

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024**

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

Others present: Brett Cherrington

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. ENERGY COMMISSION

Energy Commission member Brett Cherrington submitted his resignation from the Commission whose membership has been struggling. Mr. Cherrington said that he felt the Selectmen were not listening to or following the Commission’s recommendation and also felt that the Commission was not being informed of all the areas in which they may have been able to help. He said because of this, moral has been very low on the Commission. Chairman Bailey thanked Mr. Cherrington for his service and reminded him that the Commission serves in an advisory capacity. He said that the commission did provide the Selectmen with great information that they used to make various decisions even if not all of those decisions were the outcome the Commission desired. Selectman Pelletier was concerned about the Commission feeling that the Board failed to communicate in the manner they had wanted and thanked him for the areas they advised the Board.

2. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated September 25, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

3. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 19695 – 19720 a/k/a Vouchers #40 & 41 in the amount of \$220,204.02 (includes 211 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 032571 – 032647 a/k/a Voucher #34 in the amount of \$443,662.05.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 9, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- Quit Claim Deed – Map 14 Lot 273 Ellen Brook Road
- Memorandum of Lien Judgement – John Penny \$30,438.78 (Chairman only)
- Cemetery Deed – James/Ellen McGuire Harvey Memorial Cemetery

5. HALLOWEEN BASH

Ms. Buono said she received an email request from Keith Cobbett to place a sign at the Transfer Station to advertise an annual Halloween Bash to raise funds for the American Legion. The event will take place on Saturday, October 26th. The Board had no objection to him placing a sign at that location and granted permission.

6. STREAMING SELECTMENS MEETINGS

Ms. Buono obtained more information for the Board with regard to streaming meetings. She said there are two choices with using the OWL System. First is to start a YouTube channel and stream them that way and the other option is contracting with a company such as Town Hall Streaming which several towns use. Ms. Buono she will obtain the cost for that company if the Board is interested in that option. This was briefly discussed along with the process the School uses. Ms. Buono will speak to the Superintendent to get more information.

7. PUBLIC HEARING – OVERNIGHT PARKING FEE

Chairman Bailey opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Buono said Dennis Yeaton, Chris Parsons, Robyn Payson and herself met and talked about the overnight parking. The recommendation is to use the Central Street lot and the right-hand side of the lot across from the library for overnight parking, about 28 spaces. The overnight parking sticker will be good until 8:00 am, after that the 2-hour limit kicks in during the day. The parking stickers will be available at the Police Department.

There was no public present for public comment.

Chairman Bailey closed the public hearing at 6:44 pm.

Chairman Bailey made to adopt a \$25.00 overnight parking sticker fee for municipal lot use. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

8. DEEDED PROPERTY

Ms. Buono spoke with the Board about a property the Town took via tax deed in August of 2024, which still has people living in it. She said both the owners of the property are deceased and there was no will to leave the property to anyone and none of the family went to court with regard to the “estate”. The current occupants are aware the property was taken for taxes and have not paid or are not interested in paying the back taxes. The property has also become unsightly with debris in the yard resulting in the Health Officer visiting the property. Ms. Buono said our attorney recommended selling the property as is and with the tenants there since it can take years to evict someone from a property. Ms. Buono said that typically, properties that are taken for taxes are held for 3 years prior to selling but we have been approached by an abutter who is interested in the property and has requested that the Town expedite the process. She said with expediting, a 45-day notice is given to any lien holder and/or family members to bring taxes up to date, including a 15% penalty required by law. She said if no one comes forward, the Town can proceed with the sale. She said if anyone does come forward, we would only be able to deed it back to the previous owners even if they are deceased. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to allow the process to be expedited in order to place the property out for sealed bids. Ms. Buono said it would be a couple of weeks before she begins the process.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman