**Hopkinton Select Board Hopkinton School Board Hopkinton, New Hampshire Joint Public Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021 5:30 pm HMHS Auditorium**

**Select Board Members Present:** Sabrina Dunlap, Ken Traum, Anna Wells, Steven Whitley, Jeffrey Donohoe

**Board Members Present:**  Mr. Jim O’Brien, Chair, Ms. Andrea Folsom, Vice Chair, Mr. Rob Nadeau, Ms. Dulcie Lipoma and Norm Goupil, Board Members. Norm and Dulcie attended by phone.

**Administrators Present:** Ms. Michelle Clark, Business Administrator, Mr. Matt Stone, Director of Technology, Mandie Hibbard, Director of Student Services, William Carozza, HMS-Principal, Amy Doyle, MSS-Principal, Chris Kelley, HMHS-Principal.

**Student Representatives Present:** Max Aframe (Class of 2022)

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1. Public Session
   1. Call to Order
   2. Introductions
   3. Terms for Discussion
2. Annual Meeting Dates: confirmed for 3/12-Annual Town Meeting, 3/19-Annual SB Meeting.
3. Use of Houston/Georges Park: Mr. O’Brien suggested they two Boards work together and reorganize the management of the Fields that makes the most sense for all involved. Would like to put together a group of all parties involved (Rec. Dept. Public Works, Schools, HYSA, Athletic Dept. Soccer Club etc.) to work together to decide the best course of action for managing and maintaining the fields. Both Boards agreed that it would be a great thing to do and would help all parties involved. Mr. Mr. Whitley would like to see the group established and meet before the March annual meetings so they can present options at the meetings; all were in favor. Mr. O’Brien to follow-up with Mike and Neal to begin the initiative to form a group.
4. Town Initiatives: Economic Update-
   1. Able to budget for a part time Economic Director; interviews in process, should have someone soon.
   2. Police Chief and Human Services: Chief Pecora retiring at the end of this month.

TJ Hennessey will be our new Chief. He has served on the force for a while and will be a great asset as the New Chief. Marylynn has retired and recently hired Alicia Presti to take Marylynn’s place as Human Services Director. Her Office is in a new location, now at Slusser Center.

1. School District Initiatives:

-School Board Goals: Ms. Folsom reviewed the School Board's Goals. Rob answered questions on the CIP plan.

-Strategic Plan-Mr. O’Brien discussed the strategic plan and how that plan roles into the SB Goals. Would like to have the Select Board invited to more things that help us work together to achieve those goals.

1. Budget Items
   1. School District Drivers FY23 -Excited to be starting the Budget process started much earlier than normal. As we look at our budget, the largest Driver is tied up in staff, health coast and benefits, this is around 85%. The second Driver would be the 2nd half of the bond payment is due. One problem with budget is our reliance on the Fun balance-we are restructuring the use of the Fund Balance to help better serve the needs of the School District. Rob mentioned the advantage of making use more of Article 10 and the Trust fund for future needs.
   2. Town Drivers-2023- Ken is hopeful that next year to consider having the school go first for the annual meeting and the town 2nd if the Schools budget process is moving faster. Town Drivers is the annualization of the Debt increase due to the Bond ($240K), State increase for retirement and another large increase this year is Fuel costs. The Select Board hoping to implement a small merit/pay increase for town employees. On the CIP side, Roads is the largest need and behind in. Houston Barn is also something that must be addressed, something has to be done due to the condition of the Barn.
   3. Assessed Value for Budget Purposes: The Select Board has asked that the School Board reconsider using the same percent they use for assessed value in their budgeting process. Jim explained that they feel its best that the School Board follows the same conservative approach every other district follows. The other district including Hopkinton uses the DRA for budgeting and the School Board will stay with that format at this time.
2. Public Comment- No Public Comment
3. Adjournment: Mr. O’Brien Adjourned the Joint meeting at 6:20 pm. School Board meeting to begin at 6:30 pm