

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 24, 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: Cathy Houle, Keith Hudson, Sasha Grimes, Samantha Meeker, Melissa Taber, Bret Taber, Tom McClure, Riche' Colcombe, Michelle Dagesse, Alison Sheehan-Dion, Kalley Mihalko, Kim Opperman, Leigh Bosse

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

HILLSBOROUGH YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION - Tom McClure said he heard a rumor the town is charging Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association (HYAA) \$8,000 for the use of the athletic fields. He said as a taxpayer he doesn't think it is right to charge HYAA even if there are out of town children. Charging HYAA, that cost will be passed on to the children. Mr. McClure said if Deering does not want to participate in paying for the recreation programs, then increase the contracts for police coverage and use of the Transfer Station or tell Deering to either participate with all or Hillsborough will participate with nothing. Mr. McClure said it is not fair on the families that have spent years teaching the kids sports at Grimes Field. Mr. McClure also asked who came up with the idea of charging HYAA.

Selectman Bailey spoke and agreed with Mr. McClure, but he thought the Board did not come up with a fee yet, the town of Deering was to be approached for the \$8,000. Selectman Bailey said Deering has been paying \$25,000 for the last 15 years until recently. Selectman Bailey said in January the Board waived the fees until the Board can figure it out. At this time Deering has not been approached about them no longer participating and for the reason why and Deering has not returned any of the calls that have been made.

Mr. McClure said he doesn't know for a fact, but he feels this is because the town has begun charging out-of-town users for Manahan. Mr. McClure doesn't feel this community should be charging an organization that has been supporting the youth for almost 50 years. He said take the beef to Deering, tell Deering to either participate or the town won't participate in police or the transfer station.

Selectman Bailey said last year the Deering Selectmen approved a check for the \$25,000 but the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer refused to sign the check. Selectman Bailey wants to meet with the Deering Selectboard so they can explain why they won't pay, and they haven't attended. Selectman Bailey said he recalls the Selectmen were not going to charge \$8,000 not to HYA but to Deering, we wanted to come up with a fee but that hasn't been determined yet. The reason for the fees is for keeping the grounds up, Deering, Washington and Windsor use the fields. Bottom line Selectman Bailey wants to hear from Deering.

Mr. McClure said the Youth Services program now has a dollar amount for services that were never charged before, he asked why that is. Selectman Bailey said he totally agrees, when the Board first started talking about this his opinion was that the children in Hillsborough shouldn't be charged. HYAA said if Deering is going to be charged, the fee should be the same for all. The Selectboard said they didn't want the Hillsborough residents charged but HYAA didn't want to come up with two different fees (residents and non-residents).

Mr. McClure encourages the Selectmen to not charge HYAA and to go to Deering and say you will participate or Hillsborough will no longer participate in anything.

Kalley Mihalko has two children in HYAA and is the best thing for them. Recently there was an increase in uniforms, for both children the cost was \$150 for this year and adding more costs, that will cripple larger families. Camp Manahan costs have also increased for non-residents to \$150 per child, that is 3 times the amount more than for Hillsborough residents. She said there must be a better way, maybe organized fundraisers should be considered. Selectman Bailey said times are changing, even though everyone is paying their taxes it does not cover the entire upkeep of the fields or Manahan. Selectman Bailey said again, he wants to hear from Deering.

Leigh Bosse said if Deering can't contribute then Deering children can't play. No fee for HYAA but, HYAA has to say only Hillsborough.

An audience member said to Selectman Bailey she wanted to clarify the email that was presented to them last night which was for \$8,000 and being decided upon today. Ms. Buono said the email said the Board will be reviewing the cost for Deering at \$8,000 (not HYAA) at tonight's meeting if anyone wants to be present. The email was read to the audience.

Riche' Colcombe agrees with Mr. McClure. Ms. Colcombe also said this started when the \$25,000 contract from Deering expired and then the changes at Manahan for Deering. She said it was thought Deering had a right to Manahan based on the \$25,000 contract. But she disagrees with the comments regarding Manahan camp. She said Manahan left that park for the residents of Hillsborough only and does not allow Deering to have a resident rate to use the camp. Ms. Colcombe agrees HYAA should not be charged a usage fee. She said a lot of fees came about when the Youth Services department was started, she also feels there should be no charges for using Butler Park and all the fields that residents are paying taxes for, there are also multiple trust funds that also support the fields.

WARRANT ARTICLE 26: Riche' Colcombe said on March 10 at Town Meeting the voters approved article 26. She said article 26 requires the Selectboard to send a letter to the Governor and State Representatives within 30 days and she said that letter has not been received.

WEBSITE: Riche' Colcombe said there are some items the Board said would be available on the website but are still not there such as the audit report and asked what the timeline is for those reports to be placed on the town's website.

WINDSOR CONTRACT: Riche' Colcombe clarified her concern regarding the Windsor contract, it wasn't that Hillsborough wasn't charging Windsor enough it was what the town is charging for. She also said Windsor receives Room & Meals Tax based on 275 population but has told Hillsborough they only have 180 residents and feels Hillsborough should be using the 275 for the formula to charge Windsor.

REVOLVING FUNDS: Riche' Colcombe said she sent the Selectmen an email regarding two revolving funds. She said there is a drug forfeiture fund and a youth services fund, neither fund was voted on by the voters, and they need to be addressed. There is a question about whether those funds should be held by the town Treasurer or the Trustees of the Trust Funds.

Ms. Buono said she and Ms. Colcombe had discussed this and she asked Ms. Colcombe if she checked on the Youth Services account since Ms. Colcombe felt the Trustees could open an account to transfer the current account to without a vote. Ms. Colcombe recommended asking for legal advice on that question. Chairman Campbell asked if those two funds need to go to town meeting in March. Ms. Colcombe said not necessarily because the fund-raising money is not tax funded, the Selectmen need to make a motion and accept the fund-raised money then turn the money over to the Trustees.

Ms. Buono said she spoke with the auditor and the auditor feels the drug forfeiture money is set up correctly and it would make sense to have a ratifying vote at town meeting. Ms. Colcombe added the Selectmen are supposed to approve expenses from these funds and order the Treasurer to cut the checks; through a 91-A request she

submitted she did not see that was being done. Ms. Buono said Ms. Colcombe needs to see the Selectmen signature pages that go with the manifests Ms. Colcombe reviewed. Bret Taber asked if the town must follow a certain procedure for unanticipated funds. Ms. Buono said individual donations to the town over \$5,000 require a public hearing.

2. BEER GARDEN REQUEST

Alison Dion is before the Selectmen requesting a letter allowing for the Beer Garden at Haunted Hillsborough to happen. The food vendor will be Cresant City Kitchen that has a liquor license, the area being used will be contained.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve the Beer Garden request for the Chamber of Commerce for their Haunted Hillsborough in October. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

3. STONE ARCH PLAYERS

The Stone Arch Players, a local nonprofit, will be holding a pickle ball tournament fund raiser on July 18th and are requesting the field usage fee be waived.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to waive the field usage fee for the Stone Arch Players using the pickle ball courts. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

4. GRANT FOR THE RUMRILL BUILDING

Kim Opperman said the Community Development Block Grant he applied for was pulled. The grant was for installing a sprinkler system and renovating two more apartments on the top floor. Mr. Opperman hired workers to tear down the top floor ceiling which caused a lot of debris and dust. The Building Inspector was called and assessed the situation and shut the work down because Mr. Opperman needed a lead paint test done as well as an asbestos report which he did end up doing. Mr. Opperman is requesting the grant again. Ms. Buono explained that Mr. Opperman needs to re-apply in July for the grant; the town did not pull the grant; it was the executive council that did so. The Selectmen would need to support the project again.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to support Kim Opperman reapplying for the CDBG in July. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

5. HYAA MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

Chairman Campbell recused herself from this conversation due to her family's participation in HYAA.

Selectman Pelletier said the Board has heard the public comments. Selectman Bailey is not in favor of charging HYAA and wants to talk to the Deering Selectmen. A HYAA representative said that based on last year only 17% enrollment was from Deering and at the end of the season, HYAA had a surplus of \$900.

Selectman Pelletier said when Deering refused to pay the annual \$25,000 the Selectman felt it would not be fair for the residents of Hillsborough to pay for the park maintenance entirely and that's what the Board has been struggling with. The Board does not want to charge HYAA and will try to work with Deering.

Selectman Pelletier made a motion not to charge HYAA for the use of the fields at Grimes Field for 3 years. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, Chairman Campbell abstained, the motion passed.

6. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve meeting minutes dated May 27, 2026. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve meeting minutes dated June 9, 2026. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

7. MANIFEST

Chairman Campbell made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 21078 – 21128 a/k/a Vouchers 23, 24, 25, 25A, 26A in the amount of \$508,772.75 (includes 333 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check number 036001 – 036173 a/k/a Voucher 26, 27, 28, 29 in the amount of \$2,807,394.08. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

** A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$2,009,683.66

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Campbell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for June 24, 2026. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- Cemetery Deed – Cordella – Harvey Memorial
- Land Use Change Tax – Map 8 Lot 106-19 \$9,100; Map 8 Lot 106-16 \$9,100; Map 8 Lot 106-18 \$9,200; Map 8 Lot 106-14 \$9,100; Map 8 Lot 106-13 \$9,100; Map 8 Lot 106-10 \$7,500
- Tax Abatement Credit – Map 24 Lots 137 & 129 \$6,043.13
- Veterans' Tax Credit – Map 17 Lot 40;
- Veterans' Disability Credit - Map 13 Lot 80
- Intent to Cut – Map 3 Lot 22 – Colby Hill Road

9. MOOSE GRANT

Ms. Buono discussed with the Board that the library was approved for a moose grant to do work within the building and asked that for efficiency purposes, the Board appointed Samantha Gallo, Library Director, as the signer of the paperwork to accept the grant. Chairman Campbell made a motion to allow Samantha Gallo to sign paperwork for the acceptance of the Moose Grant that was awarded to the Fuller Public Library. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

10. SIDEWALK PROJECT – UPDATE

The Selectmen receive minutes from the weekly construction meetings. The soil from the project needs to be stored on State land and another area is being looked at. Poles still need to be moved.

11. WOODS WOOLEN MILL PROJECT

Ms. Buono participated in a pre-construction site walk at the Woods Woolen Mill Site and said the project will be moving forward with mobilization expected to be the following week. She also informed the Board that the Town was approved for an additional \$150,000 for the project. Completion of the project is projected for the Fall of this year.

12. MANAHAN BOAT HOUSE

Plans were sent to the Selectmen for review. Selectman Bailey recommended all stainless-steel fixtures for the bathrooms as well as floor drains and steel for the outdoor doors.

As Trustee of the Trust Funds, Ms. Colcombe asked the Selectmen if they predict that this is going to be more than they currently have for income in the Manahan Trust, should she tell Bank of NH they need to start making some decisions to bring in more income, the earnings can only be spent and the earnings are only earning 2.9%, Ms. Colcombe feels this is too low, she feels the focus should be on the earnings so there is more to spend. Ms. Buono said the expected completion date is in May of 2027. Selectman Bailey said the Board should wait for the bids and if needed the town will only build what can be afforded. Ms. Colcombe said the end balance for the income in 2025 for Manahan Trust was \$298,515.

13. HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Ms. Buono said Deanna Neal resigned from the Historic and Tom DiGiovanni stepped up to fill the rest of her term.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to appoint Tom DiGiovanni to the Historic District Commission. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion, the motion passed.

14. MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Colcombe asked the Board if any attachments that were brought up during a meeting or hand outs be scanned and included with the meeting minutes when they are posted on the website. Ms. Buono liked that idea.

15. WINDSOR

Selectman Pelletier asked the Board if they are going to revisit the topic in the future. He said right now the contract is more heavily for the fire department costs or does the Board want it more 50/50, he can adjust things to make it more evenly distributed or is the Board happy with the current contract. Chairman Campbell said she prefers using the population because it is easily explained and suggested talking about this further before July 22. Selectman Pelletier asked for the contract with Deering regarding waste as well.

16. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Campbell made a motion to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation at 7:55 pm. Selectman Bailey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Buono reviewed a hardship request with the Board.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to come out of nonpublic session at 8:04 pm. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

17. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Campbell made a motion to go into nonpublic session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (e) Legal at 8:04 pm
Selectman Bailey seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

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

Ms. Buono updated the Board on pre-court negotiations regarding a property case.

Chairman Campbell made a motion to come out of nonpublic session at 8:08 p.m. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

Iris Campbell, Chairman

James C. Bailey, III, Selectman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman