



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019 DRAFT

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jim O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 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; and Sabrina Dunlap.
Absent: Sara Persechino and Steven Whitley

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator, Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant, Dan Blanchette, DPW Director, Paula Simpkins, Recreation Director

Public Present: Tina Hoyt, Janet Krzyzaniak, Louise Carr, Joe O'Reilly, Mike Foley, Dave Feller, Dan Meserve, Rob Nadeau, Norm Goupil, and Arlene McGrath

Janet Krzyzaniak led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

POINTS OF PRIDE

Mr. Cass stated it is year end and he wanted to thank all the Department Heads for getting the 2018 invoices in quickly and highlight Deb Gallant's efforts to keep the Department Heads informed with weekly expense reports.

Mr. Traum wanted to highlight all the work that the Highway Department does during storms.

Janet Krzyzaniak stated she had been contacted by a resident with regards to the condition of Broad Cove Road. Mrs. Krzyzaniak informed the resident to speak with Dan Blanchette at the Highway Department. Mrs. Krzyzaniak stated that a few days later, the resident contacted her to let her know that the issue was being worked on.

Chairman O'Brien thanked Representative Mel Mylar for his work on introducing a bill to help with the beaver situation on Cross Road.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board reviewed documents for signature and approved (3-0) the consent Agenda, taking the following action on a motion by Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Dunlap.

CONSENT AGENDA January 22, 2019

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST

2018 Manifest	\$19,560.11
2018 Manifest	\$85,006.40
2019 Manifest	\$6,045.64
2019 Manifest	\$49,594.85

PAYROLL MAINIFEST	\$71,402.01
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BUILDING PERMITS

Asa Dustin 517 Dustin Rd installation of 8,125KW roof solar system
 Freedom Properties LLC operate Contoocook Quiltworks 905 Main
 Logan Bergeron 129 Clarke Lane renovate basement for family room

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Human Services-Energy to General Fund	\$378.84
Slusser Center Rental Expense to General Fund	\$500.00
Recreation Revolving Fund to General Fund	\$3,660.63
Sewer Fund 200 Account to General Fund	\$38.81

AUTHORIZATION TO EXPEND

Fire Department Public Safety Revolving Fund	\$40,700.00
Fire Department Vehicle & Equipment CRF	\$13,014.00

ELDERLY DEFERRAL APPLICATION

Andrew & Valerie McEvoy Map 102 Lot 25	\$2,965.00
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CURRENT USE TAX COLLECTOR'S WARRANT & BILL

Ashley & Nicholas Lacasse Map 222 Lot 110	\$5,937.00
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YIELD WARRANT & BILL

Rodney Rood, Jr. MAST STATE FOREST	\$15,652.20
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The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, January 7, 2019. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunlap to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, and Dunlap voting in favor of the motion; no votes against,
MOTION APPROVED 3-0.

The Board reviewed the Non Public Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dunlap to approve the Non Public Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2019.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum and Dunlap voting in favor of the motion; no votes against,
MOTION APPROVED 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on discussions with AG's Office: Mr. Traum stated that he, Ms. Dunlap and Mr. Cass met with Tom Donovan and Terry Knowles, with regards to selling the Bates Building. All agreed that the proceeds from the sale should be as follows: 50% to the Library, as that was the intent of the original gift of the Bates Building and 50% to the Town Hall for renovations and improving the parking. If there are funds left over from the Town Hall renovations, then the remaining balance will be given to the Library. Mr. Cass will work with Town Counsel and the AG's office. Mr. Traum stated selling the building will require a vote at Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MTAG Steering Committee Appointments: Mr. Cass stated the following people would like to be on the committee: James Fredyma, Bob Wells, Anna Wells, Steven Whitley, and they will work with Karen Robertson, Planning Board Director and the Planning Board.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve the people for the MTAG Steering Committee. Ms. Dunlap seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum and Dunlap voted in favor of the motion; no votes against.
MOTION PASSED: 3-0.

Town Records Archive Committee Update: Mr. Cass stated that Lynn Clark has agreed to serve on the Archive Committee. There will also be someone from the Historical Society joining the committee.

Petition Warrant Article: Chairman O'Brien stated that he has received a Petition Warrant. Chairman O'Brien read the following: "...to see if the Town will vote to support restoring the physical location of the Hopkinton Town Clerk and Tax Collector's Office to its previous location at the Bates Building located 846 Main Street in Contoocook Village." Chairman O'Brien stated that he also had received a request to make the Petition available on line.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Cross Road Update: Mr. Cass stated the extension has been granted. Chairman O'Brien previously stated Representative Mel Myler introduced legislation to install a beaver deceiver without a permit. Chairman O'Brien stated there was support from the Committee, as well as speakers from the Town of Andover, which is having an issue with beavers. Chairman O'Brien stated there was discussion about wording as beaver deceiver is the name of a company.

PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Krzyzaniak inquired if trash was being buried. Mr. Cass stated Waste Management picks it up and it is taken to Franklin and incinerated.

OTHER

Mr. Cass stated the Financial Reports that the Board received today includes everything that was entered today. Mr. Cass stated we came in where we expected to, revenues were down a little, noting the recycling market is not good. They will continue to watch it. Chairman O'Brien stated there is a bill to form a committee to look into the municipal recycling market.

Mr. Traum inquired of Mr. Cass if he had heard anything regarding Granite Apollo. Mr. Cass replied the attorney is working on it.

APPOINTMENTS:

Public Information Sharing & Gathering-George Park: Chairman O'Brien read the notice regarding George Park: The Hopkinton Select Board will hold a public informational meeting to share plans and hear public input on potential renovations to George Park. Chairman O'Brien stated a committee was formed consisting of Mary Leadbeater, Dan Meserve, Skate Murdough, Greg Roberts and Paula Simpkins. He further stated the committee looked at the user groups, the school use and HYSA and focused on two areas of health and safety, and the areas of deterioration in the park. He noted that in 2018, a small appropriation of \$10,000 was placed in the Capital Improvement Plan account, for the bathrooms, which need to be replaced. Chairman O'Brien further stated that the Committee used those funds to hire Hoyle and Tanner to do a conceptual plan, which would include changes to the infrastructure, a 6 lane track, relocating existing fields and facilities work to be done in phases.

Chairman O'Brien stated that Phase 1 would be to change the access and drainage issues at George Park. He noted that the drainage issue caused the field to flood and before any work can be done, the drainage issue needs to be addressed. The cost is approximately \$50,000.00. Chairman O'Brien stated that Phase 2 would address renovating the baseball field, Blood Field dugouts, the chain link fence, and a bathroom/concession stand. Estimated cost: \$250,000.00.

Chairman O'Brien stated Phase 3 would include Clark Field, new parking and moving the tennis courts for approximately \$183,000.00.

Chairman O'Brien stated Phase 4, the last phase, would be the track at a cost of \$700,000.00. Chairman O'Brien also noted that in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Recreational Facilities, the town has asked for \$15,000 for George Park and in the School budget there is an allocation for \$20,000.00 to fix the drainage, as the drainage is coming from the property the School owns.

Chairman O'Brien stated the CIP longer term process for George Park runs until 2038. Chairman O'Brien reminded those present that the CIP is a planning tool and things can and do change with priorities. He continued that the members of the CIP Committee were concerned that trying to locate the track at George Park would be a very tight building envelope and suggested the track be placed at the Park Avenue fields.

Chairman O'Brien opened the hearing for public comment.

Joe O'Reilly stated the athletic renovations would bring more families into town. He further stated that we have well educated children and we need to support athletics.

Mike Foley stated he has been with Men's Softball for 33 years. He is concerned with the fence being an issue. He stated they play 4 nights a week and they would like lights to play under.

Dave Feller stated he supports the plan and respects all the work that was done to get this far. He asked if the Board had adopted the plan. Chairman O'Brien stated no we have not; but we continue to have conversations about it. Mr. Feller stated he understood that the school would pay a third of the cost of the track, with the town kicking in a third and the final third to be fundraised. Mr. Feller inquired if there was a timeline. Chairman O'Brien stated no, not at this time and reminded everyone that we are not in control of the School's budget. Mr. Feller was also concerned about the 35ft the softball field would lose in the conceptual plan. He stated that would kill the league. He also stated there is a plan in place with members of the Men's Softball and Pats Peak to install lighting at zero cost to the town.

Dan Meserve, Athletic Director at Hopkinton High School, stated that this project has been pushed down the road for many, many years and in those ensuing years, the cost has only grown. He feels that George Park is the best place for the track.

Dan Blanchette, DPW Director, stated that the Men's Softball field can be relocated to the Park Avenue field, which has a bigger area, more parking and fences. He stated he has no issue with lights, other than not to use wood poles, as the last ones deteriorated. He also stated that moving the track to Park Avenue would eliminate most of the parking.

Dave Fuller stated he is not familiar with the area; however, the Men's Softball team just wants a place to play and hopes the plan includes costs for moving the field.

Louise Carr questioned some hand written numbers on the cost estimate sheet. Mr. Cass stated that the hand written numbers represent the costs in phases, it is not in addition to. Ms. Carr went on to state that she remembers when Don Houston presented a similar plan almost 25 years ago. She feels we need to look at all the fields and that users of the field should contribute

something towards the cost of the renovations. Chairman O'Brien stated we do not have user fees for Hopkinton groups, but do for outside groups. He further stated that HYSA puts a lot of work into the fields. Ms. Carr also stated that we need a commitment from the Board, if this plan is going to go forward or not, and that taxpayer's money should be used as a last option.

Rob Nadeau also wanted to know if the Board supports the plan and if there was fundraising would the Board support that. Mr. Traum stated this Board can support the plan, but it cannot commit for future boards. Mr. Nadeau inquired if bonding in phases was possible. Chairman O'Brien stated it is possible, but they have not discussed that option. Ms. Dunlap stated she feels the same frustrations, but the price tag is high, and she is concerned with the taxes going up.

Norm Goupil stated that before he came to the meeting, he was undecided. Most of the children playing in HYSA, is because they did not make the varsity team. He stated that if HYSA has to raise their fees, but the town imposes user fees, HYSA registration will go up and it will be out of the reach for families. He stated by us delaying the project further, the cost will continue to go up. He also thanked the Board for all their work.

Arlene McGraft stated the entire community, the kids, the elderly, walkers and parents would use the track as a safe place to walk and a wide variety of people will benefit from the track. She further stated that we could have track meets which would bring business to town.

Chairman O'Brien stated there are 3 phases to go through before we can get to the track. He stated that the Select Board struggled with keeping the budget within the parameters that the Budget Committee set.

Dan Blanchette stated the ultimate is to adopt or not adopt the plan, we need a direction to move forward with.

Ms. Carr stated we have road problems, and the bathroom needs to be dealt with. We need to take care of emergency things this year.

Chairman O'Brien stated that the Board has had serious discussions on this matter and has allocated money in the CIP for bathrooms.

Mary Leadbeater inquired if the School had the money for the drainage. Chairman O'Brien stated it is in the School's budget in the Maintenance Trust.

Mike Foley wanted to know who was in charge?

Chairman O'Brien stated that Paula Simpkins, along with Greg Roberts, manages the field and the usage of the fields. He further stated it is a unique situation as the Town owns the all the fields, but the School utilizes it.

Janet Krzyzaniak stated that when we do projects like this, we never take into consideration where people are going to park. She further stated that Park Avenue does not have an entrance

to the field, because they wanted to discourage people from parking on the road. Now people are parking of both sides of the road.

Dan Meserve stated the money will be difficult to raise if the Town does not support the project. Mr. Traum agreed with Mr. Meserve's statement. Chairman O'Brien reminded everyone that the plan is to be done in phases and the track is Phase 4.

Paula Simpkins thanked the Board for opening the floor for community input. She further stated that she feels like she is still not getting an answer yet. She stated she understands the Board's job and would like the Board to either vote to adopt the plan or not adopt the plan. She asked the Board when a decision would be made. Chairman O'Brien stated it is a good plan. His concern is whether the Town can appropriate enough for the track, which is the biggest part of the plan. He further stated we can move forward in phases, but he has concerns about the track. Mr. Traum agreed that the conceptual plan makes sense, and the restrooms are a major concern. Ms. Dunlap has concerns about the track as well, wondering if we could move forward without the track. Chairman O'Brien reiterated that we are doing it through the CIP process, but warns that priorities could change with a new board.

Betsy Standefer inquired how does the Board decide on any large project; how do you plan for long term projects and how can it be expedited. Chairman O'Brien again stated long term projects are done through the CIP process, which is a planning tool.

Discussion ensued, among Board members as to how to proceed forward. Ms. Dunlap stated there are only three of us tonight and felt that we should have a full board to discuss this. Mr. Traum stated the bathrooms should be done right away.

Arlene McGrath stated she would fundraise for the track, but not for the bathrooms.

Mr. Traum suggested that Men's Softball reach out to Dan Blanchette and look at the available space at Park Ave. Mr. Cass stated he would reach out to the other user groups.

Dan Meserve stated we need to sell it as a renovation to George Park, with parking and a track. He stated we need to move forward.

Chairman O'Brien stated he does not think the track is realistic. Phase 1 & 2, he believes can be done in the next two (2) years. He believes the School may have a hard time coming up with the one third for the track. He further stated Phase 3 is the tennis courts, and currently there is no decision on Phase 4.

Chairman O'Brien asked Mr. Cass to put it on the next agenda to discuss and vote on the plan. There being no further comments, Chairman O'Brien closed the Information and Sharing hearing closed.

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

Mr. Traum moved to go into a non-public session to discuss a personnel issue under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (a). Ms. Dunlap seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members O'Brien, Traum, and Dunlap voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion to have carried unanimously (3-0).

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 7:55 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 8:35 p.m.

These minutes were not sealed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant