

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023**

Present: James Bailey, Chairman; Iris Campbell, Selectwoman; Richard Pelletier, Selectman and Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Joyce Bosse, Chris Parsons, Agustin Ros, Ann Barnes, Augustine Ros, Riche' Colcombe

Pledge of allegiance was stated.

Before the open session the Town Clerk, Deb McDonald performed the swearing-in duties for Officer Jason Patten. Family members and staff were present.

1. OPEN SESSION

Chairman Bailey asked for any open session comments. None were received.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for January 11, 2023. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

- Police Appointment – Jason Patten
- Welfare Lien – Map 25 Lot 36
- 2022 Tax Abatements – Map 5 Lot 150 \$5,612.61; Map 25 Lot 6 \$5,970.54

3. MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 14, 2022. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes for December 28, 2022. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, Selectman Pelletier abstained, the motion passed.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Buono asked the Board how they would like to handle moving forward with the parking regulations, a separate work session or during a regular meeting. The Board would like to work on them during a work session.
- B. Ms. Buono provided copies to the Selectmen of the proposed budget, including the proposed warrant. The budget is showing a 2.93% increase including the warrant articles. Two of the warrant articles are being offset from the money received by the State for bridge and road work. With all the variables that create a tax rate, Ms. Buono feels the town portion of the tax rate may be level again.
- C. Ms. Buono asked the Board to think about setting up an expendable trust for employee health and wellness which would include first responder heart screenings. She said that Chief Parsons had reviewed that program with the Board during his budget proposal presentation.
- D. Ms. Buono said she learned last week that there was a 20-year with the Historical Society and that it expired at the end of 2022. She said she spoke with the Board of Directors and she and them will draw up a memorandum of understanding to bring before the Board and which will be reviewed on an annual basis thereafter.
- E. Selectwoman Campbell thanked the volunteers who organized and ran the events for the 250th year long celebration and said it was a job well done!
- F. Ms. Buono said she talked to a resident about the current leash law/ordinance in Hillsborough. The resident would like an actual ordinance/code developed because there is a large problem with people allowing their dogs off leash and not in voice control especially on the school property. The resident asked if it could be enhanced regarding loose dogs and dogs fouling. Chairman Bailey said he feels it needs to be done along with many other of the Town's codes. Ms. Buono will be talking to the Police Chief to get his recommendation as far as wording goes. A future discussion will be scheduled.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Bailey opened the hearing at 6:30 pm for a barn preservation easement request for 1040 East Washington Road owned by Ros Agustin and Ann Barnes. The intent of the owners is to refurbish the property that includes preserving the 200-year-old barn keeping the barn as original as possible.

The easement if approved allows the owners to work on the barn without the value increasing. The valuation is frozen by a percentage based on the score sheet that is used for this purpose. Both Chairman Bailey and Selectwoman Campbell have looked at the property. Selectman Pelletier has not seen the property but will rely on the photos and the Board members discretion.

The Board proceeded to score the structure. The scoring showed the barn qualifies; the Selectmen determine the percentage the value will be reduced by is 50%.

Chairman Bailey called for public comments. No comments were received.

Chairman Bailey closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the preservation easement for a 50% reduction in the market value. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

The next step is the Assessor will create the dollar figure, a document will be drawn up and recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

6. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 18184 – 18208 a/k/a Vouchers 1 & 2 in the amount of \$200,009.83 (includes 219 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 028520 - 028702 a/k/a Vouchers 46, 1, 2 & 3 in the amount of \$2,009,855.26. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

** A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$1,459,784.94

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. The meeting which was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman