



# **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

## **Office of the Select Board**

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### **SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018 Approved April 30, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2018, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board. Ken Traum led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Jim O'Brien, Ken Traum, Bob Gerseny, and Steven Whitley

**Members Absent:** Sabrina Dunlap

**Staff Present:** Neal Cass, Town Administrator; Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant; Paula Simpkins, Recreation Director; Greg Roberts, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; and Dan Blanchette, Director of Public Works

**Public Present:** Janet Krzyzaniak, Mary Kusturin, Bob LaPree, Don Houston, Jay Wood, Candice Youngman, Jeff Allen, Jean Tewksbury, Steve Yianakopolos, Diane LaChance, Heather Oberhiem, Bonnie Christie, and parents/ members of the Red Hawks Football team.

#### **POINTS OF PRIDE**

Mr. Cass read an e-mail from Donna Dunlap, Library Director, complementing Police Chief Steve Pecora on his recent presentation at the Library. Ms. Dunlap stated that the Library will be making changes in the Library's polices. Ms. Dunlap also thanked Police Chief Pecora for being an approachable and accessible police chief.

Mr. Cass also said that during a presentation at Hopkinton Rotary, Dr. Dutton, who is opening the new Hopkinton Animal Hospital, was very complimentary of the Town process to open a business, especially of Planning Director, Karen Robertson.

Mr. Gerseny congratulated Recreation Director Paula Simpkins for all her work with the Eagle Scout dog park project.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Board reviewed documents for signature and approved (4-0) the consent Agenda, taking the following action on a motion by Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Gerseny.

<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST</b>	\$37,003.61
	\$56,324.63
 <b>PAYROLL</b>	 \$68,907.23
 <b>Sewer Warrant 1st issue</b>	 \$52,784.85
 <b>Yield Tax Levy</b>	
Meadowsend Sawmill Map 231 Lot 1 & Map 232 Lots 5 & 6	\$1,210.30
Koch Revocable Trust Map 212 Lot 3.1 & 3.2	\$310.70

**Intent to Cut**

Koch Revocable Trust Map 212 Lot 3.1 & 3.2  
 Meadowsend Sawmill Map 231 Lot 1 and Map 232 Lot 5 & 6

**AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORTS authorizing Charles J. Damour and Joseph P. Damour**

**BUILDING PERMITS**

William Brent Clement Hill construct 2 bed, 1 bath 36x36 residence  
 Timothy Lesko 1030 Briar Hill construct 10x14 run-in shed for horses  
 Bonifant Family Revocable Trust 15 Gould Hill construct 24x24 det garage  
 Becky Cayer & Jeff Yale 30 South Shore construct 24x28 detached barn with lean-to  
 Robert Morse, Jr. 396 Park Ave construct addition bathroom/closet sunroom  
 Christopher Saari 211 E Penacook Rd construct 26x38 att garage/bedroom/bath  
 Northeast Builders 11 Amesbury construct sf residence w/attached garage  
 US Cellular 845 Upper Straw Rd modify antennas replacing 6 antennas

**Application for Residence in an Industrial or Commercial Assessment**

Woodbury & Virginia Roberts Family Trust

**PAFs – Hiring the following people:**

Maura Zankel Recreation temporary seasonal part time life guard  
 Allan Faulkner Recreation temporary seasonal lifeguard  
 Kayl Murdough Recreation temporary seasonal Camp Counselor

Tressa Tewksbury Recreation temporary seasonal lifeguard  
Paul Molnar Recreation temporary seasonal lifeguard  
Thayer Maughan Recreation temporary seasonal lifeguard  
Jordan Whitaker Recreation temporary seasonal Camp Director

**VETERANS CREDIT**

April Crowley Map 245 Lot 037  
Richard Leshner, Jr. Map 245 Lot 75  
David Moul Map 221 Lot 14

**ELDERLY EXEMPTION**

Priscilla Loring Map 225 Lot 014-005

**APPOINTMENT PAPERS**

Paul O'Keefe Recreation  
Virginia Haines Recycling  
Dawn Berry Human Services Advisory Committee  
Jed Merrow Conservation Commission  
Mary Carol Schaffrath Recycling

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, April 2, 2018. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gerseny to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2018.

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

**APPOINTMENTS:****Paula Simpkins, Recreation Director, re: Field Use:**

Ms. Simpkins gave a presentation concerning the use of fields in town. Ms. Simpkins stated we have 5 multipurpose fields, however, one is, at times, usable, 4 baseball fields and 2 softball fields. Ms. Simpkins also stated we have a total of 91 teams, 6 camps and 7 tourneys played on the fields during the spring, summer and fall. School teams get priority in scheduling. Ms. Simpkins stated that the challenges in scheduling are:

- Field 1 is often wet and unusable
- Football, because of requirements and setbacks for spectators; uses all of Field 4 and part of Field 3, and therefore, another game cannot be held on Field 3, only practices at the same time.
- Park Ave. and Maple Street fields can only accommodate younger teams, which have smaller fields.
- The number of teams requesting field use keeps increasing each year and some sports are being played in the "off season" and into the summer months.

Ms. Simpkins stated that with all the use the fields are getting there; is no time to maintain, repair and allow the fields to rest. Ms. Simpkins stated moving forward they need to focus on safety issues and repairs. In conclusion, Ms. Simpkins stated the need for more field space, noting that staff is currently only maintaining fields, not making any improvements. She also stated that George Park needs a plan moving forward so repairs and improvements can be made. She further stated the need for continued funding for maintenance.

Discussion ensued, among the board members with regards to maintaining the fields, the number of users, the lack of field time for some teams, the number of games played by teams, scheduling issues, and repair options for Field 1, which is often wet. Ms. Simpkins stated that communication is key in scheduling, with so many teams requesting time. Dan Blanchette, Director of Public Works stated that there should be consequences for not following the field use policy. Chairman O'Brien noted that the last revision of the Field Policy was in 2016, and it should be looked at again.

Discussion ensued, with regards to moving goals and goal posts and not always doing the same drills in the same part of the field. It was noted that after moving the goals, they must be anchored.

Ms. Simpkins noted that two years ago, Red Hawks were told that Field 4 would not be available for the 2018 season because repairs and maintenance needed to be done. Red Hawks were told to find another field to play. An effort was made, on their part however, no fields were found to be available.

Chairman O'Brien opened the floor for comments from the public.

Jay Wood, Hillsboro-Deering Athletic Director and Red Hawks Football Coach, stated the team brings their own benches, moves the goals, and always cleans the fields. Coach Wood added that football only has 4 or 5 home games a year. All practices are held in Hillsboro. He feels that lacrosse is harder on the field than football. Lacrosse plays more games. He stated the football season runs from August 30 until the end of October. There is no JV program and no plans for a JV program. He stated if the team does not play then they will have renege on their contact with NHIAA.

Steve Yianakopolos stated that the team is not asking to practice on Hopkinton fields, not asking for bleachers or asking for anything other than the use of a field. He further stated that football is a school varsity sport and has a right to use the field. Mr. Yianakopolos feels that soccer is the problem not football. He feels that the field is in awesome shape and that soccer and lacrosse use the field more than football. He stated that it is a school sport and that the team players are split evenly between Hillsboro and Hopkinton. He further stated it is a very successful program.

Chairman O'Brien inquired if the game schedule has been set, Mr. Wood replied yes. Mr. Wood further stated that the schedule is locked in.

Mr. Gerseny stated he is concerned with the “creep” of football, as it has happened with other sports.

Discussion ensued with regards to portable goals. Ms. Simpkins stated football is a permanent sport, explaining that soccer and lacrosse goals are very movable.

Candice Youngman said that deferred maintenance at the schools is the issue. She stated that other teams can't play because of football. She further stated that deferred maintenance of the fields is not good, and that football is only for the boys, not inclusive. Mrs. Youngman stated that the taxpayers in Hopkinton are being stretched and field maintenance will continue to grow and will cost more money.

Mary Kusturin, stated that she was not well informed on this issue, but has educated herself. She has spoken with Ms. Simpkins. She feels that the program is not sustainable. Other teams were here first, and football has “come late to the party”. She further stated that the fields will not last if they are not maintained.

Jeff Allen stated football is not causing the maintenance issue, but the issue is caused by lacrosse and soccer. He feels the issue is that people are anti football. They are using maintenance and scheduling as an issue. Football is only 5 home games.

Jean Tewksbury stated football, as well as other sports, is about the kids.

Melody (inaudible) stated that football and girls' soccer have the highest rate of concussions.

Diane LaChance stated that concerned taxpayers are not aware of what the school is doing. They don't understand. She further stated that the school should present a budget like the Town does.

Bruce (inaudible) stated he moved here from Maryland. He stated the Town is spoiled and not realistic about field use. He believes we have plenty of fields and they are in good shape.

Candice Youngman stated it is not a you vs us. Lacrosse services hundreds of kids. Her husband was instrumental in bringing lacrosse to Hopkinton. Taxpayers are being pinched, and we need to maintain and repair the fields.

Jeff Allen questioned why football is always on the bubble. The only sport that is questioned. Chairman O'Brien stated it is a scheduling issue and football requires the use of two fields.

Discussion ensued with regards to the use of Field 3 and 4, noting that football and another sport cannot have games at the same time; however, a football and a practice of another sport could happen at the same time.

Greg Roberts, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, stated that this has nothing to do with damage, it has more to do with the maintenance of the fields. He suggested a revision of policies as well as less scheduling games. He noted the fields are falling into disrepair.

Select Board member Steven Whitley inquired as to the cost of portable goals. Mr. Wood responded goal posts would be about \$4,500.00 each.

Chairman O'Brien closed the public comment session and inquired of the Board how they wanted to proceed.

Mr. Gerseny proposed that Field 4 be dedicated to football, as changing the field for very game would be difficult.

Mr. Traum agreed with Mr. Gerseny, if football it is remain a varsity sport. He also suggested that the school should contact the Town before it adds any more sports that require any field use.

Mr. Whitley stated he agreed that varsity sports should have priority. He also agreed that working on revising the policies will have an impact.

Mr. Traum made a motion to provide varsity football the use of a field for home games during the fall season this year and in future years. Mr. Whitley seconded the motion.

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

Discussion ensued, with regards to revising the field use policy and to coordinate with the school any new sports programs. It was noted that varsity lacrosse was practicing at the Fairgrounds when it began, but that ended a few years ago. Mr. Traum suggested the Board inquire about using the Fairgrounds again when the Select Board meets with the Hopkinton Fair Board.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Update on Committee Appointments:**

Mr. Cass stated there were 5 more appointment papers signed tonight. He further stated that current vacancies are posted.

##### **Beaver Dam Update:**

Mr. Gerseny stated that two weeks ago we had a plan. However, since Mr. Dufault has a perspective buyer, who would like the beavers to stay, Mr. Dufault will not allow anyone on the property to remove the beavers. Mr. Chapin also will not give permission to be on his property to remove the beavers. Mr. Gerseny further stated that Brad Watson needs landowners' permission to access the property to remove the beavers. Mr. Gerseny also stated there is merit in keeping the road open and preserving the beaver habitat. Mr. Gerseny further stated it is now all on hold.

Mr. Gerseny made a motion to rescind the previous motion (made at the last meeting) to remove the beavers. There was no second.

Don Houston stated that David Dufault has changed his mind, but Mr. Houston would still like to have the road opened. He further stated the Town owns the right of way and can remove the dam from the right of way.

Bonnie Christie stated that the beavers have been there for many, many years. She stated that beavers are keystone species, which means they create habitat for other important species.

Bob LaPree, from the Conservation Commission, stated the Commission is concerned about keeping the road open. He stated if the dam is removed, the beavers will come back and build it back up, it is prime habitat for them. He further stated beaver boxes could be installed to keep them off the Class VI road.

The Board requested the Town Administrator to follow up on the beaver issue.

**GraniteApollo Update:**

Mr. Cass said that he met with GraniteApollo and they have shown interest in placing a solar array on the land by the Transfer Station. They will present to the Board at its next meeting. Mr. Traum inquired if they understood that we must wait for Town Meeting to vote and approve. Mr. Cass replied that he has discussed that with them.

**Class IV Road Agreement Update:**

Mr. Cass stated the Class VI Road Agreement is a result of a meeting that the Board had with Thomas Komisarek concerning his property on Map 261-001. This property is situated in such a fashion that the frontage is on a public highway, which constitutes the access to the property is on a road that has been designated as a Class VI Road, subject to gates and bars and is not currently a road which the Town has a duty to maintain. He asked the Board to look over the agreement. Mr. Whitley stated the Planning Board should provide comment before the agreement goes to Mr. Komisarek so that the comments can be incorporated in the document.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**YTD Revenue as of 03-31-18:**

Mr. Cass stated that the revenue looks good at this time and reviewed the status of individual line items with the Board

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Mr. Cass shared with the Board some statistics on the use of the streaming. The average live watchers for the 7 Select Board meeting this year is 31.86 per meeting with another 7.86 watching the meetings on demand. The highest live audience was 84 and the lowest 6. The candidates' forum in March was watch live by 383 people and on-demand by 74.

Mr. Cass noted that he will be on vacation April 23 – April 27, 2018.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Janet Krzyzaniak inquired about the residence on Spring Street, as to whether business is being run out of the residence. Mr. Cass state we are proceeding with that and collecting information.

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

Mr. Gerseny 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. Traum seconded the motion.

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

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 8:55 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 9:13 p.m.

The minutes were not sealed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Gerseny, seconded by Mr. Traum to adjourn the meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant