

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2021

Present: John P. Stohrer, Chairman; James C. Bailey III, Selectman; David J. Rogers, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Marian Baker, John Segedy, Leigh Bosse, Luke Levesque, Iris Campbell, Cynthia Matthews, Brian Bebe, Dave Fullerton, Meg Curtis Sauer, Riche' Colcombe, Angela Poluchov, Sarah Auger, Tori Gelinis, Pat Bradley.

Chairman Stohrer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. OPEN SESSION

Marian Baker – Ms. Baker gave an update on History Alive which will be held on August 21st & 22nd this year in the Old Town Center. There will be a reenactment on Jones Road, and they will focus on the native inhabitants who were here before the Town was founded. Other activities are planned as well and posters are around the community with that information. Ms. Baker then commented on the lack of cell phone reception in her part of town and wanted to know who they can call to get better service, or a tower in that area. The Board suggested she contact her cell phone carrier since they were not sure who else she would call.

Ms. Baker also gave her opinion with regard to the proposed noise ordinance and said that she is concerned with the rich out of state people who come here and do what they can't do where they live. She said they light firecrackers all the time, she brought up the exotic game reserve and Danforth corners and said there is constant shooting in that whole area. She said there are 4-wheelers and snowmobile races using extreme speed on the ice of Contention Pond. She said she is not against the use of these machines but she would like to have something practical in place to deal with the noise from them.

Meg Curtis-Sauer – Ms. Curtis-Sauer stated that she wanted to clarify things about the proposed noise ordinance since her and Ed Sauer's names have been associated with the reason behind the ordinance. She said even though they had come to a Selectmen's Meeting about noise issues, there have been other complaints from people in the Emerald Lake Village District Area with regard to ATV noise, there have also been complaints from Henniker Street and Barden Hill.

John Segedy – Mr. Segedy said he feels they should be able to get a list of the names of constituents who have contacted the individual Selectmen in the past to complain about noise. Ms. Buono said whoever came to the Selectmen's Meetings to complain are documented in those meeting minutes. Mr. Segedy said the impression he got was that individuals contacted the Selectmen.

Riche' Colcombe – Ms. Colcombe said she also feels they should be able to know who has complained about noise and since Selectman Rogers had referred to those who complained as "constituents", she said technically the entire town is a constituency and they should have to poll an entire town about it. Selectman Rogers said he doesn't remember all the names but he suspects these people will come forward at the Public Hearing on the subject and he doesn't feel he has to disclose the names of those who approached him. He said he is not inclined to disclose names, especially to the press, so that it can show up in the newspaper to have those people harassed or otherwise approached about this.

Cynthia Matthews - Ms. Matthews explained the reason they have brought up the Sauer's in conjunction with the noise ordinance because they were the ones who came to a public meeting and complained and they were the only people whose names have been there in all the meeting minutes that they have read.

Pat Bradley – Ms. Bradley said she would like to add her name to the discussion with regard to the noise ordinance. She understands the expectation and limitations with regard to it and the noise and speed of vehicles at odd hours and she would like to be part of that discussion.

Sarah Auger- Ms. Auger brought up the swap shop and wondered if it would be opening again soon and said she would volunteer if it was. Luke Levesque said DES was going to be holding a class on what they thought about opening and how to open them back up. He said he doesn't feel it's an appropriate time to do it now especially since it's a very small area and people are shoulder to shoulder in there. Ms. Auger then brought up summer camp and said she is in favor of running it. She read covid death statistics by age groups and said she isn't concerned about the issue of keeping the kids separated and added that she would be willing to sign any type of camp release form as far as her child is concerned.

2. PUBLIC HEARING RE: TRANSFER STATION BRUSH PILE

Chairman Stohrer opened the public hearing on the implementation of fee for the dumping of brush at 6:27 p.m. and recognized Luke Levesque, Manager of the Transfer Station to speak.

Mr. Levesque briefly gave a review of the reason behind adding a fee of .06/lb., which is the same that is charged for demo debris, to commercial brush haulers. He said the price for getting rid of the brush pile has increased to around \$10,000 and commercial haulers still have the option at this time to bring their brush to Henniker and dump it at no charge. Mr. Levesque noted that this will not apply to homeowners bringing in their individual load. Selectman Bailey said .06/lb. is a very reasonable price for this.

Public Comment:

Leigh Bosse – Mr. Bosse asked Mr. Levesque how they will handle a property owner riding in the same truck with the hauler. Mr. Levesque said the commercial hauler will be charged for the load.

There was no other public comment. Chairman Stohrer closed the public hearing at 6:29 p.m. and made a motion to implement the .06/lb. commercial brush fee effective June 1, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

3. RICHE' COLOMBE

Ms. Colombe met with the Board to speak on three subjects, the 250th Celebration, Cemetery Maintenance, and the Property Maintenance Code. She began by requesting that the money that was placed within the Town's Operating Budget for the 250th Celebration Committee at this time. She said the Committee wants to order t-shirts and sweatshirts to raise money but want to keep costs to a minimum. They need deposits for various items such as a dance company and they would like the freedom to spend the money as needed. Selectman Bailey said this is not how it's typically done and he would prefer to have the committee send estimates and requests at the time the money is needed and said he feels the Selectmen should know what is going out beforehand. Ms. Buono said that as has been discussed with the Selectmen previously, there is money needed for the commemorative plates as well as the water ski team if they are hired. This was briefly discussed and it was noted that the money would

be held under the Hillsborough Area Community Service Corp. in which Bob Charron is the Treasurer. Chairman Stohrer moved to disburse \$5,000 for the 250th Celebration to the Hillsborough Area Community Service Corp. with the requirement of monthly reports on expenditures being sent to the Town. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Colombe moved on to the Cemetery Maintenance and asked what is being done and who is responsible to make repairs to the various headstones that are in need of attention and brought up the cemetery in the old town center. Iris Campbell, Chairman of the Cemetery Trustees was in attendance and explained that they work with a gentleman who repairs and cleans various stones each year. Ms. Campbell said in the cemetery in question, some of the stones are close together and one that has fallen and broken is extremely tall and it isn't easy for certain equipment to be brought in there. She said the Trustees are applying for a Moose Plate Grant for that cemetery and in part of that process had to have it placed on the historic register but that approval is pending. There is a Capital Reserve Fund for this type of work and Selectman Bailey said it's an ongoing project that the Trustees have been taking care of.

Ms. Colombe shifted to the Property Maintenance Code that was adopted in 2020 and said there are several businesses not abiding by the ordinance. Chairman Stohrer asked Ms. Buono if this is something that gets enforced by Code Enforcement. Ms. Buono said that when it was passed in 2020 one of the concerns was that the Town was going to start day one, heavy handed. She said the voters were told that the Town would first educate the property owners on the ordinance however, with COVID hitting right after Town Meeting that process was suspended. Ms. Buono said she spoke with the Planning Director and there isn't any reason the process can't begin now. Ms. Buono said they may come back to the Selectmen to find out how they would like enforcement to be handled either by sight as properties are driven by and what about those that are not on the main street? She feels that's a discussion which should take place but the first step should be to educate everyone. Selectman Bailey said when the discussion took place it was to advise the property owner and as long as they have something in place to address the issues and are actively pursuing it, we wouldn't expect it to be done in one year for example. He said a lot of the parking lots are going to be effected by the sidewalk project. Selectman Bailey said this was a tool put in place to work with absentee landlords. Ms. Colombe said she agrees about not being heavy handed but if an ordinance is put in place, there should be forward movement at this time.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Hazard Mitigation Plan – Ms. Buono explained that Robyn Payson had planned on being here tonight review the need for the Hazard Mitigation Plan update as required every 5 years but was not able to be here. Ms. Buono said the plan update is funded with grant funds that are acquired through Central NH Regional Planning Commission, with the exception of the portion that is funded in kind by calculating the participant's salary for the time it takes to do the work. She circulated the list of department heads, employees, and other people who typically play a role in both emergency management and the update process to the Selectmen for review and appointment. She said the Selectmen will also need to appoint a volunteer to serve on the Committee as well. Selectman Rogers asked what type of time commitment is involved with the project and was told that the meetings will be held remotely and since there shouldn't be much that has changed since the last update, Ms. Buono would estimate it may take 5 or 6 hour long meetings to complete. Chairman Stohrer moved to appoint members to the Hazard Mitigation Committee as presented on the list dated April 28, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

