



Town of Hopkinton, NH

Office of the Select Board

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**SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018
BUDGET SESSION
Approved December 12, 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, November 26, 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; Sara Persechino, Sabrina Dunlap (arriving at 6:00 pm) and Steven Whitley (arriving at 5:34 pm)

Staff Present: Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant and Dan Blanchette, Director of Public Works.

Public Present: Dijit Taylor, Dave Luneau, Mel Myler and Mary Jane Wallner Representatives to the NH House and Bob LaPree

ADMINISTRATIVE

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

CONSENT AGENDA November 26, 2018

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST \$1,350,984.07

PAYROLL \$79,528.69

BUILDING PERMITS

Jack Jankankas sign 999 Maple Street Map 228 Lot 32

Contoocook Chamber temporary signs
Hopkinton Women's Club temporary signs

APPOINTMENTS:

David Luneau, Mel Myler and Mary Jane Wallner, Representatives of the NH House were in to discuss relevant topics with the Select Board. Discussions ensued, with regards to school funding, NH retirement funding, the Governor's budget, family leave bill, property taxes, tax relief, raising rents, abuse of prescription drugs, closing loopholes on ambulance billing and the two recently passed amendments.

The Board inquired about possible changes in utilities evaluations, as Hopkinton does not use the DRA values, as those values tend to be lower than what our assessor values them at. Discussion ensued, with regards to state building codes and adopting a new one. The Board also inquired about the statute that allows towns to appoint a town clerk/tax collector as opposed to having them elected, noting that elected officials are not evaluated for merit like employees. It was noted that a warrant article could give the Board permission to appoint.

Discussions ensued, with regards to firearms on school and municipal properties.

Discussion ensued, with regards to Flood Control money and the need for it to continue.

Discussion ensued, with regards to DES permitting, as it related to a recent incident with beavers building a dam over a Class VI road.

Chairman O'Brien thanked the Representatives for coming in to meet with the Select Board.

NON PUBLIC SESSION RSA 91-A:3 II (d):

Ms. Persechino moved to go into non-public session to discuss consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property, which if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interest are adverse to those of the general community under the provision of RSA 91-A:3 II (d). Ms. Dunlap seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, Dunlap and Whitley voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion the to have carried unanimously (5-0).

The Board and members of the Open Space Committee went into non-public session, as recorded separately, at 6:15 pm. The Board returned to public session 6:58 pm.

Ms. Persechino made a motion to come out of non-public session, Mr. Whitley seconded the motion.

VOTE: Select Board Members O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, Dunlap and Whitley voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion the to have carried unanimously (5-0).

BUDGET WORK SESSION:

Dan Blanchette was in with a comparison on tipping fees. He stated that he asked Jolene Cochrane, Transfer Station Superintendent, to work up the figures. Commercial trash is \$70.00 per ton, the tipping fee is \$70.00 per ton. With regards to the septic lagoons, Mr. Blanchette stated that we use the lagoons and most cities have treatment plants. Discussion ensued, with regards to Nobis Engineering and the possible closure of the lagoons. Mr. Blanchette recommended no changes for charges.

Discussion ensued, with regards Library Building Systems Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). The Board agreed to reduce the Library Maintenance Building Systems CRF by \$5,000.00.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the Town Hall Renovation line. Mr. Traum stated he does not think the parking needs to be done, but we should deal with the accessibility issues. Mr. Whitley would like to push back the parking for one year. The Board reduced the line by \$75,000.00.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the merit pool increase. Ms. Persechino stated if we are cutting the merit pool, we cannot change the insurance. Mr. Whitley stated he is concerned about health insurance, however, if we are cutting the merit pool, he agreed with no change to the insurance. The Board reduced the merit pool from 3.5% to 3.0%. No change to the health insurance.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the DPW position. The Board agreed to change the start date from January 1, 2019 to April 1, 2019, reducing the wages, social security, Medicare, and NH Retirement lines as well. With regards to the Finance clerk position, it will remain.

Discussion ensued with regards to the replacement of the leaking roof in the bailing area at the Transfer Station. The Board agreed to cut the line by \$25,000.00 and patch the roof for this year.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the request from the Open Space Committee. Ms. Dunlap stated that she is in favor of conserving land, but this having this conversation right after discussing lowering the merit pool and employee health insurance, it is a hard conversation. Mr. Whitley stated the EDC supported this purchase. Chairman O'Brien reminded the Board that Open Space is applying for a grant for \$20,000.00. The Conservation Commission has the funds to help with this purchase, as they receive 35% of the Land Use Change Tax. Chairman O'Brien also stated there is no duress on the part of the landowner to sell immediately. The Board decided not to move forward on this.

Discussion ensued, with regard to Legal fees. The Board agreed to cut the legal line by \$5,000.00.

Mr. Whitley inquired as to why the Webster reimbursements for the Transfer Station are down. Chairman O'Brien stated it was due to the restricting of the department after Mr. Clough passed away.

Mr. Traum made a motion to approve for presentation to the Budget Committee the 2019 Operating Budget and Warrant Articles, with an amount to be raised by taxes of 4,759,894. Mr. Whitley seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, Dunlap and Whitley voted in favor of the motion; no votes against; MOTION PASSED 5-0.

NEW:

Meeting Schedule for 2019

Ms. Persechino made a motion to approve the Select Board Meeting Schedule for 2019. Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

VOTE: O'Brien, Traum, Persechino, Dunlap and Whitley voted in favor of the motion; no votes against; MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Burns Abatement Request:

This abatement is in regard to a mapping error that was discovered. The error has been corrected; piece on Little Tooky belonged to some one else. However, this piece had frontage and was charged as a building lot. The Board approved an abatement for 2018, but only for that year not any previous years. The abatement request is for those previous years. Discussion ensued, however, the Board would like more discussion when Mr. Cass is here. It was tabled until the next meeting, Monday, December 10, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, there was a motion by Ms. Persechino, seconded by Mr. Traum to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant