

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2025**

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

Others present: Samantha Gallo, Tammy McClurer, Riche' Colcombe, Leigh Bosse

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Samantha Gallo, Librarian, reminded the Selectmen there will be an open house at the Library on Saturday, October 25th.

2. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated October 8, 2025. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for October 22, 2025. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- 2025 Tax Abatement - Map 11O lot 170-4 \$954.00
- Hardship Abatement (accumulated interest on property taxes) – Map 12 Lot 10

4. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 20586 – 20611 a/k/a Vouchers 42 & 43 in the amount of \$244,765.60 (includes 237 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 034732 – 034788 a/k/a Voucher 35 in the amount of \$1,537,249.82. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

** A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$1,081,610.34

5. THRIFT STORE

Samantha Gallo and Tammy McClure came before the Board to discuss a plan that the Thrift Store Board (TSB) came up with after discussing the future of the store. Ms. Gallo and Ms. McClure said the TSB voted to pay for an assessment of 61 W. Main Street as had been discussed with the Selectboard previously and Ms. Gallow reviewed those findings with the Board. She said the TSB are considering the possibility, if approved by the Selectboard, of removing the moldy end structure as well as the middle section that is over the basement. As part of this, they would fill in the basement hole and then would like to add onto the building. They would like to know if the Town would help with removal and with the fill and then the Thrift Board could take on the expense of adding to the building. They propose to organize volunteers for demolition and

construction, would pay the tax value each year as well as electricity and heating costs and said that would result in the Town having no costs to run that building. The TSB would also be responsible for building repair issues, but they would request the Town continue to plow it. They are proposing a 0-year memorandum of understanding with the Town. They stated that they have had an increase in donations and sales and feel they are financially able to sustain this plan.

Ms. Buono said that she is concerned with the liability of having volunteers helping with the demolition of a town-owned building. There is testing required prior to demolishing a building for the purpose of identifying whether there is asbestos or lead paint present. She said if there is, it must be remediated prior to taking structure down. The TSB will research the cost for mold removal and it was suggested that they speak with the Building Inspector on what the requirements are when demolishing a building.

6. PARK & WHITEMORE PROJECT

Ms. Buono said the Water & Sewer Commissioners are requesting to be reimbursed in the amount of \$43,139.68 for the Park & Whittemore Project. The Board reviewed the information submitted and Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the payment of \$43,139.68 payable from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed.

7. 2026 BUDGET PROCESS

Ms. Buono proposed a slight change for the 2026 Budget Process. She said in the past, she met with department heads to review their budgets prior to them meeting the BOS during work sessions. She said that since Board meetings will be live streamed soon, she proposes to cut out the work session so that those meetings with department heads present take place during regular meeting times for the public to watch it if they desire. The Board liked the idea.

8. BEAR HILL & BRIDGE STREET

The Board resumed a review of proposed signage that was recommended by the Highway Safety Committee for the purpose of creating a one-way environment on Bear Hill Road due to ongoing safety concerns at the intersection of Bear Hill and Rte. 149. The Board agreed on the Committees recommendations. Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Highway Safety Committee for making Bear Hill no thru traffic from Route 149 to Prospect Street. Selectwoman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

9. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ZONES

Ms. Buono reported the Economic Development Commission has been meeting with Central NH Regional Planning Commission on a regular basis on Economic Revitalization Zones for the Town. She said currently, four zones have been identified, and the goal is to encourage business and business growth. She said if a business meets certain criteria, it may receive a tax break on the business profit tax on the state level. She said a public hearing will be held on November 25th on this and Mike Tardiff from CNHRPC will be presenting the information. This doesn't cost Hillsborough taxpayers any money and simply allows businesses to be eligible for tax breaks on the state level.

10. UPDATED TOWN FEE'S

Ms. Buono said that all the departments have been asked to look at the fees that are charged for various services so that anything that needs to be updated can be included in the public hearing that will be held on December 9th.

11. FOOD PANTRY

Selectman Pelletier discussed a drain in the parking lot of the food pantry that is not draining properly and is affecting an area on the sidewalk that continues to get washed out and collapsing. The Board discussed the direction of the water flow. Ms. Buono will discuss this with the Road Agent.

12. DEERING WITHDRAWING FROM THE SCHOOL COOPERATIVE

Selectman Pelletier reported the committee met last Wednesday night and held a straw vote, 4 voted yes, 3 voted no. The binding vote will happen on October 23rd. If the vote holds it would be a 4-3 in favor of Deering withdrawing from the cooperative. A vote in March would then happen. Deering has found considerable savings, up to \$1,000,000 per year, to move to another cooperative. If this passes in March, Hillsborough school system will need to find \$5,000,000 worth of cuts in their budget. Another vote would be needed for Deering to pull out of the SAU.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

Riche' Colcombe reminded the Board that she is requesting that the Windsor emergency service contract get updated as well as those with any other towns.

Riche' also asked if the state has been approached about the paving on Center Road since winter season is fast approaching. Ms. Buono said the last thing she heard is that the paving will take place in November.

14. ROAD BOND FOR HILLSBOROUGH HEIGHTS

Chairman Bailey asked about the status of the bond for the road leading up to the apartments. At this time, it is unknown when the second phase will begin. He said if the project is on hold, the Board wants the hammerhead paved per the agreement. Ms. Buono will contact the developer to discuss this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman