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Board of Selectmen Minutes 07/03/2012

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2012

Present: Selectmen Russell Galpin, Steven Venezia and David Fullerton, James Coffey, Larry Baker, Laura McCrystal, Michael Pon, Leigh Bosse, Denise DeForest and Selectmen's Secretary Iris Campbell.

Mr. Galpin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Galpin made a motion to enter a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II(a) - The dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee or the investigation of any charges against him unless the employee affected (1) has a right to a meeting, and (2) requests that the meeting be open, in which case the request shall be granted. and RSA 91-A:3 II(c) - Matter that, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Mr. Venezia seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: Mr. Fullerton - yes, Mr. Venezia - yes and Mr. Galpin - yes.

6:03 p.m. The Board entered a non-public session.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to return to a public session. Mr. Galpin seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: Mr. Fullerton - yes, Mr. Venezia - yes and Mr. Galpin - yes.

6:29 p.m. The Board returned to a public session.

Mr. Galpin made a motion to seal the minutes taken by Attorney Michael Donovan because divulgence of the information would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body, and render the proposed action ineffective. Mr. Venezia seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor.

Mr. Galpin made a motion the Selectmen, as representatives of the Town of Hillsborough, accept the resignation of John Stetser as of August 30, 2012. Mr. Venezia seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: Mr. Fullerton - yes, Mr. Venezia - yes and Mr. Galpin - yes.

Mr. Galpin read the following public statement: "The Board of Selectmen has accepted the resignation of John H. Stetser as Town Administrator effective at the end of his employment contract, which is August 30, 2012. Mr. Stetser is currently on vacation. He will be on administrative leave effective July 9, 2012. The report of Attorney Emily Rice on the investigation of employee complaints about Mr. Stetser has been sealed and will remain confidential in accordance with New Hampshire law. The stressful events of the last several months are concluded. The Board of Selectmen looks forward to working with all town employees in a cooperative and productive manner for the betterment of the Town of Hillsborough."

Mr. Venezia made a motion to place Mr. Stetser on paid administrative leave effective July 9, 2012. Mr. Galpin seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call: Mr. Fullerton - yes, Mr. Venezia - yes and Mr. Galpin - yes.

Mrs. DeForest said in her opinion this whole situation got off way too easy and is upset with how everything went.

Mr. Galpin, as chairman of the Board, said the Board had many discussions with the Town's attorney and this was the best solution for everyone. He said at first he felt the contents of the investigation should be made public but after consideration he has changed his mind. He said this is the best solution to our problem. He realizes the people who filed the original complaint are probably not going to be looked at very well by some of the people in town nor would they be even if the results were made public. He added the people who signed the complaint stuck their necks out and they have to live with the results.

Mrs. DeForest said she has no reason to be worried or ashamed of anything she said or reported. We deserve an apology for everything that has been going on for four years.

Mr. Galpin said it is his opinion and his alone, that some of the Boards in the past dropped the ball and were remiss in not acting faster on complaints. He is sorry for that but the past can't be changed. We can only move forward and try to do better in the future. He said this is his opinion not the Board's opinion.

Mrs. DeForest said that doesn't make it right.

Mr. Galpin said there is no right or wrong.

Mr. Coffey said ne had an issue he wished to speak to the Board about when they were finished with this topic.

Mr. Galpin said unless someone else on the Board wished to speak they were done with this subject.

Mrs. DeForest said she had one more thing to say, shame on all of you.

6:37 p.m. Mr. Coffey presented the Board with information regarding an offer by the ELPOA to deed the property they own to the ELVD. However, the property has tax liens and is up for deeding this year. He is asking the Board's cooperation in abating a portion of the amount due and hold off the deeding process.

Mr. Galpin said the Board has forgiven interest and penalties in the past but not the taxes.

Mr. Coffey said they are still in the negotiation phase and will keep the Board informed.

Mrs. Campbell began to read an e-mail from Planning Director Shane O'Keefe which explained the need for the town to have an LPA trained employee for the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. O'Keefe is trained but will be leaving.

The Board said they had received the same e-mail.

Mr. Galpin said the Teen Center is being evicted from 6 Depot Street. Youth Services Director Peter Brigham is working on an ADA entrance to 63 W. Main Street to allow for the moving of the Southern New Hampshire Services' office into that building.

Mr. Galpin received a call from Dennis Roberts, of Hillsboro Ford, who voiced his concern that the new planner be well qualified because of issues he has had in the past. Mr. Roberts also said some of the duties done by the planner could be done by the code enforcer, such as planning applications.

Mr. Galpin feels the position of town planner and administrator could be part-time or combined. He said it takes approximately 25 hours per week to do the financials, which the previous administrators did, which are now being done by Lauralee LoMonaco. He said the planner has less work due to the slow down in growth and the applications have been streamlined.

Mr. Baker agreed.

Mr. Galpin said he has spoken to other town's with part-time administrators and

planners and has been assured it can be done.

Mr. Fullerton said he is concerned that when the economy improves and

growth begins again we may need a full-time planner but conceded an assistant could be hired if needed.

Mr. Galpin has been working on acquiring a case and plaque for the Boston Post Cane. He has received a price of \$300.00 for the case and \$7.00 for each name plate on a plaque.

Mr. Venezia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Galpin seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Campbell
Selectmen's Secretary

Approved by:

Dated: July 10, 2012

Russell S. Galpin, Chairman

Steven J. Venezia

David N. Fullerton
Board of Selectmen

