



# **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

## **Office of the Select Board**

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### **SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018 Approved July 9, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 25, 2018, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board. Police Chief Steve Pecora led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Jim O'Brien, Ken Traum, Bob Gerseny, Sabrina Dunlap (arriving at 5:35pm)

**Members Absent:** Steven Whitley

**Staff Present:** Neal Cass, Town Administrator; Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant, Deb Gallant, Finance Director, Karen Robertson, Planning Board Director, Police Chief Steve Pecora, Melissa Courser, Police Administrative Assistant, Sgt TJ Hennessey, Corporal Brian O'Connor and Officer Brian Morrill

**Public Present:** Janet Krzyzaniak, Chuck & Joyce Rose, Rob Miller, Aaron Cianchette, John Green, Jeff Gallant, Josh Gallant, and family members, Anthony J. Shepherd and family members, Sue Strickford, Byron Carr, and Gary Graziano, Jr.

#### **POINTS OF PRIDE**

Mr. Cass noted that the Hopkinton Fire Department and the Henniker Fire Department coordinated the services of W.L. Perkins Fire Pump Services for pump testing, so that there was only one charge for travel and it was split between the two towns, therefore, saving both towns money. Mr. Cass also noted that the pond was opened on Saturday, June 23, 2018 and today is the first day of Summer Camp. He wanted to thank Paula Simpkins, Recreation Director and Deb Gallant, Finance Director for compiling and collecting all the paperwork that is required from the summer seasonal employees.

Mr. Cass also stated that he attended the Tennis Court Grand Reopening. The court looks great and the repairs were paid for by the Town, a grant and HYSA.

**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 Mr. Gerseny.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

25-Jun-18

<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST</b>	\$92,593.98
	\$1,729.25
	\$1,738,750.62

<b>PAYROLL</b>	\$71,663.54
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**BUILDING PERMITS**

Amy Rook 31 Bassett Mill Road Shed Map 235 Lot 14  
 John Reed 162 Pamela Drive Shed Map 245 Lot 27

**ABATEMENTS**

Carol & Carl Welch Sandy Beach supplied registration	\$129.00
Estate of Ruth Nunn elderly & veterans credit not applied	\$2,071.00
Hopkinton Retreat LLC per agreement	\$19,905.00
Dorothy Champagne Sandy Beach	\$120.00
Theresa Pearson	\$2,143.90

<b>MOTOR VEHICLE REFUND</b>	\$67.00
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Lawrence W Scammon Jr.

**Veteran's Credit**

Margaret Kulisek  
 Robert Brown  
 Charlene Smith  
 Hylan Nunn, Jr.

**ELDERLY EXEMPTION**

Margaret Kulisek deny does not meet 3-year resident requirement

**APPOINTMENT PAPERS**

Melissa Jones

**DEED WAIVER**

30 Evergreen Lane Map 223 Map 52  
641 Park Avenue Map 223 Lot 10  
1534 Pine Street Map 202 Lot 5  
100 Meadows Drive Map 223 Lot 55  
114 Brockway Road Map 256 Lot 15

**Acknowledgement Under Forbearance of Tax Collector's Deed Map 256-015****Thank you letter**

Jed Merrow

**PAF**

Anthony J. Shepherd new hire FT-Police  
Joshua A. Gallant new hire FT Police  
Simon Page temporary employee seasonal Highway  
Jondall Anthony Fire new hire part-time  
Indigo Wearing Fire new hire part-time

**APPOINTMENT PAPERS**

Anthony Shepherd Police Lieutenant  
Joshua A. Gallant Patrol Officer

**Use of Inventory Forms for 2019**

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 11, 2018. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gerseny to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2018.

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

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Non-Public Minutes of June 11, 2018. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gerseny to approve the Non-Public Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2018.

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

Discussion ensued, with regards to unsealing the Non-Public Minutes with regarding to the negotiations and/or contracts with Granite Apollo.

Mr. Traum made a motion to unseal the Non-Public Minutes relating to discussions with Granite Apollo. Mr. Gerseny seconded the motion.

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

**APPOINTMENTS: Police Officer Swearing-in Ceremony:**

Police Chief Steve Pecora introduced Anthony J. Shepherd. Chief Pecora gave a brief history of Mr. Shepherd's experience in law enforcement, which included time as a prosecutor, a police officer, a drug recognition expert and a law teacher. Chairman O'Brien swore in Mr. Shepherd as a Lieutenant for the Hopkinton Police Department.

Police Chief Steve Pecora introduced Joshua A. Gallant. Chief Pecora gave a brief history of Mr. Gallant's background, noting that he graduated from Stonehill College, Cum Laude, and noted his internships with the Greenland Police Department and with the Attorney General's Office, Juvenile Division in Washington DC. Chairman O'Brien swore in Mr. Gallant as a patrol officer for the Hopkinton Police Department.

Chairman O'Brien announced a break at 5:44 pm.

The meeting resumed at 5:55 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fair Parking Lottery:** Police Chief Steve Pecora was asked to come forward and draw numbers for which group will park cars at George Park during the Hopkinton Fair.

