

Town of Hillsborough P.O. Box 7, 27 School Street, Hillsborough, NH 03244
Phone: (603) 464-3877 Fax: (603) 464-4270



Board of Selectmen Minutes 11/12/2013

Town of Hillsborough
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2013

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

Guests: Gilman Shattuck, David Roarick, Jeffrey Rose, Abigail Arnold, Ron Taylor, Virginia Burton, Mike Roina, Kim S, Stephen Burrill, James Monroe, Kenny Stafford Jr., Scott Murdough, Patricia Parenteau, Marjorie Porter, Leigh Bosse, Michael Pon, Ken Stafford Sr., Virginia Burton.

Chairman Galpin opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m.

- **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Galpin moved to go into nonpublic session at 5:31 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (b) reputation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Galpin, Selectman Fullerton, Selectman Brien-Baker, Laura Buono, Town Administrator; Dale Green; John Connarn; David Roarick; Ian Donovan.

Dale Green and John Connarn were introduced to the Board of Selectmen and it was recommended that both be hired to fill the open Animal Control Officer position. The Selectmen asked various questions of the candidates.

Chairman Galpin moved to come out of nonpublic session at 5:53p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Fullerton moved to hire Dale Green and John Connarn for the position of part time animal control officers. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- **OPEN SESSION**

Virginia Burton asked the status of 111 Main Street and was told the property had been sold to the abutter and they had torn the fire damaged structure down. Ms. Burton then asked how someone can have a home without fire insurance. It was explained that the Town has no control over such matters.

- **PUBLIC SERVICE CO. OF NH**

Laurel Brown from PSNH began by saying that the Hillsborough service center serves 11 communities and introduced Bonnie Currell to discuss the situation of the closing of the service center. Ms. Currell said that 18 months ago Northeast Utilities and NStar merged and looked at all facilities throughout the three states within their service territory. Teams completed assessments and identified that they can optimize on the facilities and made the decision to close two in NH. The two that are closing are Hillsborough as well as one on N. Commercial Street in Manchester. Hillsborough services 17,000 customers and has 15 employees. Ms. Currell said they are looking at Bedford, Peterborough and Keene as service centers and may or may not move crews to Newport and said that no decisions have been made to date but said no employees will be laid off. The Hillsborough facility may be placed out for sale in December with the date of closure to be approximately April 1st. To the customer, the average response time will be 30 minutes; 90 – 95% of customers will be 45 minutes with drive times no longer than 60 minutes. Ms. Currell said nothing will change during the day hours for dispatched services. During the work day, crews can be working anywhere from Washington to Bennington and when calls come in, they are sent to a call center and then to the local area work center. The closest crew will respond or be taken from a work zone and they will go to that town that has the issue. As far as major restoration efforts, they will still do temporary staging and they have recently purchased some mobile restoration units and will set up satellite areas wherever it is needed. Ms. Currell said nothing changes with these efforts. Ms. Currell said they have closed facilities before in Franklin & Pittsfield and shifted those areas to Gilford. They have built another facility in Tilton and closed the Gilford center after that. Ms. Currell said service has been fine – they know how to make it work. Ms. Brown mentioned that they have a satellite in Peterborough that Keene area is dispatched from.

Chairman Galpin said he's not concerned about the response time during work hours but feels in the non-work hours it's going to be changed and changed considerably. He said his big concern is the major manufacturers in the area and the response time for them if something happens during off work hours and this may mean they will have to send people home because it will change. Ms. Currell said the "on-call" person has a vehicle and they will call a crew once they assess the problem. She feels they are really responsive even though the response time may grow and repeated the response times she mentioned previously.

Selectman Fullerton said Hillsborough is right in the middle of all the areas they were talking about and the facility is used quite often as a staging area and Wymans has been used to feed the crews. Selectman Fullerton handed out a map by Central NH Planning and discussed his feeling that Hillsborough is going to have an explosion of growth. Discussed what attracts businesses and what it costs a company when machines are down due to the loss of electricity. Selectman Fullerton also discussed an accident that took place a couple of years ago that involved a car and an electric pole as well as explained past issues with regard to flooding, etc. Ms. Currell said if the change doesn't work as time goes on, they would typically reevaluate to see if it's necessary to relocate crews. They are in business to serve and they will make it work.

Hillsborough Fire Chief Kenny Stafford said he isn't concerned about a big storm because response is good but his concern is an accident that involves live wires and an up to 60 minutes response time takes a lot away from what they do. Chief Stafford said he has 6 - 7 employees who work for PSNH and now he won't have those employees to respond to calls anymore. He's losing a lot and hopes they will bring this information back to those in charge. Ms. Currell said they understand that and all of his concerns are the same concerns that their team has been discussing as well. She said she cannot turn the closing around but is glad they are getting the issues out on the table. Ms. Currell said the team is meeting again tomorrow morning and she will be sharing these concerns with them. The Hillsborough area work center hasn't been busy as far as new service requests. They will continue to work in the area during the day as they do now. Ms. Brown said as the development in the area happens, they will have to look at new service.

Response time concerns were echoed by Selectman Jeff Rose of Bennington, Deputy Chief Stephen Burrill of Henniker and Fire Chief Mike Roina of Bennington with both sighting emergency situations that had taken place in the past with the feeling that delayed response times may have changed the outcome. Ms. Currell said they are discussing whether or not they need more people on call during the night and looking at where the employees live and whether or not they need to put trucks in different areas. Ken Stafford Sr. said he feels NStar is looking out for their stockholders and their bottom line and it's his opinion is that they don't care about the response time because big business works that way. Ms. Currell said they really are committed to providing good customer service. Chief Dave Roarick asked if there is any thought about not building a canopy in Peterborough and instead building one in Hillsborough. Ms. Currell said that talk is on the table but no decisions have been made.

Rep. Gilman Shattuck said he's troubled by some of the information with regard to response time increasing. He said the safety concerns are a real issue as far as they are concerned and feels there are economic issues here as well. Rep. Shattuck discussed manufacturing jobs that have been lost over the years and the fact that Sylvania has been a benefit to the community and he is concerned if there is a sequence of interruptions because of electric issues, it would be devastating to the town. Rep. Shattuck agrees that the decisions are being made by the corporate officers who are not in the area and who don't care. Feels there are serious safety and economic problems here.

Chairman Galpin thanked everyone for coming and hopes they made some kind of impression. Ms. Currell said PUC has not

weighed in on this and hasn't received any calls about this. She did mention that Henniker wrote a letter and PUC was copied on it but PSNH hasn't heard anything with regard to it.

- **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Galpin moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:10 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) employee matter. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Galpin, Selectman Fullerton, Selectman Brien-Baker, Laura Buono, Town Administrator, Chief David Roarick.

The employment agreement between Chief Roarick and the Town of Hillsborough was finalized.

Selectman Brien-Baker moved to come out of nonpublic session at 7:37 p.m. Motion was seconded by Chairman Galpin. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galpin moved to accept the agreement with the changes that were mutually agreed upon. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Galpin moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:38 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) employee matter. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Galpin, Selectman Fullerton, Selectman Brien-Baker, Laura Buono, Town Administrator, Luke Levesque.

Chairman Galpin moved to come out of nonpublic session at 8:23 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Galpin – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes; Selectmen Brien-Baker – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galpin moved to seal the minutes. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

Tax Rate – Ms. Buono discussed the preliminary tax rate with the Board of Selectmen. The tax rate as it stands would be \$28.06/thousand dollars of valuation which is down from the 2012 rate of \$28.40. The Board of Selectmen chose not to apply any of the fund balance toward the reduction of the tax rate since it is already lower.

Budget Work Sessions – Ms. Buono asked the Board when they would like to hold budget work sessions. After a brief discussion, two work sessions were scheduled on Friday, December 6th and December 13th from 9:00 a.m. – noon.

December Selectmen's Meeting – Ms. Buono brought up the fact that the second Selectmen's Meeting in December falls on Christmas Eve and asked if the Selectmen would like to move that meeting to Monday, December 30th. The Board agreed to have a Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, December 30th at 6:00 p.m. in order to handle any year end business that may be needed.

- **MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Galpin moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 5898 – 5982 a/k/a Vouchers 44, 45 & 46 in the amount of \$167,386.53 (includes 159 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable check numbers 8251 - 8329 a/k/a Voucher 28, in the amount of \$936,440.12. 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 \$685,428.06.

- **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the Consent Agenda for November 12, 2013. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Intent to Cut – Map 7 Lots 84 & 85; Map 12 Lot 155
- Yield Tax Levy in the amount of \$3,414.03

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the meeting minutes of October 22, 2013 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Galpin moved to approve the nonpublic meeting minutes of October 22, 2013. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. Motion passed unanimously.

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Galpin moved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Brien-Baker. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator