

**Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2025**

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

Others are present: Ann Poole, Dylan Pearse-Theroux

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

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dylan Pearse-Theroux – Mr. Pearsen-Theroux inquired about the bids for 403 E. Washington Road and asked when they will be opened. Ms. Buono explained family members paid all the taxes and penalties associated with the property before the bid deadline, so the property will be deeded back to the owners of record when the Town took it for unpaid taxes.

**2. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN – MOTION TO APPOINT**

As is done annually, the Board took steps to appoint a Chairman. Without discussion, Selectwoman Campbell moved to reappoint Selectman James Bailey as Chairman once again. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**3. BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Ms. Buono asked the Board to let her know who would like to serve on the Planning Board, Economic Development Commission (EDC), and the Historic District Commission (HDC). She said that she is currently representing the Board on the HDC, but it would be nice for one of the Board members to take over moving forward.

Chairman Bailey stated that he would like to continue serving on the Planning Board, and Selectman Pelletier volunteered to continue with the Economic Development Commission. Selectwoman Campbell said that she would pick up the representation on the Historic District Commission.

In speaking briefly about the Planning Board, Selectman Pelletier requested that the Selectboard be included on the email distribution list for the meeting minutes so that they can stay up to date with what the Planning Board is working on.

**4. REVIEW OF TOWN MEETING**

Ms. Buono said that during the discussion on the live streaming warrant article, one of the take aways was that some residents would like more content in the meeting minutes. She said that she spoke with Mary Whalen about that who said she can certainly put more content in the minutes, but she would need the Board to say a little more about the subject in general. For example, sometimes the Board talks about something that is ongoing but something that she, as the person doing the minutes, doesn't know much about so adding a little background would help her to include more in the minutes. Ms. Buono then asked the Board if they would like her to begin the

process of preparing to livestream the meetings. The Board said yes. Ms. Buono said it won't happen overnight, but she will consult with our IT person to get his input and assistance if needed.

## **5. MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated February 26, 2025. Selectwoman Campbell seconded the motion, the motion passed.

## **6. MANIFEST**

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 20035 – 20057 a/k/a Vouchers 12 & 13 in the amount of \$212,628.66 (includes 209 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 033537 – 033646 a/k/a Vouchers 11 in the amount of \$285,093.15. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

## **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for March 26, 2025. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- Intent to Cut – Map 10 Lot 44 Route 9; Map 4 Lot 50 & Map 7 Lot 197 Cooledge Road
- Solar Exemption – Map 7 Lot 206
- Elderly Exemption – Map 12A Lot 300: Map 6 Lot 9
- 2024 Tax Abatement & Refund – Map 5 Lot 150 (\$2,677.45)

## **8. WHITTEMORE STREET PROJECT**

Chairman Bailey said the Board attended a meeting with the water & sewer commissioners and learned the towns cost is significantly higher than was planned. The project will be going out to bid which will give a more precise number. Once they have that number and if the money is available, the project is slated for this coming spring so that it is finished in the fall. During the meeting, the Board learned another \$400,000 from the Town is needed for the project. Selectwoman Campbell said the paving for the project amounts to \$615,000 and then the drainage for \$472,000 which was never originally discussed. Without the \$472,000 the project cannot move forward. Ms. Buono said that initially the Board only offered the ARPA Funds the Town received (\$628,347.27) and then agreed to raise and appropriate another \$89,000.00 at last years Town Meeting for paving. The balance available from the Town right now is \$687,347.27. Chairman Bailey said that the Board thought they could take the balance from the money the town received from the Hillsborough Heights project. Ms. Buono reminded the Board our auditor said the money would need to be allocated by a warrant article. She said if the Board chooses to add more money to the project by using those funds and didn't want to wait until the next Town Meeting, they may be able to hold a special town meeting if the subject matter qualified for one.

Selectwoman Campbell said at the meeting with the commissioners, it was stated that the cost could be reduced if no ledge was found but said she doesn't know if it would be the Town's side or the Water/Sewer side. During continued discussion, there was confusion by the Board over the addition funds the Water & Sewer Commissioners were requiring the Town pay toward the project. Ms. Buono feels that the Commissioners should not be dictating what the Town is contributing since the amount the Board was putting toward the project was stated in the beginning. Ms. Buono

recommends that moving forward, someone from the Board or the Road Agent should be attending all the meetings. The Board also decided that although they told Ms. Buono she didn't need to attend the recent meeting, they would like her to be at all meetings moving forward. Chairman Bailey said at the meeting the commissioners suggested that if this project gets off the ground, they would like someone from the Board of Selectmen to be appointed to make decisions kept updated so decisions can be made without waiting for a Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Buono said that if the decision has to do with additional money they want, that should have to be approved by the entire Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Buono said she had noticed the engineering fees have increased and asked if that is based on changes that Dave Lewis was making or discussing with the Engineer in emails that were circulating. She said that engineers only budget a certain number of hours for a project and if more hours are needed, they will charge more. The Board was unsure of the reason. The Board discussed that moving forward, any other projects they choose to do with the commissioners will need to have a project coordinator looking out for the best interest of the town. The Selectmen also discussed the need to investigate whether or not bonding the necessary projects for the sewer system would make more sense as well as whether or not there is any state aid available for such projects.

Selectman Pelletier said he has talked to several people, and he believes that the majority of people are not aware of this project and the town providing \$1,000,000 towards the project. The town's people need to be made aware and suggested that an article be written. Ms. Buono said it has been a Water/Sewer Commissioner project from the start but that we could certainly write something up. Selectman Pelletier said that if this sewer infrastructure can be solved jointly instead of the Commissioners trying to play catch up on the poor planning from the past by getting every penny out of every development transaction, it may help the residents in the long term. The Board agreed they need to be more involved with the commissioners for projects such as Whittemore and feel that bonding big projects is better for the town in the long run and allows the town to keep up with infrastructure updates. Ms. Buono said that currently the Whittemore project has turned into a 50/50 cost share and said that doesn't make sense since the Board obligated a set amount of money initially.

The cost of the drainage was discussed further. Selectwoman Campbell said there is currently no drainage on Whittemore. Ms. Buono said that if the Board had not agreed to the money for this project, it sounds like the commissioners wouldn't have done drainage and wonders why now is 100% of the drainage being shifted over to the Town. Chairman Bailey said the Board will need to look at the final cost and sit down with water & sewer and voice the Boards concerns along with how future projects will be handled. The Board needs more discussion with the Commissioners regarding the cost of the drainage, more clarification is needed as to why the town should pay the entire cost. Selectman Pelletier recommends waiting for the bids to come in before going too far into it since the costs may be too high for the project to move forward anyway but would like Ms. Buono to get clarification from the Water/Sewer Department on the drainage.

Selectwoman Campbell made a motion authorizing the Chairman to sign the engineering contract for professional services for Park & Whittemore Street. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

## **9. SIDEWALK PROJECT**

Ms. Buono reported the sidewalk project that runs from the end of the current downtown sidewalks up to Shaws, is about \$40,000 short with the latest updated figures. She said that shortfall is taking into account using the balance in the sidewalk capital reserve fund, but can be covered with the Board's approval, by using the infrastructure capital reserve fund. Ms. Buono anticipates the project will not begin until next spring since adjustments needed to be made to the project which are mostly to cover easements that they we have not be able to obtain. This will also give the Board another Town Meeting to raise any other funds which may be needed once we see the bid amounts.

## **10. 2 & 8 BRIDGE STREET**

Ms. Buono explained that demolition will begin next week on 2 & 8 Bridge Street and the developer is asking permission to place a 40-yard dumpster in front of the buildings. In doing so, he will have to drive over the garden and granite stones but will be responsible for any repairs if necessary, a stipulation that will be written into the demolition permit. She asked if the Board is comfortable granting the permission. The Board agreed to allow the placement with the stipulation as stated.

## **11. CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT**

Ms. Buono said that the Chairman of the Conservation Commission asked that the Selectmen reappoint James McDonough to the Commission for another 3-year term. Chairman Bailey made a motion to re-appoint James McDonough for a 3-year term. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

## **12. ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC**

Ms. Buono said the demolition of the Associated Electric building or buildings if we have enough money, will be placed out for bid soon. She said that since the grant that was awarded is only \$250,000.00, there may not be enough money to take all the buildings down and if so, building one (the building on the left), will be the first to go.

## **13. SENATE BILL 297**

Ms. Buono spoke about the impact of SB297 which fundamentally changes risk pool management in New Hampshire. If passed, SB297 will prevent HealthTrust from providing the high-quality, affordable, medical and related coverages that New Hampshire's cities, towns and school districts have come to rely on since 1985. Ms. Buono encouraged the Board to contact state representatives to voice their concerns about this bill and the impact it will have on us.

## **14. ATV's ON TOWN ROADS**

Ann Poole said that she read one of the (nonofficial) Hillsborough Facebook pages, that the Board will be making a decision regarding ATV's on town roads. Chairman Bailey said nothing has been brought before them regarding ATV's on Town Roads. Ms. Poole's said she is concern that a single person could come before the Board and the Board would act immediately without any public input. Ms. Poole was told that in the past when requests have come in, the Board has held public hearings on the request and to date, the two that had come in were not approved. UTV's

with the necessary safety equipment were approved, but no ATV requests have been. Chairman Baily again noted that nothing is before the Board.

### **15. PLANNING BOARD UPDATE**

Chairman Bailey reported the proposed laundromat to be located across from Angus Lee is still interested and asked for an extension for approval which was granted for another year.

On a side note, Chairman Bailey informed the Board that the insurance building across the street from the library is going to be sold. He thought that perhaps the Board may want to consider it to use as an office building for the Town until a complex is brought forward to the voters. In a brief discussion, it was mainly felt that may not be something that the Board should consider but Chairman Bailey said he was bringing it forward as food for thought.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm

A true record  
Mary Whalen  
Recording Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by:  
Hillsborough Selectboard

\_\_\_\_\_  
James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

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Richard Pelletier, Selectman