

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2022**

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

In Attendance: Keith Cobbett, Riche' Colcombe, Ernie Butler, David Roarick, Samantha Gallo, Norma Hubbard, Melinda Gehris, Bob Woolner, Becky Johnson, David Fullerton, Joyce Bosse.

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

1. OPEN SESSION

David Fullerton – Mr. Fullerton said he found out that the Town charges for police details for school events and various organizations who are running fundraisers. He feels that non-profits should not have to pay for police details since they are trying to raise funds. Ms. Buono said when the police do a special detail, it is outside of their regular schedule and paid at a rate dictated by their union contract. Chairman Bailey said the Board will consider his suggestion.

2. BECKY JOHNSON RE: COMMUNITY CENTER

Becky Johnson met with the Board to talk about a grant they received for the Community Center from AARP for the purpose of constructing a kiosk. She said the kiosk needs to be easily accessible and in a high traffic area. Ms. Johnson said they have contracted with C&C Wood out of Goffstown who has designed the kiosk but they now need a place to put it. She said the post office and Butler Park were two places which were suggested to her but those areas already have message boards. The Library was brought up and Samantha Gallo said she would love to have it in place of the sign that is currently there. The Board were in favor of Ms. Johnson working together with the Library to work out what would make sense in the space.

The town-owned land which has been researched for the purpose of possibly placing the Community Center on was brought up. Ms. Buono explained to Ms. Johnson that due to the type of funds which were received when the Town acquired the land, in order to now build on it, another parcel would have to be designated as open space. Chairman Bailey said he didn't realize the restrictions which were on the land when he proposed it be used for the Center. Ms. Johnson asked if they didn't build on the entire 13 acres but instead used about 5 or 6 acres, would they only have to find a 5 or 6 acre piece for that purpose? Ms. Buono said she can find out from the State if that would work.

3. LIBRARY TRUSTEES RE: THIRD FLOOR RENOVATIONS

Members of the Fuller Library Trustees met with the Board to talk about the third floor and the renovations, mostly to the meeting room on that level, that had been discussed prior to COVID. Bob Woolner spoke on behalf of the Trustees and said that at the time the second floor was renovated, they had to displace the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War who had occasionally met on that floor and who had many items stored in two of the rooms. Mr. Woolner

said that at that time, they were promised that their items would be displayed on the third floor in the meeting room and they would be able to meet in there when they wished. He said that he would like the Board to move forward and start those renovations in order to keep this promise. The past plans were reviewed and Ms. Buono said previously they had spent money every year on the heating/cooling units on the library but last year and so far this year they haven't had to. She said there is money in the Capital Reserve Fund for that building which can be used to get this project started. The Board agreed it could be started and Mr. Woolner volunteered to lead the way.

4. RICHE' COLCOMBE RE: MISCELLANEOUS

Manahan Trust – Ms. Colcombe spoke as a Trustee of Trust Fund with regard to the Manahan Trust and said that the Trustees met with the investment company with regard to balances. She said previously, the Trustees would keep some cash reserves set aside for projects and said it would be helpful if the Board would let the Trustees know in advance if they have projects they will be spending money on so they can set aside cash reserves for them. She also said that when dealing with a recent request for funding from the Manahan Trust by History Alive, the Trustees voted on it and then it was brought to the Selectboard to vote on it. Ms. Colcombe said the Trust states that it should be a joint decision which means they should probably act on it at the same time versus individually.

School Resource Officer – Ms. Colcombe brought up the fact that the School still has not placed funding in their budget for the School Resource Officer (SRO) and she feels that since the Town is still supplying a SRO, there should be a commitment from them to fund the position. She had a copy of a MOU between the police department and the school and questioned a sections which were explained by Chief Roarick. Chief Roarick said the last he heard, there was going to be a warrant article on the school ballot for funding the SRO position. Chairman Bailey asked Ms. Buono to set up a meeting with the new Superintendent to discuss this.

Depot Street – Ms. Colcombe asked about a statement that was made by Ernie Butler at the June 8th BOS Meeting about the fact that the line painting to change from angled to parallel on Depot Street was going to be done since he had been charged for something else that wasn't going to be done. She asked if that had already been paid for and since the change isn't going to currently be done on Depot Street, were we losing money and was told no.

Selectboard's June 22nd Meeting – Ms. Colcombe began talking about emails she had received from Selectwoman Nagy in which she was threatening to sue Ms. Colcombe over a comment Ms. Colcombe made in jest at the June 22nd meeting about the reliability of her company. At this point, both Ms. Colcombe and Selectwoman Nagy began going back and forth over the confidentiality and content of the emails. Selectwoman Nagy said she didn't send those as a Selectwoman, she sent them as the owner of a business. Chairman Bailey said that the emails have nothing to do with the Board of Selectmen and it was something between the two of them. He then asked Ms. Buono for her opinion. Ms. Buono agreed and suggested that Ms. Colcombe be asked what her point was for bringing the meeting up in order to find out if there is anything for the Selectboard to handle. Chairman Bailey asked Ms. Colcombe what point she wanted to make or question she wanted to ask. Ms. Colcombe said she had two points, one is that she doesn't feel she should be singled out and harassed and two, she had asked for a copy of the video recording of the room from that evening in order to show the facial expressions during the discussion she had mentioned, but it wasn't available because after a certain amount of time, the

system loops around and records over itself. She suggested the Board consider updating the camera so that the footage is always saved.

After the conversation was over and as Chairman Bailey began to move on with the meeting, Selectwoman Nagy apologized and said that she couldn't do this anymore. She said she didn't sign up for this and that she was resigning. Selectwoman Nagy stated for the record that she was resigning because of Riche' Colcombe and left the building.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

Conservation Land Merge – Ms. Buono presented the Board with the voluntary merger paperwork for the purpose of merging various parcels of town-owned land at the request of the Conservation Commission. The land is the old Bennett Subdivision in the area of Meeting Hill Road and Simonds Road. The Board signed off on the merger.

Kemp Park – Ms. Buono updated the Board on the progress at Kemp Park. Currently the Hanson House is getting sided and due to the difficulties there will be in using the leftover siding from the garage, the carpenter is recommending changing it to Hemlock. The gaps in the frame of the Hanson House won't line up with where the siding has the nail markings and since the siding on the garage is faded, the colors won't match. She said he has already changed the door by using an old one that was stored at the Library, put the plexiglass in the windows and is ready to spray the carpenter ants once the siding is completed. She said the building will be painted white since reds can be hard to match and once the cider mill is sided, that will also be painted white. The cost increase for the siding will be around \$4,700 and Ms. Buono said she would need the Board to approve that change. She also said shoreland protection permit application is in the hands of DES and we are still hoping to have the gazebo in by History Alive but it will be tight. Chairman Bailey moved to approve the price change in order to use wood siding on the Hanson House. The motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

BMSI Software Conversion – Ms. Buono informed the Board that BMSI has a cloud based platform that we will need to convert to due to the new report format that NH Retirement is requiring. Use of the cloud will make it easier when updates come out since currently our IT has to upload the updates on our server and go to each computer to update those and, there are usually issues that require BMSI to fix. The updates will be done automatically on the cloud so that process will be eliminated. Ms. Buono said the annual fees are only changing slightly with this.

Propane Contract – Ms. Buono said they are currently purchasing propane through Ciardelli and they have the opportunity to lock the price in at \$1.899 for the next year. She said that although that is .50/gallon over what we're currently paying, it is only .10 - .20/gallon over what other companies bid last year. She said we haven't put our fuel out for pricing yet, but she is hearing from some Managers that they can't get their companies to lock in oil or diesel prices due to their volatility. The Board had no objections to continuing with Ciardelli for propane at this price.

Building Maintenance Truck – Ms. Buono spoke with the Board about a used truck that they have the opportunity to purchase for the maintenance department for a cost of \$4,100. She said Mike Minichello has taken a look at it and said it is in good condition and we should get a few years out of it. There is a little rust on the bed of the truck that Mike can take care of and the underneath of it is in really good condition. Ms. Buono said we are currently paying mileage for an average of

30 or so miles a week as it is. Chairman Bailey asked where the truck will be stored overnight since it would need to be out of the way in the winter. Ms. Buono said it would make sense to have Jeremy take it home since there are instances where he may be called in to handle a building issue since he is responsible for all the buildings. Chairman Bailey moved to purchase the truck as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Manahan Beach – Ms. Buono discussed the various issues that were taking place, mostly on the weekends at Manahan Beach by various people who don't seem to have respect for our park rules or others who use the park. She said the Police are issuing alcohol warnings to individuals who are drinking in the park and on the beach. A discussion took place about how to curb and control the behavior moving forward and the pros and cons over implementing a charge to use the park in the future in order to cover the cost of fulltime staffing for that purpose. It was decided that for the time being, police coverage will continue, and cameras will be added in the park and on the beach as well.

Letter of Support – Ms. Buono had a letter of support for the affordable housing project which was sent forward with a request for the Board to sign. This letter will be submitted with the request for funding for the project by the owners of the project (add name). The Board signed the letter and Chairman Bailey briefly mentioned the crosswalk that had been brought up during initial talks about the project.

6. LONG-TERM PROJECTS:

Woods Woolen Mill – Ms. Buono said that a plan has been drawn up for the site once it's cleaned up which reflects a park since that has been mentioned in the past, and since there are 3 lots there and not just one. Taking into consideration the 250' setback requirement from the river, a park is probably the best use for the area. The Board agreed that has been discussed in the past and they will discuss it again moving forward. Ms. Buono will send the draft plan to them for review.

Sidewalk Project – Ms. Buono said the engineers are currently working on the right-of-way plan and will forward it to us once it's completed.

Associated Electric Update – Ms. Buono reported that the previous owners of the Associated Electric buildings have moved some items out but due to their previous behavior in which they broke into the buildings without permission and nailed one of the doors shut, they are required to have and pay for a police detail while they are on the premises. They were also required to sign a waiver which outlined liability and what they can and cannot remove from the building and grounds.

7. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 017660 – 017802 a/k/a Vouchers 26, 26A, 27, 28, 29, 30 in the amount of \$541,220.81 (includes 533 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 027430 - 027647 a/k/a Vouchers 27, 28, 29 in the amount of \$2,781,767.12. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$1,671,811.03

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for July 27, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Welfare Lien Discharges – Map 11K Lot 8; Map 11J Lot 384
- Hillsborough Heights Apartments Letter of Support
- Veterans' Tax Credit – Map 24 Lot 4; Map 11L Lot 317
- Cemetery Deed – Jordan (Harvey Memorial Cemetery)
- Form PA-16 (Federal/State Forest Land Reimbursement)
- Yield Tax Assessment – Map 7 Lot 174 \$94.70; Map 1 Lots 18 \$ 48 \$1,247.29; Nao 2 Lot 1 \$38.80; Map 1 Lots 46-1 & 46-2 \$22.27; Map 7 Lot 190 \$1,198.18; Map 12 Lot 48 \$369.62; Map 12 Lot 35 \$967.66
- Class VI Road Agreement – 347 Farley Road (LaBree)

9. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of June 22, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:45 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (b) hiring. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Buono informed the Board that she and Mr. Butler had interviewed three individuals for vacancies in the Highway Department. Mr. Butler said based on the interviews, he is requesting that the Board hire Richard Ostertag and Mike Billings to fill two slots in the Highway Department. He said Mr. Ostertag would fill the position which is currently open and Mr. Billings would come on at the end of September when another employee retires.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 7:51 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bailey moved to hire Robert Ostertag effective August 8th, and Mike Billings to start at the end of September. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

11. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:52 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) personnel/wages. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectwoman Campbell, Town Administrator Laura Buono, Police Chief David Roarick.

Chief Roarick spoke with the Board about current vacancies and about the two employees who will be retiring soon which will create two more vacancies. He discussed a wage and benefit program in order to try and retain these two employees on a part-time basis since in this day and age its difficult to hire police officers. Individual's names, wages, and benefits were reviewed. The Board liked the program Chief Roarick discussed with them and asked him to write it up for review and formal adoption.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:08 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

Date: _____

James C. Bailey III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman