

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2022**

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

In Attendance: Ernie Butler, Riche' Colcombe, Becky Johnson, Leigh Bosse, Chris Parsons, Jenn Crawford, Chris Bober, Heidi Welch, Traci Blain, Greg LeBlanc, Lenny Seymour, Camron LeBlanc, Malcolm Blain, Dylan Czyewski, Noah Welch, Leo Vassar, Chris Buck, Zander, Kieren, Lauren Seymour, Jon Daley, Russ Vassar, Brett Cherrington, Adam Charrette, Sue Durling.

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

1. TROOP 73

Chairman Bailey welcomed Troop 73 to the meeting. It was explained that as part of achieving a citizenship in the community badge, the Scouts are required to attend a public meeting.

2. OPEN SESSION

Ann Poole – Ms. Poole said she came to follow up if the Board has taken any action towards protecting the stone arch bridges in the community. Ms. Buono said the Highway Department did order some signs for the truck traffic. Ms. Poole asked if there was discussion about where the signs would be placed. One concern is if the sign is placed at the bridge, it will not allow enough space for the trucks to turn around. She said there were several places the State Department of Transportation suggested. Ms. Buono explained Ernie Butler (Highway Department) told her the signs would be placed at the intersections before the stone bridges. Ms. Poole also encouraged horse signs for the same areas. Riche' Colcombe added the activity from the sub-divisions is starting on Beard Road and the installation of signage as soon as possible would be helpful.

Riche' Colcombe – Ms. Colcombe reiterated her concerns regarding the Resource Officer. As a taxpayer she does not feel it's fair the Hillsborough taxpayers take 100% burden for the Resource Officer and wanted to go on record saying so. She said there has been a large surplus at the school for the last 3 years and feels some of that money should be put back in the budget. Chairman Bailey said that discussion will take place at 6:30 pm this evening.

3. BECKY JOHNSON – COMMUNITY CENTER

Ms. Buono explained this is a continued discussion regarding the land by Grimes Field that the Board is considering offering for the Community Center. She said she has been advised that if the Town is planning on moving forward with a land swap in an instance where the land will end up being utilized and built on, they should start the process as soon as they know that's definitely something they wish to do. The process takes time since it needs to be reviewed by the National Park Service. Ms. Buono said that during the last discussion, it was asked that if they only build on 5 acres, would they only need to "replace" the 5 acres. Ms. Buono said in order to swap out 5 acres, the land will need to be surveyed and another parcel will need to be located. Ms. Buono wanted to verify who the Board will have pay for the survey work. A discussion ensued with regard to the draft plans for the building and the fact that prior to transferring the property, it may require a vote by the Town. Becky Johnson said there is a general draft of the building which is 40,000 square feet and the hope is some of the acreage would go towards parking (1-2 acres). Ms. Buono wanted to know how much more continued effort into researching this does the Board want done. Chairman Bailey said we have come this far and should continue to have clarification on what the entire process is. Selectwoman Campbell asked if another piece of land is found, would we go to the town for approval before anyone spends any money? Ms. Buono said she would suggest that. Ms. Johnson said the facility doesn't need to be right in town because it will be a regional facility, if the town owned something on the outskirts and wanted to swap something they would be open to it as well.

4. JENN CRAWFORD RE: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Ms. Buono explained Ms. Crawford was invited to speak to the Board about the School Resource Officer being removed from the school's budget. Ms. Crawford said in the fall of 2021 the funding for the SRO was removed. There was a recent surplus in the school budget, and it was asked by the town if money from the school could be used to off-set the cost of the SRO and it was agreed by the school to do so. Ms. Buono asked where the SRO stands in the latest school budget. Ms. Crawford said at this time the SRO is not part of the 2022 or 2023 budget. Chairman Bailey said the town feels the SRO should be part of the school budget. Ms. Crawford said last spring there was discussion among the School Board on whether the SRO should be put back into the budget, but no official vote was taken. One item that came up in discussion was does it make sense for the SRO to be presented in a separate warrant article which historically it was. Ms. Crawford said the school is in the process of building the proposed budget and the first meeting with the School Board is on November 28th. The School Board has not reached a decision. Selectwoman Campbell asked if the school has decided an SRO is no longer needed and if so, why is the town providing an officer every day. Police Chief Chris Parsons said an officer will always be at the school because it is needed. Chris Bober, School Board Member, stated that they are waiting for the administrative staff to deliver the budget and at that time they will see if it is in the budget. Ms. Buono asked Ms. Crawford if she is the one creating the budget, why wouldn't she bring the SRO forward to the School Board. Ms. Crawford said because the administrative team recommended it be removed in fiscal year 2022. Chairman Bailey made a request to the School Board for a reimbursement and for the SRO be included in the 2024 school budget. Ms. Crawford will bring Chairman Bailey's request before the School Board.

5. ENERGY COMMITTEE RE: UPDATE ON STREETLIGHTS & CMAQ PROGRAM

Members of the Energy Committee met with the Board to review a few of the projects they have going on.

Jon Daley spoke about the energy audits that had been completed on the various town buildings a couple of years ago and said that although some of the items have been done, they would like to have more done next year and would like the Board to include some funds in the building capital reserve fund in order to work on them. He said there are some that may qualify for 40% funding through Eversource.

Adam Charrette brought up the streetlight conversion and said that the Committee would like to eliminate 55 lights that he referred to as "rural streetlights". A lighting plan showing which lights they would like to eliminate was reviewed. Chief Parsons said that for safety reasons, he is concerned about eliminating so many lights. Mr. Charrette said that according to the information on dark sky communities, lighting doesn't prevent crime. He said that he is still waiting for the cost estimate on eliminating the lights although they expect it will be close to a wash since the company will give a credit for the equipment being returned. Ms. Buono said the residents on the streets where lights may be removed should be notified that it's being considered when the time comes. The Board will review the information and the cost estimate will be forwarded to them once it comes in.

Brett Cherrington said he submitted a letter of intent for the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program (CMAQ) for the purpose of funding EV Stations and continuing fleet electrification. He said this is only a letter of intent, but it had to be submitted quickly and the application for funding has to be in by January 6th.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Project Genesis Update – Ms. Buono explained that when she, Chief Stafford, Mike Borden, Jeremy Oak and Chelsea Mather met at the space in the Premier Printing Building, there seemed to be more obstacles than originally thought in order to bring it into what was needed (mostly the kitchen area). Because of that, they took a look at the other space available, and it would actually work much better and need less alterations. Ms. Buono said the new space is larger and would cost \$1,250/month which includes heat versus the \$850/month for the other area. The Board felt the cost was reasonable and are happy there is a space to continue the program. Chairman Bailey moved to approve the new space at a cost of \$1,250/month. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Parking Regulations – Ms. Buono asked if the Board would like to make other changes to the parking regulations in the aftermath of the public hearing such as adding an appeal process? The Board had a brief discussion about moving forward with the parking app and decided not to do that at this time since the cost of the app (\$3,000/year) would be absorbed by the Town if fees were not charged to the public. Ms. Buono said a suggestion was brought to her after the hearing by a resident who suggested that we use cameras in each lot so that if any tickets are written and challenged, the footage can be pulled up in order to defend the ticket. Chairman Bailey would like to incorporate some of Pembroke's regulations but will take a look at them to point out which ones. In the meantime, sandwich boards will be used on the lots in order to clear out the vehicles on the day snow will be removed. Any vehicles that are not moved, will be towed.

7. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 18054 – 18085 a/k/a Vouchers 44 & 45 in the amount of \$176,150.09 (includes 209 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 028157 - 028253 a/k/a Voucher 39 in the amount of \$915,887.49. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

*A/P Checks include payment to Hillsborough County in the amount of \$688,966.00

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for November 9, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Land Use Change Taxes – Map 8 Lot 106-6 \$5,000; Map 12 Lot 48-1 \$3,450; Map 1 Lot 46-1 \$5,450; Map 10 Lot 19 \$3,000; Map 8 Lot 106-12 \$5,500; Map 11I Lot 50-7 \$5,000; Map 11I Lot 50-4 \$5,000; Map 11I Lot 50-8 \$5,000; Map 11I Lot 50-3 \$5,000; Map 11I Lot 50-2 \$5,000
- Cemetery Deed – McDonald/Hamel Harvey Memorial Cemetery
- Intent to Cut – Map 8 Lot 85 Center Road

9. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 8:42 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, Chris Parsons.

Chief Parsons discussed potential hires with the Board.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:56 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 8:56 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (c) reputation. 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.

Ms. Buono discussed a hardship abatement request from a resident with the Board.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 9:04 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectwoman Campbell -yes. Motion passed unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Pelletier. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman