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Board of Selectmen Minutes 07/09/2013

Town of Hillsborough
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2013

Present: Russell Galpin, Chairman; David Fullerton, Selectman; Wendy Brien-Baker, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

Guests: John Segedy, James Coffey, Bob Hutchinson, Guy Pasteur, Bill Clohessy

Chairman Galpin opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

- **OPEN SESSION**

Bill Clohessy – Mr. Clohessy said he is an alternate on the Planning Board and said they have quite a bit of paper. He said that Larry Baker brought up the thought that perhaps the Town could look into making WiFi in this building so that if anyone has a notebook they can bring it to the meeting instead of needing printed copies of everything. Laura Buono said there is WiFi in the Town Hall but there may be a code that is needed. Ms. Buono will discuss having WiFi available without a code with the Town's IT person.

Mr. Clohessy said on another note, there are some residents in the ELVD area who question why they pay taxes on the Town's water/sewer system when they don't use it. He said they don't feel it is fair that those in the precinct get free water and free sewer yet the residents in ELVD have to pay for it twice because they have the districts fee as well. Mr. Clohessy was told that those in the precinct do not receive free water and sewer but the tax rate portion were just specific warrant articles for specific things that are voted in at Town Meeting. The structure of the precinct finances was explained to Mr. Clohessy with regard to what is paid via taxes as well as via user fees.

- **EMERALD LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**

Water Main Project – Jim Coffey reported that they are near completion and down to some of the last final hookups on the water main project. Mr. Coffey stated that while Edmunds was doing work on Gould Pond Road, they took material out of the road that Bill Goss said wasn't suitable to put back in the road and Mr. Goss told them he wanted a sand fill placed to the top of the excavation. Mr. Coffey said the replacement of the material was not part of the project and DES will not pay for it as part of the project. Mr. Coffey feels the Town should pay the amount of \$1,350 since Mr. Goss wanted the material changed. This is not the same material that is under the rest of the road and Mr. Coffey feels the road will not wear the same due to the difference in the material. Mr. Coffey then brought up some culvert work that needs to be done by the Town. Laura Buono said the issue has been resolved as far as changing the culverts out. The Town is hiring Edmunds to do the work and we already have the pipe needed. She had spoken with Bob Hutchinson during the day and had initially thought we would have to get emergency approval from DES however, Edmunds has said the permit they have will cover the culvert replacement so the Town will hire them to do the work.

Water & Sewer Precinct - Mr. Coffey brought up the bond that had been voted on in 2006. The bond was to expand the sewer capacity of the town sewer and the residents in the Emerald Lake District wanted to know why they were paying on a bond that they would not benefit from. Mr. Coffey said he is asking for the Selectmen to give a report on how the money was used and was the purpose accomplished. Mr. Coffey feels that asking the water and sewer commissioners for this information does not yield answers.

Mr. Coffey said the water/sewer department mails out notices frequently and mails them to a zip code in order to utilize bulk mailing. Emerald lake residents get these notices and they don't always realize that the notices are not referring to their water system. Mr. Coffey said the mailings are probably capturing a couple of hundred people in the Emerald Lake area. Mr. Coffey said they would be happy to work with the water/sewer department to pull those residents out of the mailing because they understand the database and it would be easy to figure it out. John Segedy said it's his understanding that they have to send the notices to everyone in Town because others use the water in Town even if they don't have it at their house. Mr. Coffey disagrees. Chairman Galpin said we would have to see what can and can't be done and what is required to be done. Mr. Coffey said perhaps if the precinct at least puts a disclaimer on notices stating that it doesn't impact ELVD for example, that would be helpful but he said the precinct has refused to do that.

Mr. Coffey brought up a couple of items that he said he wanted to bring up even though he wouldn't come just for these issues. Said there was an issue that had been in the newspaper in January 2012 that involved an off duty police officer who has since retired. Mr. Coffey said he has taken it upon himself and spoke with some folks at the AG's office and he found out that the information that the county police and the state police have should be releasable now since the case was not prosecuted. Mr. Coffey asked why didn't the Selectmen who were on the Board at that time issue a statement or something about what happened. Feels the Selectmen need to look into it (or he can do it for them) because the rumor on the street is that there was a high ranking police officer present at the incident. The next issue is one that Mr. Coffey has brought up before having to do with the \$71,000 in impact fees dating back to 2009. Mr. Coffey said according to the legal opinions he has received, the Town should be returning the money because it wasn't properly used and the School should be returning the money to the Town. Ms. Buono stated that this has already been discussed and said that she had spoken to the local government center as well and the residents can certainly go to the School and discuss the issue with them. Mr. Coffey said the School didn't use the money correctly and the Town was remiss in 2009 when they set the tax rate and it wasn't credited in the tax rate setting. Ms. Buono said the tax rate isn't something that we can go back on. Mr. Coffey said he feels the Town should take an active role in getting it resolved. Chairman Galpin said most of the personnel who were involved are no longer there to find out what actually happened and how it was actually used. Mr. Coffey said he knows what happened and further discussed this and said it was on his list of things to do.

- **GUY PASTEUR**

The Board had a scheduled appointment with Guy Pasteur with regard to his denied abatement request. Ms. Buono said that Mr. Pasteur left because he had to wait past his scheduled appointment. Ms. Buono said that he was coming in because his tax abatement request was denied and although Mr. Pasteur was notified that the meeting was tight, his course of action is to file with the Board of Tax and Land Appeal (BTLA). Mr. Pasteur was insistent with Iris that he wanted to be on the Selectmen's agenda and although he was placed on the agenda for 5:30, he had been notified that the appointment times may run over.

- **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Heritage Museum – Ms. Buono said she spoke with Jane Butler who is the president of the Hillsborough Historical Society. They would like to begin raising money to put an elevator in but wanted to make sure the Selectmen would be open to accepting the gift. The plans were sent over and Ms. Butler had said the elevator was apparently in their plans. Selectman Fullerton asked how they are connected with the Fire Department and the restoring the fire truck. There are quite a few fundraisers going on and there's only so much money in town and he doesn't want to see another fundraiser taking money away from other projects. What's more important to the museum, the fire truck or the elevator? Ms. Buono suggested having Ms. Butler in to discuss it. Selectman Fullerton said having her come in won't help but suggested Ms. Buono talk to the Fire Department about it. Ms. Buono said she will also talk to Ms. Butler about what types of fundraising they will be doing since they may be looking at grants which won't impact other efforts in town.

Sawmill Road Well – Ms. Buono brought up a request from a resident that the Town replace her well which has a high level of sodium in it. Ms. Buono said that she has had a couple of discussions with Ms. Hoffman who stated that there is no water testing history but the problem goes back to when her parents had the home. Typically there is a history recorded by way of water testing to show the levels of contamination. Bill Goss didn't want to make the decision but asked that the Selectmen make it since there is no history of water testing other than a current test that and a letter from their plumbing company. There have been some wells

that have been replaced in that area however the cause of the contamination isn't documented. Chairman Galpin said all the properties that the Town had paid for were to replace dug wells. Said all of these came up after the State salt shed was put in the area and he suspects that is part of the project but to do a study to find out would cost a small fortune. Chairman Galpin said the Town has replaced two or three wells in that area already. The role of the State was briefly discussed. Ms. Buono will look into the cost of replacing the well and try and make contact with the State to find out what can be done to have them involved with the cost of replacement as well as assisting in pinpointing the cause.

- **MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Galpin moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 5221 – 5317 a/k/a Vouchers 27, 27A & 28 in the amount of \$139,829.68 (includes 138 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable check numbers 7525 - 7651 a/k/a Voucher #15 in the amount of \$1,750,009.99. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

** A/P checks include payment to Hillsboro-Deering School District in the amount of \$1,077,101.00

- **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the Consent Agenda for July 9, 2013. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Abatements Granted in the amount of \$406.05
- Intents to Cut – Map 1 Lot 12 & Map 4 Lot 22

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 25, 2013 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ABATEMENTS**

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the following abatements (listed by property value amounts not tax dollars):

- Hamblett – Map 6 Lot 73 \$7,700
- Tooky Mills Pub, LLC – Map 24 Lot 131 \$25,100
- Hamblett – Map 6 Lot 76 \$6,700
- Hamblett – Map 6 Lot 75 \$6,600

Haigh – Map 1 Lot 44 \$14,100

Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Fullerton moved to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator