

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
April 28, 2020

Present: James C. Bailey III, Chairman; John P. Stohrer, Selectman; David J. Rogers, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Meg Curtis-Sauer, Ed Sauer, Robin Sweetser, Leigh Bosse, Jon Daley

**1. OPEN SESSION**

Leigh Bosse – Mr. Bosse said he would like to see all organizations to send a letter to the State of NH, led by the Selectmen, to take out the center turn lane at the traffic lights in order to increase the number of parking spaces downtown. Chairman Bailey said the Planning Director is working on it but he feels they will not allow it due to the turn radius trucks need. Mr. Bosse said even with the Planning Director working on it, he feels more support would be beneficial.

**2. MEG CURTIS-SAUER & ED SAUER RE: NOISE/NUISANCE REQUEST**

Meg Curtis-Sauer and Ed Sauer met with the Selectmen to ask them to consider researching and adopting an ordinance to assist with not only their business, but other areas within Hillsborough. The Sauer's own and operate Stonewall Farm Bed and Breakfast on Windsor Road and have since 1997. Along with the Bed & Breakfast portion of the business, they hold various events such as weddings, celebrations of life, private parties and showers, music events, etc. They said they are currently having serious issues with the new owners of the property next to their business due to them especially with the riding of their ATV's about 75' from their guest rooms. Mrs. Sauer said they also brought a letter from the people who purchased the house across the street last year which outlines the fact they can hear the "obnoxious ATV's with all the doors and windows closed". They have four ATV's and they ride the machines around in circles doing donuts and the noise is extremely loud and can be heard for quite a distance away plus the field is now a mud pit. Selectman Rogers said a good number of regulations with regard to ATV have come from Fish & Game who have enforcement mechanisms in place. Mr. Sauer said he has looked at ordinances from other communities and said Weare has one and Manchester has an extensive one which outlines various sections of the city (i.e.: industrial area, etc.) and uses decimals. He said any ordinance should be extensive and for the entire town and not just their area. Chairman Bailey said Hillsborough currently has something in place which he believes is in effect after 10 p.m. but there have been some various noise issues/complaints over the years. The Board discussed enforcement of a noise ordinance and Ms. Buono suggested anything should have the input from Chief Roarick so that efforts aren't wasted. A brief discussion with regard to decibels ensued with the final result of the request that Selectman Stohrer, along with Ed Sauer will work on a draft for the Selectmen to consider.

**3. JON DALEY RE: SUMMERFEST**

Mr. Daley came before the Board to briefly discuss the status of Summerfest in light of the pandemic and to get their feelings with regard to perhaps holding just the fireworks which are in part, financially sponsored by the Town (\$7,500) since they can be seen from various areas of town. Mr. Daley said the festival committee is meeting tomorrow evening and they will be discussing whether or not to make a decision now or not as far as holding it goes. Scott Miller, the amusement ride owner, has said he would love to come but it depends on the Governor's rules at that time. Selectman Rogers asked if it could be postponed and Mr. Daley wasn't sure if that would be an option but he will bring it up. Ms.

Buono suggested that it may be difficult to encourage/enforce safe social distancing if the committee wants to just do the fireworks since anyone who cannot see them from their homes may want to go to the field to watch them. Mr. Daley said they may decide to have a cutoff date perhaps in the middle of May to make a decision and they haven't advertised to local businesses but vendors are signing up already. Chairman Bailey said they will have to play it by ear right now and be prepared in case we can legally hold it.

#### 4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Farmer's Market – Ms. Buono said she contacted Robin Sweetser with regard to the Farmer's Market to find out if they plan on setting up the agricultural vendors since they are listed as an "essential business" under the Governor's Order. Ms. Buono said in speaking the Ms. Sweetser, she mentioned that last year the Selectmen had considered implementing a fee to use Butler Park this year for various functions (weddings, private events, etc.) and during the conversation, found out that Hillsborough Pride collects money (via Ms. Sweetser) from the vendors. In the past they charged them \$3.00 each week but are increasing it to \$5.00. In light of that, Ms. Buono asked the Selectmen how they wanted to proceed with regard to whether or not a fee will be put in place this year. She brought up that the reason for the fee suggestion is wear and tear on the park as well as patrons and vendors using the bathroom in the museum building which results in added expenses for water/sewer as well as the paper towels, TP, etc. Leigh Bosse, a Hillsborough Pride member, said they have a \$1,200 budget for the Farmer's Market and that they also have music on various weeks during the event. A discussion ensued with regard to whether or not a fee structure would be put in place this year with a caveat that as with other fees, the Board reserves the right to waive them for various events/organizations. Selectman Stohrer asked Ms. Buono to forward the Butler Park Use Application to him so he can take a look at it and perhaps recommend a fair fee.

Property Taxes – Ms. Buono brought up one of the Governor's Orders in which the Selectmen can use their abatement authority to grant a blanket abatement of the interest charged on all property taxes billed after the State of Emergency declaration. Based on the fact that the Town needs to continue receiving cash flow to operate, Ms. Buono asked the Board if they wish to continue handing these types of abatements using under the hardship abatement versus blanket abatement. The Board agreed they will continue with the current practice of having property owners apply for hardship abatement even if that increases the number of individuals they have to meet with.

FEMA Reimbursements – Ms. Buono informed the Board that certain expenses encountered due to the pandemic, mainly PPE's, will be reimbursed to the Town at a rate of 75% through FEMA.

Museum Lift – Chairman Bailey brought in an updated cost for the lift which has been discussed for the last few years for the Museum Building. Last year the lift itself was quoted by Always Accessible at \$23,600 and this year it's \$27,068.50. Chairman Bailey said with the additional work needed to put it in, the total cost will be about \$40 - \$50K. Ms. Buono said the money for this project, along with other projects would come from the Buildings CRF but will double check if it's something that can be done this year as originally planned. Chairman Bailey said he will submit a proposal for the additional work and the Board may want to get a couple of other quotes on it as well. Chairman Bailey moved to approve the additional work for the purpose of installing the lift at the museum Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chamber of Commerce – Chairman Bailey said he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting and there was some discussion with regard to them wanting to see information on the Town's website similar to what is on the Hopkinton website because they feel as if we should have more on ours. Selectman Stohrer said there is a lot of information on our website. Ms. Buono said we've been

posting town information for our residents but she will look at Hopkinton's to find out what the Chamber is referring to.

Planning Board – Chairman Bailey said there was also a concern brought up that the Planning Board didn't meet during the month of April and there is an application which was submitted by Tooky Mills to expand their deck that needs to be acted on. Ms. Buono said the Planning Director and the Planning Board Chairman have been working on the proper format in which to hold the hearing for that application. Unfortunately, there is some controversy surround the application in which is opposed by a couple of abutters so they have been looking at various platforms to ensure if the decision is challenged, they can show that they met the legal obligations.

Greater Hillsborough Senior Services – Ms. Buono asked the Board how they would like to handle the amount of money donated to GHSS this year. She said \$13,000 has been budgeted however, a portion of that money is used for the large trips and since those are not taking place right now, how would the Selectmen like it to be handled. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed the amount donated this year will be adjusted but asked Ms. Buono to touch base with Pat Mathison to discuss the planning of future trips and the distribution of Town funds to them if those trips are held.

Project Genesis – Ms. Buono said the circulating pump on the furnace at PG failed which caused some flooding damage to the first floor. She said the carpet was pulled up and there was some black mold discovered on a portion of the wall from a past water issue. Ms. Buono said while at the center to deal with this issue, Mark Roarick went into the cellar to check it and discovered the sump pump had died and there was quite a bit of water that had to be siphoned out by the Fire Department. Mr. Roarick will be moving forward with pricing out flooring and the repair of the walls but in the meantime the furnace has been fixed.

Manahan Summer Camp – Ms. Buono brought up our summer camp and asked the Board how they would like to proceed. She said she had a meeting with the Camp Director and Waterfront Supervisor with regard to their thoughts and at the end of the meeting, we felt we should move forward with accepting counselor and camper registrations in case we're able to move forward. Ms. Buono said she was hoping the Governor would have some guidance on summer camps by now but understandably, he hasn't made a decision yet. The Selectmen agreed we should be prepared with the understanding we can always cancel if we need to.

Traffic Light at Shaws – Chairman Bailey said there is an issue with the traffic light at Shaws and asked that a request for service be sent to NHDOT if they are the ones who take care of it.

Crushed Gravel Quotes – Ms. Buono said that Bill Goss received two quotes for the crushing of gravel. One from Fuzzy Brothers out of Walpole NH for \$5.00/yd and the other from Henniker Crushed Stone in the amount of \$5.50/yd. She said that Mr. Goss checked into Fuzzy Brothers and they have a good reputation and he is recommending the Board move forward with that company. Chairman Bailey moved to accept the quote from Fuzzy Brothers for our crushed gravel at \$5.00/yd. Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

## 5. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 15726– 15754 a/k/a Vouchers 17 & 18 in the amount of \$164,927.17 (includes 127 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check number 023033 – 023091 a/k/a Voucher 15 & 16 in the amount of \$136,966.91. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for April 28, 2020. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- CivicPlus LLC Annual Website Agreement (Chairman only)
- Elderly Exemption – Map 14 Lot 561; Map 8 Lot 56
- Tax Deferral Release – Christine Sanborn
- Gravel Tax Levy in the amount of \$600.00 and \$340.00
- Intent to Cut – Map 11D Lot 266 Barden Hill Road
- 2020 Corrective Abatement - Map 5 Lot 150
- Intent to Excavate – Map 7 Lot 71
- Tax Anticipation Note Paperwork from Bar Harbor Bank
- Human Services Liens (Chairman Only) – Map 3 Lot 34; Map 7 Lot 45
- MS 232

## 7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2020 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectman Notes for April 14, 2020 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

## 8. **LONG-TERM PROJECTS**

Woods Woolen Mills – Ms. Buono said there is additional testing being done on the site in order to hopefully qualify for funding to take the mill building down.

Manahan Boat Dock – Chairman Bailey contacted Jen McCourt who was the engineer who worked on our boat ramp and is waiting to hear back from her as to whether or not she is willing to the liaison again with DES.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Rogers. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

Approved by:  
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

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

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James C. Bailey III, Selectman

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John P. Stohrer, Selectman

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David J. Rogers, Selectman