

Board of Selectmen Work Session
Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2026

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

At the opening of the meeting the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Others present: Police Chief Chris Parsons

1. JUNE 10th SELECTMEN'S MEETING

A motion was made and seconded to cancel the selectboard meeting scheduled for June 10th. Unanimously approved, the motion passed.

2. LIVESTREAMING

Ms. Buono is recommending hiring a tech person to set up the streaming for the meetings. The Planning Board and ZBA will begin to stream their meetings as well. Ms. Buono wants to make sure the streaming is done seamlessly for each meeting but both she and the Planning Director have roles to play during meetings and cannot monitor the streaming at the same time. Selectman Pelletier said the School Board has a dedicated person to handle the recording and streaming of their meetings and it makes sense to do it here as well. Ms. Buono will move forward to find an individual for this purpose.

3. TOWN OF DEERING POLICE COVERAGE

Chief Parsons said back in 2019 Hillsborough had an agreement with Deering for on-call services; the agreement was for 40 – 50 hours per week at \$20.00 per hour (roughly \$52,000 per year). It was understood that Deering would move forward with hiring. It was also thought-out which hours Hillsborough on-call hours would be, typically during the hours Hillsborough would have been requested to respond by State Police, such as shift changes, this was done for 5 years. After 5 years the Deering Police Chief gave a 2-week notice, then, Hillsborough entered into an agreement with Deering to cover the town 24/7 for \$23,000 per month, then it worked into a 3-year agreement. The 3-year agreement is for \$275,000 for 2026, \$285,000 for 2027 and \$295,000 for 2028. Hillsborough is being paid by Deering to respond and investigate all crimes.

Prior to this agreement, cases would be turned over to the Deering Police Department to investigate the call Hillsborough responded to. What happens is the victims don't know which agency to call and the victims get frustrated. Towards the end of the on-call agreement, Hillsborough began handling the cases because it became easier to finish the case. During this time there were times Hillsborough was working for free.

The Chief explained how the agreement in the amount of \$275,000 for 2026 was factored. There is \$17,000 included for prosecutions which was billed to Deering annually prior to the agreement, vehicle wear, \$25,000, covering up to 40 hours of patrol as well as responding to calls, (when the Deering police was active they had 2 full time officers), the Chief used those factors for the rest of the cost (what's an average pay, multiply by 2, add 32% for retirement plus the health insurance), all resulted in the final amount of \$275,000. During the beginning of 2026 the Chief supplemented overtime in Deering to patrol under a Deering Grant/Highway Safety Grant.

Chairman Campbell asked if Deering is saving money rather than have, they're on Police Department. Chief Parsons said the Deering budget total was \$350,000. He said it benefits both towns, Deering saves money,

Hillsborough receives revenue and the agreement covers calls that wouldn't have been covered without the agreement.

Selectman Pelletier asked what the town's cost was from December 2025 to March 2026 coverage for Deering, did \$23,000 each month work. Chief Parsons said that would be difficult to break down. Selectman Pelletier asked then how we know if those 4 months cost the town money, he feels the town should be making some profit from this. Chief Parsons said he agrees and we do make money but can't say how much. Selectman Pelletier said it's the Boards job to know. Chief Parsons said there is a cloud system in the cruisers, and he can geofence Deering and know how much time Hillsborough spent there, this is new technology started about a month ago. The overtime spent in those 4 months amounts to 343 hours x \$60 = \$20,580.

Selectman Pelletier said based on numbers it is assumed the town is making money. It is estimated the cruisers use 40 hours of patrol a week costing about \$800 a week. The Chief said \$107 is the cost for a cruiser per hour, using 343 hours in overtime it adds up to \$36,701 for the 4 months. Unknown is the straight time used in that 4-month period because the geofence was not installed for that entire time.

Ms. Buono said if the Board wants specific tracking costs, then that needs to be set up right away. It was agreed the annual cost being charged is more than adequate to cover all the costs for Hillsborough. Selectman Pelletier was satisfied with the explanation. Selectman Bailey said he trusted the Chief's judgement. Selectman Pelletier asked if there have been any issues with the staff. The Chief said the staff is very supportive.

Selectman Pelletier asked about the equipment from Deering. The Chief said some equipment is usable, but the price needs to be determined. However, the Chief did purchase one of Deering's cruisers. Deering's firearms have been transferred to Hillsborough for a cost as well. Initially Deering has no police department at this time, this could change in the future depending on the leadership.

4. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Campbell made a motion to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) Hiring. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Buono updated the Board on the process of filling the Road Agent position.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to come out of nonpublic session at 2:03 p.m. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:03 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

Iris Campbell, Chairman

James C. Bailey, III, Selectman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman