

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2019

Present: Jonathan M. Daley, Chairman; James C. Bailey, III, Selectman; John P. Stohrer, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Bill Goss, David Fullerton, Michael Pon, Joyce Bosse, James Card, Pam Stohrer, Becky Johnson, Joseph Simpson, Marissa Washer, Deborah Giles, William Collins, Richard McNamara, Roxann Yeaton, Meg Curtis, James McDonough, Emily Rubel, Sally Blowe, Ken Matthews.

Chairman Daley opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. **OPEN SESSION**

Deborah Giles – Ms. Giles said she represents downtown tenant building owners and voiced her concern over the possibility of the Selectmen putting parking enforcement measures in place for downtown parking. Ms. Gile said the people who live in the square need the parking and if paid parking is implemented, it could cause issues.

Marissa Washer – Ms. Washer said she lives at 7 Bridge Street in a building owned by Adam Morris. The building has three apartments and sits on .10 acres and because of that they have to park in one of the public lots. Ms. Washer said she would feel uncomfortable if she had to walk further in order to park especially since she has small children.

2. **MEG CURTIS RE: BUSINESS SIGNS**

Meg Curtis met with the Selectmen to discuss signs that years ago were on the corner of Windsor Road and Second NH Turnpike within the Town's right of way. Ms. Curtis said the owner of the property on the corner of those roads removed the signs in the past even though they were not on his property. The small signs hung from a wooden post and advertised businesses on those roads. Ms. Curtis said at the time they were taken down, the Planning Director Matt Taylor sent a letter stating that they should not have been removed. The current owner of the property is the same individual who removed the signs and Ms. Curtis said she would like to put them back up. The Selectmen asked Bill Goss to look into the width of the right of way prior to giving Ms. Curtis permission to put the signs up.

3. **PUBLIC HEARING – DESIGNATION OF FIRE LANES**

Chairman Daley opened the Public Hearing for the purpose of the designation of Class VI roads as Fire Lanes at 6:35 p.m.

Chairman Daley explained that currently, Class VI roads cannot be repaired with taxpayer money however there is a State RSA which allows the roads to be designated as fire lanes in order to do work on them in order to make them passable for emergencies. He said that no major work will be done and they are under no obligation to do any work but they would like the option if need be.

Bill Goss said he spoke with the Fire Chief who is in favor of the designations. Mr. Goss said some are not passable and if there is a forest fire in those areas, they wouldn't be able to get vehicles in. Mr.

Goss agreed that they are not going to be doing any major work on these roads and they have no specific roads in mind immediately but they would like to be able to dig out some turn outs.

Roxann Yeaton asked if they will work on entire roads or can they do only a portion of a road. Mr. Goss said it would only be a portion of a road that is not maintained. Chairman Daley said that just because a road holds the Fire Lane designation, there is no obligation to do any work on them.

James McDonough noted that sometimes people do work on the Class VI Roads that they live on so they can get their vehicles in and out especially if there is damage from logging trucks for example. Mr. Goss said loggers are supposed to leave the roads in as good or better condition than when they started their logging project. Mr. Goss said his main concern is to make sure the roads don't deteriorate to the point that they can't be repaired easily and for the purpose of fighting forest fires if necessary.

Emily Rubel said she witnessed a fire in Henniker and because of the condition of the road they couldn't get equipment in to fight it.

Bill Collins said if the roads are passable then out of State jeeps with large tires will continue to use them and ruin them. Mr. Goss said they can't stop people from driving on the roads because they are public. Mr. Collins feels there should be gates across the roads and the first responders could be given keys. Laura Buono said the Town would have to vote to close a road subject to gates and bars if that's the route they wanted to go and is not something the Selectmen can vote to do.

Ms. Buono said an email was received from Mark and Nancy Hassel of Concord End Road who outlined their support for the classification to Fire Lanes.

Chairman Daley closed the public hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Board Discussion – Chairman Daley said his only concern is that he doesn't want residents to feel that due to the Fire Lane classification, the Town is going to maintain the roads moving forward. Selectman Stohrer said most of the work that is needed is beyond any homes on the Class VI roads although Chairman Daley said there are a few areas where people live that are likely impassable by emergency vehicles.

Selectman Bailey moved to classify the Class VI roads in town as Fire Lanes for the purpose of performing a minimum amount of maintenance. Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

4. BECKY JOHNSON RE: COMMUNITY CENTER

Ms. Johnson came before the Selectmen to present her desire to pursue the building of a Community Center in Hillsborough but which would service the region. Ms. Johnson outlined a plan which she would spearhead and which would involve various volunteers within the community. She said no taxpayer money will be used for the project and instead they would rely on grants, bequeaths, and donations. Ms. Johnson said this would be a modular concept and each step would be funded separately and suggested that it should be a regional project since the grant opportunities would be better. Chairman Daley said he personally thinks it sounds great. Ms. Buono asked who will own the Center once it's completed. Ms. Johnson said it would be owned by a non-profit and sustained mainly by user fees. Dave Fullerton said he would like to see some corporate sponsors involved with the project. Meg Curtis said she's not for or against the project but it is a large undertaking and she is concerned over who is going to be responsible for the ongoing operational costs and maintenance of the building. Ms. Curtis also mentioned that as a member of Reborn, they are focusing on the

Charrette and starting with projects downtown and working their way up and although she appreciates the enthusiasm, she feels the downtown is important for re-growth with a community center coming after that is done. Anne Poole is in favor of a center with a pool and feels it can work on a regional basis and said even with the failures of the past, maybe now it's time. Others in attendance also voiced support for the project. Ms. Johnson said she will keep the public informed of any upcoming meetings seeking volunteers.

5. **MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Daley moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers Check numbers 14791 - 14876 a/k/a Voucher 27, 27A, 28 in the amount of \$213,957.45 (includes 179 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 21231 – 21317 a/k/a Vouchers 28, 29 & 30 in the amount of \$301,123.11 Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

6. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Daley moved to approve the Consent Agenda for July 9, 2019. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2018 Abatement Denial – Map 999 Lot 4

7. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Daley moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2019 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Stohrer. A vote was taken. Motion passed with two in favor and one, Selectman Bailey abstaining.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Historical District – Selectman Stohrer said he was hoping to have a social gathering in the Historic District in order to hear any concerns but it wasn't going to work out on a social level. He said he has scheduled a meeting on Saturday, July 13th @ 11:00 in the Clubhouse and is hopeful that will get things started and moving forward.

Building Permits – Ms. Buono reported to the Selectmen that for the first six months this year, our building permits and revenues have exceeded 2018 for the same time period. She said during the first six months of 2018 we had issued 105 permits with revenues of \$9,790. For the same period in 2019 we've issued 144 permits with revenue of \$16,805.

Manahan Park – Ms. Buono informed the Board that there was an incident that took place at Manahan Park on Saturday July 6th in which our waterfront supervisor was threatened by a park visitor. The police were called and the patron was told they had to leave the premises. Ms. Buono has requested a copy of the police report in order to have it on file.

Henniker Road – Bill Goss said the fog lines and the center line will be painted on Henniker Road later this month and explained that they are so faded right now because they did not get painted last year. Mr. Goss brought up the reflectors that a resident requested he put up along that road. Mr. Goss feels that since they would be 3' off the road, they will more than likely get damaged during snow removal and some may get knocked down. Mr. Goss feels the fog lines and center lines should be sufficient for individuals who drive that road at night without adding the reflectors.

Class VI Road Signs – Bill Goss brought up the Class VI Road Signs that were brought up at the last Selectmen’s Meeting which state that it’s illegal to disturb or cause and damage to the roads. Mr. Goss said the signs he has are paper but a couple of people in attendance said they have seen a couple that are metal. Mr. Goss said if they are metal they were not put up by his department. Mr. Goss said he will look at the signs in question but he only has paper signs. He posed the question to the Selectmen that if the signs are put up, who is going to be able to enforce it?

Hawkers & Peddlers License – Selectman Bailey said he had met with Ms. Buono with regard to the food truck that is parked at Tire Warehouse and found that it’s actually allowed in the Site Plan Review for that business. Regardless, Selectman Bailey said in the past the Chamber of Commerce hasn’t felt it is fair to the area businesses to have a food truck in that area because it takes away from businesses. Ms. Buono commented that any restaurant can have a food truck and the one that is currently there is from an in-town restaurant. Selectman Bailey is wondering if we should look into using hawkers and peddler’s licenses for these types of businesses. Ms. Buono said if we implement such a license, it has to be used across the board even on businesses that have been around for quite awhile such as Angelinos Sausage Stand but said she would look into what it entails and what the thought is as far as enforcement goes.

Downtown Parking – The Board briefly reviewed the conversation that took place at the last Selectmen’s Meeting for Selectman Bailey since he was not able to attend. Basically the two-hour parking has not been enforced in the past and the discussion centered on enforcement so that there is parking available for business space in the downtown area. Absentee landlords and whether or not the Town has an obligation to provide parking for the tenants of these buildings was also reviewed.

9. ACTION ITEMS

Sidewalk Project – Ms. Buono reported that we’re still waiting to hear from the State with regard to the survey information that was submitted but noted that the survey crews have been out in the area.

Town Office Complex – Ms. Buono said she added this subject to the Action Item list in order to hopefully keep it moving forward. She said the School will be paying off a bond in 2020 and with the feasibility study warrant article for their Arts Center failing this year, it would be worthwhile to open conversations with the School Board with regard to the Town’s needs. The old PSNH building was briefly discussed. Chairman Daley said he would like to see some kind of a property tax rate break with the School’s bond being paid off. Selectman Stohrer asked at what point should there be a timeline developed for a municipal complex. Ms. Buono said she feels the time is now to which Selectman Bailey agreed and feels conversations with Eversource should begin since that location offers a lot of advantages.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Daley moved to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Jonathan M. Daley, Chairman

James C. Bailey III, Selectman

John P. Stohrer, Selectman