

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022**

Present: James Bailey, Chairman; Iris Campbell, Selectwoman; Richard Pelletier, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Robyn Payson, Chelsea Mather, Sang Hwang, Dave Lewis, Peter Mellen, Ann Poole, Tom McClure, Samantha Gallo, John Segedy, Mary Rogers, Nancy Egner, Harry Andersen, Riche' Colcombe, Bonnie Morse.

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

1. OPEN SESSION

Peter Mellen – Peter Mellen, Chairman of the Water and Sewer Commissioners, brought a copy of the Wastewater Asset Management Program for Selectman Pelletier since he wasn't on the Board in April when the plan came out. Mr. Mellen then explained a little about the plan and what it covers. He also said that based on the conversation the Commissioners had with Selectmen earlier in the year about doing projects together in order to continue to tighten up the system by replacing the old infrastructure, they would like to begin with Whittemore Street. The W&S Department will have the engineering design done and the system installed, and the Town will handle the stormwater and paving. They would anticipate the design being completed in 2023 and then it would be placed out to bid in 2024. Mr. Mellen said they would like to do one every three years if possible. Selectwoman Campbell said the sooner they know which projects are planned and in what years, the better. Ms. Buono will check with Ernie Butler to find out when he is planning on paving Whittemore Street.

Ann Poole – Ann Poole said she is bringing forward a concern about trucks traffic on restricted bridges. She described her encounter with a commercial truck driver on Beard Road who had just driven across the Gleason Falls Bridge which is restricted to any vehicle over 6 tons. She said apparently the GPS he was using didn't warn him about the weight limit and by the time he got to that point, there was no place to turn around, so he had to go over the bridge. Ms. Poole said she spoke to the State and found that although the information on our bridges is available, the GPS companies don't include it in their software and that's not something the State has control over. Ms. Poole talked to the Board about adding additional signage for the purpose of warning drivers ahead of the weight limit sign that is close to the bridge. She also requested that more signage be put up for sharing the road with horseback riders.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – PARKING REGULATIONS

Chairman Bailey opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m.

Chairman Bailey asked Ms. Buono to give an overview of the process that led to the public hearing. Ms. Buono said The Selectmen, along with representation from the police department, highway department, and planning department have been working on updating our parking regulations for the last few years. She said much work was done to figure out the best and most efficient way to manage our four major parking lots which tend to be problematic, especially in the winter months and with overnight parking. The monitoring of on-street parking has also been discussed although

that is not as much of a problem at this time. She said past discussions have taken place about perhaps selling permits for parking in the lots to the many residential tenants in the area however, we don't have enough spots to supply all the residential units with a permit. The idea of prohibiting overnight parking in the lots has also been discussed but again, residential tenants came out about not having anyplace else to park if they're not allowed to utilize the lots overnight. Unfortunately, we have some people who leave their vehicles there without moving them for days which leaves the police having to track them down to move the vehicles. She said after many avenues had been discussed, Chief Roarick brought forward a parking app as a way to regulate the parking and enable enforcement which was discussed during a work session. Ms. Buono said for everyone, this seemed to be an ideal way to manage the parking and enforcement since one of the most common ways to monitor parking was to chalk tires, and that is no longer allowed. She also said that Chief Parsons sent a letter with his thoughts that the Chairman will be reading as well.

Chairman Bailey added that the biggest hurdle is getting control of the parking lots and noted that the other changes in the regulations were made to update the articles. He said the big issue was the parking and they have gone around and around on a way to enforce it.

Chairman Bailey read the following letter from Chief Parsons:

Good evening Town of Hillsboro,

I apologize that I could not make the meeting tonight as I have a prior commitment to an Accident Reconstruction Training out of state. I want to start off and say I will give my opinion on what I would like to see but at the end of the day it is what the Town of Hillsboro wants. Here are some of the reasons that we cannot enforce the 2-hour time limits on parking efficiently:

1. The 6th Circuit United States Court of Appeals ruled that "chalking tires" is an unreasonable search and violates the 4th amendment.
2. Some people have asked about taking photos of how the vehicle was parked but what happens if the car leaves the space, drives around the block and parks in the same spot. Technically there 2 hours should start over.
3. Manpower – I just do not have enough personnel to sit and watch a vehicle for 2 hours for a \$25 parking ticket. In the month of September – the PD handled 1432 calls for service, 46 new crimes committed, arrested 51 people on various assault, alcohol, or drug related offenses, and handled 14 motor vehicle crashes.

The parking app would still allow people to park for free, it is just helping control/monitor the parking that the town has. Remember this is a step in the right direction to help us control the parking in Hillsboro.

Thank you
Chris Parsons, Chief of Police

Chairman Bailey opened the hearing up for public comment.

Samantha Gallo – Ms. Gallo said she is concerned about patrons of the library who don't have phones and wouldn't be able to use the app for parking. She was told that people using the lot across the street from the Library wouldn't need to use it during regular business/meeting hours. It would be used for anyone parking overnight in that lot.

Tom McClure – Mr. McClure is not in favor of anything having to do with paying for parking or having to possibly hire a new person to enforce parking. He feels the Board should order the police to sit at the lots. He said he also thinks that this is something that should go to town meeting. Mr. McClure was told that if there were fees for parking implemented in the future, that would require a separate public hearing than the one tonight. Later in the hearing, Mr. McClure also made comments about having volunteers monitor the parking lots.

Sang Hwang – Mr. Hwang, a representative of *PaybyPhone* was invited to the hearing to give a brief overview of the parking app and the many tools it offers the Town for managing parking, especially in the lots which has been an issue. He outlined the benefits of the program which would provide tools for monitoring, tracking usage in the various locations, and allowing for better enforcement.

Chairman Bailey - Chairman Bailey said this is a tool to manage our parking lots as well as plan for the future for on-street parking.

Leigh Bosse – Mr. Bosse said this is the stupidest idea he has ever heard and wants the Board to try his proposal of strong enforcement for two weeks and he guarantees that will take care of the problem from then on. He also participated in comments later in the hearing having to do with monitoring the parking lots with volunteers.

Selectwoman Campbell – Selectwoman Campbell said if there isn't a way to enforce the parking all the time, Mr. Bosse's two-week suggestion isn't going to work. It has to be ongoing, or the same behavior will return.

Riche Colcombe – Ms. Colcombe is not in favor of the parking app and brought up various other reasons that she is not in favor of the idea.

John Segedy – Mr. Segedy went through the parking regulations and pointed out a few areas that were confusing and or had grammatical errors. He also suggested that something should be in the regulations which outlines an appeals process. Mr. Segedy doesn't feel that anything should be mentioned in the regulations about parking fees which may apply since those fees are not currently in place and is separate from the regulations.

Mary Rogers – Mary Rogers said that she may end up owning a downtown building and asked about the parking lot that Tooky Mills is using. Ms. Rogers was told that is private property and not a town-owned lot.

Bonnie Morse – Mrs. Morse said Main Street parking has been a problem before and also said no one, especially older people, are going to walk from parking lots to storefronts. Chairman Bailey said he agrees with her that people don't want to walk but they have to start somewhere. He said they walked around the block to all the parking areas and it's not that far, but the mentality has to change.

Harry Anderson – Mr. Anderson said this is an Old Town full of old people who aren't going to want to pay to park.

Chairman Bailey – Chairman Bailey said they are trying to create a structure and the biggest issue is the parking lots. He said as the Town grows, we will have a process already implemented and we're not playing catch-up. A question came up about ongoing cost and Ms. Buono said the minimum cost per month is \$250 so if the Board is leaning toward not charging fees initially, that's the amount that we would pay. It's set up to be covered by the parking fees but again, if fees are not charged, this monthly fee would be expensed within the budget. She noted that we implemented a program for our summer camp which enables us to have families register campers online so that we can track and monitor more easily and that comes with a \$275/month fee. This is a similar tool.

Chairman Bailey closed the public hearing at 8:04 p.m.

3. BOARD BUSINESS

Project Genesis Update – Chelsea Mather came to update the Board on progress made with regard to finding a location for Project Genesis. She thanked Selectwoman Campbell for finding out that Premier Printing has a spot in their building which is large enough for the program to be run and the price quoted for the space is \$800/month with heat included. The space within the building was briefly discussed and Ms. Mather said that some renovations would be needed since there isn't currently a kitchen but there is room for one. Chairman Bailey said he was happy that a solution was found. Ms. Buono said the Building Inspector, Fire Chief, and Maintenance will be touring the area to make sure there are not issues. She said she received a copy of the lease agreement, which is a very standard agreement, but it has not been filled out. With a motion made by Selectman Pelletier and seconded by Selectwoman Campbell, which was voted in the affirmative, Chairman Bailey was given authorization to sign a 12-month lease agreement for the space as described once the details were worked out.

Budget Work Sessions – Ms. Buono distributed the budget work session schedule to the Board which reflects three sessions in total on November 15th, 29th, and December 6th at 2:00 p.m. at the Fire Department. Selectman Pelletier asked how long the sessions typically last and was told approximately an hour and a half to two hours.

Impound Lot Fencing – Ms. Buono gave the Board updated costs for the fencing that Chief Parsons had brought before them previously for the impound lot from MH Fence, LLC. Chairman Bailey said he still has a question as far as the black fused wire goes and said he would be happy to call the company tomorrow to speak with them about it. The Board agreed to move forward with the project once Chairman Bailey calls and gets his questions answered.

4. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 018030 – 018053 a/k/a Vouchers 42 & 43 in the amount of \$188,549.47 (includes 216 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 028079 - 028156 a/k/a Vouchers 37 & 38 in the amount of \$284,271.57. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for October 26, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Land Use Change Taxes – Map 6 Lot 44-1 \$3,000; Map 6 Lot 44-4 \$3,000; Map 6 Lot 44-5 \$3,000; Map 6 Lot 44-6 \$3,000
- Yield Taxes Assessed – Map 3 Lot 10 \$1,045.74; Map 12 Lots 39&40 \$312.14; Map 2 Lot 32 \$339.70; Map 6 Lot 62 \$1,917.12 (these are the same as signed on 10/12 with the dates changed)
- Health Officer/Deputy Health Officer Nomination Form
- Intent to Cut – Map 11I Lot 50-7 Beard Road

6. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of October 6, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed with a vote of two in favor and one, Selectman Pelletier, abstaining.

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of October 12, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 8:33 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. 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

Richard Pelletier, Selectman