2 Bridge Street – Ms. Buono brought up the building located at 2 Bridge Street which is owned by the Town with regard to the condition as well as request the Board give her direction with regard to what they would like to do with the building. She stated that although there had been two separate parties

interested over the last couple of years in the building, nothing has materialized and those individuals are no longer around. She said as discussed in the past, the building needs an extensive amount of work and currently the Board will need to decide whether or not to put money into roof repairs since it has considerable damage to one side in which water has poured into the building during heavy storms. Ms. Buono said the other option is to update the cost of removing the building and move forward with that plan. The past cost estimate was briefly discussed with regard to it not addressing removal of the interior debris or the

Summer Camp – Ms. Buono said that although she was not at the last Selectmen’s Meeting, she is aware that the Board did not make a final decision on summer camp. She said that although there are parents who would like it to be open the guidelines are still such that given our location and the fact that the public shares the space in particular, they will be extremely difficult to uphold especially since we operate with teenage counselors. Selectman Rogers said he feels it would be a good morale boost for the community if camp took place and he feels that is needed right now and wants to see it move forward. Selectman Bailey said if we decide to run it and have to cancel, it will be quite a process to return any money that is taken in for registration fees. Ms. Buono said at this time it’s not certain if we have any returning staff since we didn’t hold it last year. Selectman Rogers said if staffing is in place he would like to see it run.

Stored Items in Library – Ms. Buono said there are many stored items on the third floor of the library such as old cast iron heaters, doors, etc. that were stored there from the construction project on the second floor. She asked if the Selectmen would mind if we move forward and plan on selling what we can in order to empty out that floor. The Board agreed to allow that to be done.

Filming Request - Ms. Buono said she received a request from Candle Dragons Studios out of Keene to film at Manahan Beach on June 1st & 2nd and she wanted to make sure the Board was comfortable with that. She said we have received requests before from production companies in different areas of Town. The Board had no problems with the request as long as their insurance certificate was received.

5. LONG TERM PROJECTS

Sidewalk Project – Ms. Buono brought up a memorandum from the Planning Director that was given to the Selectmen which was an update on the project. The memorandum outlined meetings with abutters, drainage improvements, utility pole relocation, as well as coordination with the DOT paving project. Ms. Buono highlighted that the Selectmen will have to go through the Request for Qualification process for a construction engineer as well. She pointed out the updated timeline for the project which unfortunately and due to no fault on our end, places us in the spring of 2022 for final construction.

Noise Ordinance – Selectman Rogers handed out an updated draft version of the noise ordinance and pointed out the changed areas (gun use, fireworks and the updated levels for commercial area). He said he would like it to be sent to our attorney for review and then a public hearing to be scheduled.

6. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Stohrer moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 016640 - 016667 a/k/a Vouchers 16 & 17 in the amount of \$164,552.07 (includes 189 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 025080– 025131 a/k/a Voucher #13 in the amount of \$198,442.69. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Stohrer moved to approve the Consent Agenda for April 28, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Elderly Exemption – Map 14 Lot 611
- Veterans Tax Credit – Map 13 Lot 76
- Police Union Contract (approved @ Town Meeting 3/2021)

8. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Stohrer moved to approve the Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Stohrer moved to approve the Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

9. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Stohrer moved to go into nonpublic session at 8:00 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) personnel. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Stohrer – yes; Selectman Rogers – yes; Selectman Bailey - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Stohrer, Selectman Bailey, Selectman Rogers, Town Administrator Laura Buono.

Ms. Buono discussed an employee request as well as updated the Board on a couple of various personnel circumstances.

Chairman Stohrer moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:36 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Stohrer – yes; Selectman Rogers – yes; Selectman Bailey - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Stohrer moved to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

John P. Stohrer, Chairman

David J. Rogers, Selectman

James C. Bailey III, Selectman