

**CURRENT USE WARRANT AND PENALTY** \$130.60

#### **BUILDING PERMITS**

Tammy Fredette 498 Stickney Hill hair salon DENY

Helen Dutton Rev. Trust 1325 Hopkinton Rd free standing sign

Edith Houston 790 Main Street solar system

William McDevitt 1051 South Road renovate basement to game room

Rachel Belt 968 Clement Hill Rd renovate interior of home

Thomas Bouffard 1481 Hatfield Rd construct dormer on garage

Olga Zhalkovska 124 Fieldstone finish basement into living space

Yankee Book Peddler 999 Maple St Renovate interior office

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS** \$13,147.81

Sewer fund to General Fund

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 8, 2018. Mr. Lux made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gerseny to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2018.

**VOTE:** Traum, Lux, Dunlap, and Gerseny voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, O'Brien abstaining. MOTION APPROVED 4-0-1.

The Board reviewed the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 8, 2018, minutes not sealed. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lux to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2018.

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

#### **APPOINTMENTS (continued):**

**Rob Nadeau, Pay-by-Bag Program:** Mr. Nadeau stated he is not anti-recycling, however, he does not feel that the Pay-By-Bag Program is the way to go; more people are not recycling. He handed out a spread sheet to the Board members, which he states assuming a statistically significant range of +/- 5%, the Pay By Bag Program has not changed behavior. He stated people have opted to use All Clear or simply not recycle at all. Discussion ensued, with regards to other alternatives. Ms. Dunlap stated there was a committee that investigated road side pickup

about 3 years ago. Mr. Cass stated he would send Mr. Nadeau that information. Mr. Gerseny believes it is the structure of the program that is the issue. Discussion ensued, with regards to the number of plastics that are no longer recyclable. Becky Whitley of the Recycling Committee, stated the Transfer Station is continually looking at the market, noting the economic affects recycling. Ginni Haines, Recycling Committee, noted that the higher the number is on the plastics is an indication of the amount of time its been recycled. Mr. Nadeau stated recycling is important and that is more about marketing; and he would like the Board to get behind moving in another direction.

Mrs. Haines stated that the Recycling Committee has struggled with a way to get into the school. The Committee does not have a solid partner in the school, it is hard to find people to volunteer. The Committee knows that it helps to get the kids involved, which gets the parents involved. She stated that former Selectmen, George Langwasser, was against the Pay-By-Bag Program when it started, however, since using the green bags, he has realized the importance of the program. The program has changed minds.

Becky Whitely, also stated that education is the biggest problem.

Ms. Dunlap inquired what can we do to move forward. Mr. Cass replied at this time we have no petitioned warrant articles, noting the deadline is February 6, 2018.

Mr. Lux stated some of the that issues exist is because Webster is not part of the program, but uses the Transfer Station and also the quality of the bags seem to be a problem.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Economic Development Proposals:**

Mr. Gerseny stated that the EDC has 5 different items to propose for Town Meeting.

1. TIF Districts: TIF stands for Tax Increment Finance, allowing the Town the option to establish one or more Economic Development & Revitalization Districts, will be Article 10.
2. Article 11 is to allow the Town to adopt and ratify the Exit 6 Tax Increment Finance District.
3. Article 12 is to allow the Town to adopt and ratify the Hart's Corner Tax Increment Finance District.

Mr. Gerseny stated that a TIF District allows for revenues from the district to be earmarked to pay off costs of developing the economic district; i.e. running water and sewer past Exit 6. He also stated there was be a Public Hearing in advance.

4. Land Swap: Mr. Gerseny stated discussion has taken place of a land swap between the Town and State. The State of NH owns 3 corners on Route 202/9 at the 127 Intersection. The Town owns land just north of the Mast Yard State Forest. He stated the land swap would require State approval, as well as Town Meeting approval.
5. Development Funds: Mr. Gerseny stated that although there would not be a transfer of cash involved in the land swap, there would be expenses for legal fees, surveys,

etc. EDC has spoken with the Conservation Commission and they are in favor of the project.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the funding that was used to purchase the property north of the Mast Yard State Forest, as that may affect what the Town can do with the property.

**Review of the YTD 2017 Financial Numbers:**

Mr. Cass noted that the revenues for 2017 are up and the expenses are under budget.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No comment from public.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Update on Facilities Bond:**

Mr. Traum, as Select Board representative to the Budget Committee, updated the Board on the School Facilities Bond. He noted the School Board has 3 proposals before the Budget Committee: Operating Budget is up and would increase the tax rate .18 cents per thousand; the School has a purchase and sale agreement for the building owned by the Concord Boys and Girls Club which would increase the tax rate by .36 cents per thousand, and they are proposing a bond for \$29.8 million, which would add \$3.22 to the tax rate per thousand. Mr. Traum stated the Budget Committee voted 9-1 not to support the Facilities Bond. The Board continued discussion and shared its concern about the effects of such a large tax rate increase on economic development and the value of homes. Resident Sue Strickford said it was the Board's responsibility to take a stand on the proposed bond. There was significant discussion on whether the Select Board should way in on the school proposal. Mr. Gerseny stated that he did not believe the Board should take an official position, but the remainder of the Board felt that because of the magnitude of the tax increase and effect it will have on the town, they should take a position.

Mr. Lux move the following, seconded by Mr. Traum:

That the Select Board does not support the proposed \$29.8 million facilities project because the taxpayers cannot support the magnitude of the associated tax increase, and the Select Board supports the Budget Committee recommendation for the School Board to reconsider their proposal.

**VOTE:** O'Brien, Traum, Lux, and Dunlap, voting in favor of the motion; Gerseny voting against. **MOTION APPROVED 4-1.**

Mr. Traum said he would like to discuss using more of the Fund Balance to offset 2018 taxes. The Board decided to stay with the amount that they have already estimated.

**Boston Post Cane**

The Boston Post Cane had been returned to the Town Hall after the passing Mrs. Carr. Mr. Cass will be looking into obtaining a replica to give out so the original can remain on display at the Town Hall, and will work to determine who is currently the oldest citizen in town.

The Board will meet in nonpublic session next week to do the Town Administrator's evaluation.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Mr. Cass said that he is meeting this week with Department Heads to review their employee's evaluations. Also, there is a group forming to raise funds for a potential track at George Park.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Traum, seconded by Ms. Dunlap to adjourn the meeting. Vote 5-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant  
and  
Neal Cass  
Town Administrator