Saturday: Girls Varsity Soccer

Sunday: Boys Basketball

Monday: Friends of the Library

Friday: Girls Basketball

**APPOINTMENTS (continued): Green Mountain Power Re: Maple Street closing:**

Aaron Cianchette of PC Construction was in to inform the Board that Green Mountain Power Company will need to close a portion of Maple Street, between the damn and the power house. Pipes that were reinforced several years ago, need to be replaced. Mr. Cianchette estimates that a portion of Maple Street will be closed from last August to late October, 2018. He further stated that he understands that this will be an inconvenience for residents and it will affect school bus routes. He stated he should have the final details worked out by next week. John Green, an engineer from Green Mountain Power Company, showed the draft plans to the Board and Police Chief Pecora. It was noted that 2 months is a long time to shut down a portion of the road. It was further noted that it would be closed on weekends as well. Mr. Green stated he understands this is an inconvenience to the town and they will work as quickly as possible to get the road reopened. He stated there will be detour signs and message boards. Mr. Gerseny expressed concern with regards to the last road closure, as there were not enough signs or direction for those not familiar with the area.

**OLD BUSINESS (continued): Thain Road Building Permit:**

Chairman O'Brien stated at the last meeting the Board decided to forward the information they had received to Town Counsel for their opinion on two matters: a liability waiver and if any of the steps that were taken to improve the road have changed the conditions under which the road would be flooded by the Army Corps. Chairman O'Brien asked Mr. Cass to put up the Town Attorney's letter on the screen with regards to Thain Road. Town Counsel believes that even if the Town were to draft the liability waiver, it would not protect the Town or reduce our risk. Town Counsel also noted that the changes have little impact on the closing of the road and there is still a high likelihood of flooding. Discussion ensued, with regards to the liability waiver. Mr. Gerseny stated that he is not confident that the waiver would protect the Town.

Rob Miller reiterated that the Town could draft the waiver, which would be recorded at the Registry of Deeds and become part of the chain of title. He stated this waiver would not obligate first responders to rescue. He stated he believes there is a material change in the road. He feels the risk is minimal.

Mr. Gerseny stated that if a tragedy occurred once it is a problem. Our Town Counsel has stated any waiver will have holes in it. Chairman O'Brien stated we know the area will flood, and we do not want to be put in a situation where we cannot respond, because of flood waters. He further stated that the Army Corps will not change how they operate their facility.

Mr. Gerseny made a motion to table the current matter related to the building permit for Thain Road. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

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

**Granite State Apollo Letter of Intent:** Chairman O'Brien stated the minutes from our negotiations and contracts with Granite State Apollo will be unsealed. This is for a 17-megawatt solar project in which Granite State Solar will lease land located at the Transfer Station. The Letter of Intent allows for engineering of the project. Chairman O'Brien stated that he and Mr. Traum went to the Webster Board of Selectmen as the project will need to be approved by both Towns at Town Meeting 2019. Mr. Traum stated one of Webster's concerns was that is the cap on the landfill sufficient to support the solar panels. They would like Nobis Engineering to check the cap and the Webster Select Board would like to be involved throughout the project. Chairman O'Brien suggested that both Boards share an attorney and therefore cut down on expenses.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Branding:** Mr. Gerseny stated the EDC is looking into branding the Town of Hopkinton. The EDC met with Meredith Astles of Knock Knock Social to get things moving in the right direction. Mr. Gerseny stated the EDC would like the Select Board to look things over. He further stated it will cost the town some money. Discussion ensued. The Board is interested in the idea, however, they would like EDC to look at other firms that do this type of work and get

other estimates. Mr. Gerseny agreed to bring the Select Board's concerns to the next EDC meeting.

**NHMA Legislative Process:** Mr. Cass stated that NHMA has sent in recommendations for the 2019-2020 Legislative Policy. Mr. Cass stated these are recommendations, which the Board needs to vote a position on the recommendations. Mr. Cass further stated that supporting a recommendation does not mean that the Town must implement those recommendations. The final vote will be in the fall. The document is also on the NHMA website.

**Class Action Against Opioid Manufacturers:** Chairman O'Brien stated that he contacted the Town Manager in Londonderry, with regards to the Class Action suit and the information he sent is in everyone's packet. He stated that there is no cost to join the suit. Chairman O'Brien inquired if the Board would like to invite the attorney to one of the meetings. All Board members agreed it would a good idea to speak with the attorney about the suit. Chairman O'Brien will make contact to schedule a time.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

**Boston Post Cane:** Mr. Cass stated that we will be getting a replica of the Boston Post Cane shortly. Mr. Cass further stated that a recipient has been identified.

**Tennis Court Re-opening:** Mr. Cass stated the re-opening went very well and the courts look great.

**Beaver Dam Update:** Mr. Cass informed the Board that the water is slowly receding.

**Hopkinton Fair Board Meeting:** Mr. Cass informed the Board that Fire Chief Jeff Yale and the Fair have met and have a MOU agreement. Discussion ensued, with regards to the back up of traffic at last year's Hopkinton Fair. Chairman O'Brien asked Mr. Cass to reach out to DOT to see if signs can be put up on Route 89. Also, it was noted that private residents on Park Avenue and Kearsarge Avenue were parking cars, however, cars were stopping in the road and backing up causing traffic problems. We will need to address that this year.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** Byron Carr inquired about the solar panels that are being proposed at the Transfer Station. He would like to know if the panels will be taxable. Chairman O'Brien stated yes, they are taxable.

**OTHER:**

Mr. Traum stated that during the last Budget Committee meeting, the committee is thinking of doing a 3-year projection.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant