



Town of Hopkinton, NH

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SELECTMEN PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009 Approved November 9, 2009

Chairman Tom Congoran called a regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Selectmen to order at 5:00 PM on Monday, November 2, 2009.

Present:

George Langwasser, Selectman (arriving 5:05pm)
Tom Congoran, Chairman
Scott Flood, Selectman
Jim O'Brien, Selectman
Neal A. Cass, Town Administrator
Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant

Absent: Chris Lawless, Selectman

Public Present: Trent Spiner, Merle Dustin, Marion Paxton, Ken Wilkens, Jed Merrow, and Janet Krzyzaniak, Tom Mullins and Dave Klumb, Webster Selectmen, Steve Clough

I. ADMINISTRATIVE

The Board approved the following:

Vendor Disbursement and Payroll Manifests
Building/Use Permit
For Review – Selectmen's Notes and Correspondence
For Signature – 2009 2nd Issue Sewer Warrant in the amount of \$44,157.00; Memorandum of Agreement (PD); Current Use Tax Warrant & Current Use Tax Penalty Map 106/Lot 33

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of October 17, 2009. Selectman Flood made a motion, seconded by Selectman O'Brien to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting. Vote 3-0 in favor of the motion.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Public Meeting of October 26, 2009. Selectman Flood made a motion, seconded by Selectman O'Brien to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting. Vote 3-0 in favor of the motion.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the Non Public Meeting of October 26, 2009. Selectman Flood made a motion, seconded by Selectman Langwasser to approve the minutes of the Public Meeting. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion.

III. PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Dave Klumb and Tom Mullins, Selectmen from Webster, NH were in to further discuss Concord Regional Solid Waste. A discussion between the Hopkinton Selectmen ensued with regards to whether it should be a public or non public session. Selectmen Langwasser made a motion to go into non-public session with the Webster Selectmen in accordance with RSA 91-a:3 II (e). Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Selectmen Congoran: yes; Selectmen Langwasser: yes; Selectmen Flood: yes; Selectmen O'Brien: yes. The Board entered non public session at 5:10 PM. The Board returned from non public session at 5:50 pm. Selectmen O'Brien made a motion to come out of non-public session. Selectmen Flood seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion. Selectmen Flood made a motion to seal the minutes for one (1) year. Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Merle Dustin inquired if any progress was made in the research for new microphones. Mr. Cass is working on it. Ms. Dustin inquired about the grate for the Slusser Senior Center. Ms. Buchanan informed Ms. Dustin that she has contacted the Mt. Washington Place for information on their grates. Ms. Dustin also asked if the Board would reconsider the traffic flow at the Slusser Senior Center. Traffic is suppose go to the right and around the library. However, many cars, including town vehicles have been going left in order to get to the barn or to drop people off at the handicap entrance. Discussion followed, decision was made to have Mr. Cass contact Chief Wheeler about the matter.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Sign Ordinance-awaiting Committee's recommendations

Columbia Hall-Auction has been scheduled for November 20, 2009 at 10:00 am.

A discussion followed about the legalities of the Special Town Meeting for the Bohanan Farm easement. Selectmen Flood would like to have Russ Hillard put his opinions in writing for the Board along with the analysis behind it. A discussion followed with regards to the Budget Committee holding a Bond Hearing. Further discussion continued with regards to RSA 33:3 which states bonds to be used for "acquiring land". Selectmen Flood pointed we would not be acquiring land but only an executory interest. Selectmen Flood would like town council to address the following 3 points: RSA 33-8 and 33-8 (a) with regards to bonds; (2) RSA 33-3 which is in regards to Purpose of Issue of Bonds and Notes and also what conservation funds can be used for.

Selectmen O'Brien stated he was uncomfortable with one selectmen asking for a legal opinion. It should be by a vote of the Board. Mr. Cass felt that requiring a Board vote for was not very practical and could cause delays. Discussion followed at which time the Board decided to continue going through the Town Administrator or the Chair of the Board of Selectmen. After further discussion, Selectmen Langwasser made a motion that the questions enumerated in the November 2nd reference to the new Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, along with the 3 other questions, which Selectmen Flood proposed to be submitted to town counsel for analysis and decision. Selectmen O'Brien seconded the motion. Selectmen Congoran called for a roll call vote: Congoran: yes; Flood: yes; Langwasser: yes; O'Brien: yes. Motion passes with a vote of 4-0.

Jed Merrow, Treasurer for the Conservation Commission was in to request the restoration of the Commission operating budget which was zeroed out last year. He acknowledged the Commission received 35% of all land use change taxes (LUCT) for the purpose of protecting land. He stated the

Commission is requesting \$725.00 for operating expenses. Discussion followed indicating this was not a good time to be asking to have the operating expenses restored as the Commission does have access to the 35% of LUCT. The Board acknowledges the Commission does an excellent job and that if it is not restored this year, to bring it up again next year.

Selectmen Flood inquired of Mr. Merrow why 5 Rivers Conservation Trust manages the easements. Mr. Merrow stated the Town has a policy and does not hold conservation trusts, further stating the Conservation Commission does not want the responsibility.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Premiere Properties has terminated the listing for the Horseshoe Tavern. Selectmen O'Brien suggested the Board revisit the terms of the lease. Mr. Cass will contact real estate agents in the area to find an appropriate one to market the property. Discussion followed as to why Premiere was unsuccessfully in marketing the property.

A memo from Herm Blanchette with regards to removing a tree at the end of Checkerberry Lane was discussed. As the Town is the owner of the road, Asplundh Tree Service would like to receive permission to remove the tree in writing. Selectmen O'Brien made a motion to allow Asplundh Tree Service to remove the pine tree as referenced in the memo from Herm Blanchette dated October 30, 2009. Selectmen Langwasser seconded the motion. Selectmen Langwasser questioned what RSA 231:172 was. Mr. Cass indicated that RSA was attached to the memo. Vote 4-0 in favor of the motion.

At 7:10 pm, Selectmen Congoran called for a break.

The Board was back in session at 7:20 pm.

A discussion ensued with regards to Selectmen Flood picking up the water trampoline from the Barn. Selectmen Flood would like to leave it in the barn for now, at his own risk.

Selectmen Flood would like the minutes to reflect which selectmen voted for and which selectmen voted against a motion. He would like it more clearly reflected in the minutes.

The Board began discussing the Warrant Articles that are proposed for this year. Selectmen O'Brien and Selectmen Flood had each made a list of possible budget topics to discuss. Selectmen Congoran stated he would like a master list made with everyone's ideas and the Board can then go through the list. After much discussion, the Board made suggestions as to cuts and the possibility of appropriating only half of what is requested this year and appropriating the other half next year. Discussion ensued with regards to the history of plowing private roads. The Board would like a list of all accounts that have a balance in them.

The Board acknowledged the ideas on the lists that Selectmen Flood and O'Brien distributed were just ideas to discuss as the budget process moved forward. The Board will continue to discuss the budget at their next meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, motion by Selectman O'Brien, seconded by Selectman Flood to adjourn to a non public meeting in accordance with RSA 91:3 II (a). Roll call vote: Congoran: yes; Flood: yes; O'Brien: yes; Langwasser: yes. The Board closed the public meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan
Administrative Assessing Assistant

These minutes are not official until approved by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting.