Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021

Present: James C. Bailey, Chairman; Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman; Iris Campbell, Selectwoman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Sara Edie, Riche’ Colcombe, Ernie Butler, Patty Parenteau, Dave Fullerton, Herla Iadonisi, Mary Henry, Joyce Bosse, Mary Moorehouse-Rogers.

Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. **OPEN SESSION**

*Riche’ Colcombe* – Ms. Colcombe updated the Board on the private parks grant she is pursuing for playground equipment reimbursement. She said it’s in the application phase right now and she will know more once that phase is completed. She also asked about the article in the Messenger Newspaper on October 1st which had the headline of the State bumping the sidewalk project to 2025 and ended that it was reported that the state has delayed construction of the project until 2025. Ms. Buono said that article was inaccurate. She said what she informed the Board of was that although the project is listed under 2025 in the State’s 10-year plan, they have advised us that if we’re ready for construction beforehand, the money will be available for us. Ms. Buono said the plan takes into consideration what stages projects are in at the time the 10-year plan is updated and they estimate how much longer it will take for construction. She said everyone is hopeful we’ll be able to construct the project in 2022 baring no unforeseen circumstances with the drainage design.

*Mary Moorehouse-Rogers* – Ms. Rogers asked what the status is for the work on the decorative lights in the downtown area. Ms. Buono replied that the Board approved a contract for work earlier in the year with the same company changing over the Transfer Station lights. She said they’re just finishing up at the Transfer Station and will be coming downtown soon after. Ms. Rogers also asked about 45 School Street getting cleaned up and was told that it is being worked on with Code Enforcement and our Attorney. Chairman Bailey stated to Ms. Rogers that these types of issues take time to go through the process.

1. **PATTY PARENTEAU/MARY HENRY RE: SCHOOL UPDATES**

Patty Parenteau, School Superintendent and Mary Henry, School Finance Administrator met with the Board to give an update on a few school items. Supt. Parenteau spoke about the adequacy aid grant for the year which was expected to be either very low or not received at all however, she said they received $659,000 which they will be returning to the taxpayers in order to help decrease the tax rate. Unfortunately, it will only be a one year decrease since the following year that revenue amount will not be there to offset the rate. She said it’s important for all families to fill out the free and reduced luncheon forms, even if they feel they wouldn’t qualify, because those numbers are used to determine grant amounts.

Mary Henry spoke about the series of webinars they will be running beginning on October 26th for the purpose of explaining and opening up the budget process for the schools and the SAU. There are six dates for these webinars (done via Zoom) and the subject matters will cover the timeline and budget process, revenues and expenditures, budget recap as well as a couple of question and answer sessions. It was also noted that the number of students are rising with 40 more attending our schools and Ms. Henry said it looks like the same will happen next year.

The Board thanked Supt. Parenteau and Ms. Henry for the information and feel the webinars are a good idea.

1. **OTHER BUSINESS**

*Budgets* – Ms. Buono asked the Board if they would like to hold budget work sessions during regular meetings or separately as they have been done in the past. The Board would like to have afternoon work sessions. Ms. Buono will work up a schedule and distribute it.

*Grimes Field Playground* – Ms. Buono distributed updated quotes for the Gametime parts/equipment for the Grimes Field Playground. The Board reviewed it and discussed the high cost of the mirror panel and Chairman Bailey said the last mirror panel was damaged the first night it was up. It was decided to authorize the purchase of the slide and jumbo flyer and simply keep the plywood in place where the old mirror panel was.

*Sand and Gravel* – Selectwoman Nagy asked Ernie Butler if he is looking at another sandpit option for the Town. Mr. Butler said in order to dig more sand out of the gravel pit they are using now, will be expensive since they will have to remove trees, stump the area, and worry about potential wetlands. He said they are looking at another option but would need to make sure the price works out but said they would still haul gravel out of the pit where they are currently. Chairman Baily said he will also check with Jon McFarland as an option.

1. **LONG TERM PROJECTS**

*2 Bridge Street* – Ms. Buono said Mr. Kempf hadn’t gotten back to her about attending the meeting tonight but she will schedule it once she hears from him.

*Sidewalk Project* – Ms. Buono said NHDOT has approved the new crosswalk which means the section of sidewalk that was to go by the headwall can be carried on the opposite side of the road which will same some money on the headwall improvements and drainage.

1. **MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 01761 - 017094 a/k/a Vouchers 40 & 41 in the amount of $183,367.33 (includes 214 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 025932 - 026021 a/k/a Vouchers 27 & 28 in the amount of $214,055.57. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for October 13, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

* NH DRA Form MS-535

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen’s Minutes of September 29, 2021. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed with a vote of two in favor and one, Selectwoman Campbell, abstaining.

1. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 6:46 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (b) hiring. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Nagy – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectwoman Nagy, Selectwoman Campbell, Town Administrator Laura Buono, Road Agent Ernie Butler.

Mr. Butler discussed an applicant for the Heavy Equipment Operator position that he would like to hire to fill the open position at the Highway Department. Starting wages were discussed and Ms. Buono will type up an offer of employment. The Board will take action at their next meeting if the candidate agrees to the terms.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 7:03 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Nagy – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono

Town Administrator

Approved by: Date:

Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey III, Chairman

Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman