

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2022

Present: James C. Bailey, Chairman; Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman; Iris Campbell, Selectwoman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Brian Beebe, Cynthia Matthews, Riche' Colcombe, Joyce Bosse, Luke Levesque, Ernie Butler, Brad Fyfe, Gene Gould, Becky Johnson, Angela Poluchov, Tom and Beth Patenaude.

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

1. OPEN SESSION

Cynthia Matthews & Brian Beebe – Ms. Matthews & Mr. Beebe brought up a septic test that was done on their neighbor's property by the Health Officer. They feel the test was done incorrectly and that the neighbor's septic has failed even though the test does not reflect that because they have some orange water on their property. They also feel the Health Officer is disregarding their concerns. Ms. Buono said she will discuss this with the Health Officer and call Ms. Matthews in the morning.

2. BECKY JOHNSON & GENE GOULD RE: PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER

Ms. Buono began by stating that while looking into the parcel of town-owned land by Grimes Field to see if it would be able to be used for the Community Center, she found some wording in a few places of the application for funding that was used in the original application which concerned her. Chairman Bailey said he didn't realize the Selectmen at that time had applied for the funding from the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for the parcel with the intention of leaving it undeveloped. Ms. Buono noted that the theme of leaving the property undeveloped is mentioned quite a few times throughout the application and in once instance it's referred to as valueless except for trails and picnicking.

The "Statement of Assurances" was also brought up and the wording under letter F which states: Property acquired or developed under this program will be retained and used for public outdoor recreation purposes in perpetuity or as otherwise provided for in the project agreement. No other uses, or the conversion or disposal of any part of the project site will be permitted without prior approval of the New Hampshire State Liaison Officer and the Director of National Park Service. Ms. Johnson said she hopes the Board will decide to move forward and find out if the agreement can be changed in order to have the Community Center built on this parcel of land. She said they understand there is a large portion that is wet and in the flood zone but it is almost ideal for what they need. Selectwoman Nagy said the parcel is identified within the Hazard Mitigation Plan due to flooding. She asked if they could use an existing building in Town in the meantime in order to qualify for grants. Ms. Johnson said they could, but the grants would need to be for an identified property and if they don't have a property, they still can't receive grants for a building. At the end of the discussion, it was decided to have the Town Administrator consult with our Attorney as to whether or not they feel we can move forward to request to alter the use of the property.

3. BRAD FYFE RE: ATV ROAD CROSSING/USE

Brad Fyfe, the CVATVR Club Trail Master, met with the Selectmen to discuss a proposal for connecting the CVATVR trail system in Henniker to the Hillsborough rail trail. He said the state wants him to get Town permission to pass over town roads first before they proceed with the Center Deering Road crossing. The two options that Mr. Fyfe brought forward were reviewed and discussed. Traffic through neighborhoods was a concern as well as the distance that would be traveled on Class V roads. Mr. Fyfe said that this would be limited to 50" wide machines due to the current width restriction on the Hillsborough rail trail. Selectwoman Campbell suggested a third option of coming from Bridge Street to Union Street and after further discussion, this ended up being the preferred option. Chairman Bailey said they will need to have a Public Hearing and get the Police Chief's input as well. Mr. Fyfe understood and said he will be approaching Deering for permission as well.

4. PUBLIC HEARING RE: FEE CHANGES

Chairman Bailey opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Transfer Station Fees – Luke Levesque outlined the reason for raising the price for tire disposal at the Transfer Station. He said currently, we barely cover the cost of disposal for tires at \$2 and tire businesses and garages currently charge \$5 or \$5.50 to dispose of tires. Mr. Levesque said due to costs continuing to rise, he is proposing to bring our fee to \$5 so that we're in line with other businesses and we won't have to adjust come again to adjust the fee when we're not covering the cost. and propane tanks \$20 for larger than 20lbs (previously \$0)

Septic Inspection fee of \$100 – Ms. Buono said the Building Inspector would like the Board to consider adopting a septic system inspection fee. She said DES only looks at the system once it's completely built even though the most important inspection is the bed bottom inspection a/k/a grub out since this is what determines the longevity of the system. She said currently, inspections are being done in ELVD because they have requested them yet we're not collecting a fee to cover these. The building inspector does a plan review of every system and stamps it prior to it going to DES. He also witnesses the test pit and part of his review and approval is to make sure what he witnessed is what is reported. He inspects the bed bottom and does a final inspection once it is loamed and seeded. Ms. Buono said people are spending \$15,000 to \$20,000 on a septic system and a \$100 for these inspections adds is a layer of protection for them.

Chairman Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:17 and moved to charge \$20.00 for 20lb. cylinders and other pressurized vessels, change the price for tire disposal to \$5.00, and to adopt a \$100 septic inspection fee under the building department. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Boston Post Cane – Ms. Buono discussed the fact that the previous recipient of the Boston Post Cane has passed away and it's time for the Board to award it to another resident. She said she had posted a question for the last few weeks asking for names to be submitted and the oldest resident's name she has received is Gil Shattuck who is 95 years old. Hope Thomas' name was brought up by a member of the public in attendance at the meeting. Both names were discussed

and it was found that Ms. Thomas is one month older than Mr. Shattuck. The Board asked Ms. Buono to find out if Ms. Thomas was interested in receiving the award and if not, then to approach Mr. Shattuck.

Associated Electric – Ms. Buono discussed Associated Electric with the Board and said in the past, Boards have not wanted to move forward and take the property for overdue taxes due to the contamination on the site. She said there have been no attempts by the owners to make any payments on the taxes which are well over \$200,000 and \$600,000 with interest. Ms. Buono said currently, there is quite a bit of funding for a municipal owned brownfields property where funding hadn't been available in the past. She said with the assistance of NHDES, EPA, and Central NH Regional Planning, we are able to apply for funding to clean the site up once we take ownership of it and since we are in a situation that we're forced to take over the property, we don't inherit liability for the contamination. The Board agreed with moving forward with this.

Outdoor Seating Request – Ms. Buono said Kim Opperman has submitted an outdoor seating request on behalf of BBQ Restaurant on West Main Street. The Board reviewed the application and seating plan. Chairman Bailey said as long as the public is able to get by on the sidewalk and the Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer approves it, he is fine with this. Selectwomen Campbell and Nagy agreed.

Cooledge Road – Ernie Butler, Road Agent said that Cooledge Road will be closed as of Monday for a couple of weeks for the purpose of the bridge replacement project.

6. LONG TERM PROJECTS

Woods Woolen Mill – Ms. Buono reported that confirmation was received that the office building will be taken down along with the remainder of the mill via EPA funding. She said there is additional money that we are applying for in the amount of \$20,000 for a technical assistance grant for the purpose of site redevelopment once the buildings and contaminated soil is removed. The Board will need to discuss what they would like to do with the two lots once everything is done. In the past, converting the area into a park had been discussed.

Parking Regulations – Ms. Buono reminded the Board that there is a work session scheduled for the purpose of working on finalizing updates to the parking regulations on April 21st @ 1:00 @ PD.

7. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 017457 – 017502 (includes 1 voided check) a/k/a Vouchers 13, 14 & 15 in the amount of \$272,567.54 (includes 314 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 026952 - 027048 a/k/a Vouchers 15, 16, 17 & 18 in the amount of \$328,792.63. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for April 13, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Intent to Excavate – Map 7 Lot 196; Map 10 Lot 44

- Veterans' Tax Credit – Map 14 Lot 464
- Disabled Exemption – Map 12A lot 195
- Gravel Tax Levy – Map 10 Lot 44 \$79.36
- Intent to Cut – Map 12 Lot 48; Map 8 Lot 49
- Property Tax Interest Refund (Town error) – Map 8 Lot 6
- Welfare Lien Discharge – Map 7 Lot 66
- Cemetery Deed – Thomas & Rosario Connelly

9. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of March 23, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:47 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) compensation and (b) hiring. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Nagy – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectwoman Nagy, Selectwoman Campbell, Town Administrator Laura Buono.

Ms. Buono discussed her wages with the Board since this is the year for her increase. She also discussed her desire to hire Jeremy Oak to fill the Building Maintenance position and combine it with the seasonal parks position in order to allow both departments to be fully staffed. The Board agreed to both the proposed wage increase and the hiring of Mr. Oak contingent upon a criminal background check.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:17 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Nagy – yes. Selectwoman Campbell – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

Date: _____

James C. Bailey III, Chairman

Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman