

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2017

Present: Alan Urquhart, Chairman; James Bailey III, Selectman; David Fullerton, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Chief Dave Roarick, Leigh Bosse.

Chairman Urquhart opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

1. OPEN SESSION

There was no public comment.

2. BUDGET/WARRANT DISCUSSION

Town Administrator Laura Buono distributed updated budget spreadsheets to the Selectmen and reviewed the status. Ms. Buono said that as the budget stands and although the bottom line of the proposed budget and warrant articles is increasing approximately 2% over 2016, with the use of the undesignated fund balance to fund capital reserve funds, she is estimating the town's portion of the tax rate to be going down almost ten cents but cautioned that that is dependent on a couple of items the Selectmen still need to finalize. It is also dependent on what happens at Town Meeting since there is always a possibility that items may pass that the Selectmen do not support. That being said, Ms. Buono feels comfortable that the rate will be lower than 2016 regardless.

Police Budget - Ms. Buono requested that the Selectman revisit their previous vote to eliminate a full time police officer from the police department budget. Since his last meeting with the Selectmen, Chief Roarick reduced his "Cruiser" line by \$10,000. He said although they don't typically do this, he can take the equipment out of a car that's a couple of years old and place it in the new cruiser. Then they can utilize the "stripped" vehicle as an unmarked to replace the one that is slated to be changed out. Chief Roarick reviewed crimes and statistics with the Selectmen comparing 2015 with 2016 which were broken down into three "Group A" categories; crimes against persons which has a 30% increase over 2015, crimes against property with a 33% increase, and crimes against society carrying an 86% increase (mostly drug/narcotic violations) and one "Group B" category which listed crimes such as disorderly conduct, family non-violent offenses, DUI's, etc. in which there is a 37% increase. The Chief was asked if the PD can do anything about prevention before folks get arrested. Chief Roarick said they do what they can but they can't force people to go to available programs. Overdoses were discussed. Chief Roarick said the total numbers of overdoses that take place are hard to track since some are medical calls that come in as something else and the PD is not involved with them. He said there are other overdoses that take place that are treated by others with narcan and they are never reported. Leigh Bosse suggested that the DARE program be brought back and said the Masons will pick up the costs. Chief Roarick said they would have to see if it will work because if they take the SRO (School Resource Officer) and place him at the elementary school to teach the program, that leaves no one to handle situations as they arise in the other schools. He said he's not opposed to it but will have to research how they could make it work. Chief Roarick explained that with the amount of cases they are dealing with, they are burning out the officers who are working 60 – 70 hours per week. He said there is also a possibility that at least one officer may be facing a deployment which will make

things more difficult. Staffing was also reviewed and the Chief handed out a snapshot of a weekly schedule. Based on the staffing needs outlined, the department needs 15.6 officers and we currently have 13 officers. He also mentioned that they applied for a COPS grant however; they were not awarded one for the first round. Selectman Fullerton said he was wrong the last time they discussed this and after reviewing this information, he feels this officer is needed in the budget. Selectman Bailey said the Selectmen are here to serve the community and with these facts, they should be voting on what is best and feels this is what is best. Selectman Bailey moved to approve keeping the officer position in the police budget. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed with two in favor and one abstention (Chairman Urquhart).

Kemp Park Warrant Article - Ms. Buono brought up the previously discussed request from the Kemp Park Committee for a warrant article asking for \$35,000 to be applied toward building a garage to house two antique trucks. The Committee will be matching that amount by raising \$35,000 and if they fail to do so, no money will be spent by the Town. Chairman Urquhart feels they should have come to the Town after they raised their portion of the funds. Ms. Buono said the article will be non-lapsing for two years and if they don't raise the money, the \$35,000 won't be spent. This was briefly discussed. Selectman Bailey moved to approve the request for the warrant and for the Selectmen to support it. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed with two in favor and one abstention (Chairman Urquhart).

Downtown (Townwide) Beautification – Ms. Buono said the Selectmen didn't make a decision when the request for \$5,000 for townwide beautification was brought to them by the "Hillsborough Reborn" committee. Ms. Buono said she spoke with Doug Hatfield with regard to whether or not the Dana Crane Fund could be used for this project and he suggested that only \$2,500 be requested at this time. Selectman Fullerton said he is not in favor of this requested and reviewed past history of downtown beautification efforts. Selectman Bailey reiterated that he feels that we as a town need to start investing in ourselves and reminded them this is not just for planting flowers, it is for trees and other plantings. Chairman Urquhart is okay with this article to fund a pilot program with \$2,500 from the Dana Crane Fund. Leigh Bosse said it's not a town project this is an independent nonprofit corporation's project. Selectman Bailey said it is not a Chamber of Commerce project or a Chamber committee. Chairman Urquhart moved to include the warrant article to request \$2,500 from the Dana Crane Fund for this project. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. Mr. Bosse objected and said that Selectman Bailey should recuse himself since he is a Chamber member. Selectman Bailey said he agreed to recuse himself during the previous discussion on this because he thought it was a Chamber committee but has since found out it isn't. A vote was taken. Motion passed with two in favor and one opposed (Selectman Fullerton). Ms. Buono said she would like to be on this committee however at this point, she has not been asked to participate. The Selectmen thought this was a good idea. Selectman Fullerton moved to approve to have Laura Buono attend on behalf of the Town. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Greater Hillsborough Senior Services (GHSS) – Ms. Buono said she needs a recommendation from the Board on the petitioned warrant article from GHSS in the amount of \$9,000. Last year, they requested \$8,000 and also receive \$3,000 from the Town of Deering. Ms. Buono handed out printouts of the organization's expenditures for 2016 and pointed out that they ended the year with \$4,224.43. She also pointed out that although they are requesting an increase from Hillsborough, they are not requesting one from Deering. Selectman Bailey noticed that the insurance on the bus is being paid for with this money and stated that they could have saved \$1,500 in vehicle insurance had they accepted the offer from the Town at the time the vehicle was purchased. Although the Selectmen feel GHSS provides a good service to the seniors, with the amount of money they ended the year with and with the information forwarded that Deering is not being asked to help cover any increase, they are not in favor of the \$9,000 request. The consensus of the Board is that if the amount was reduced on the town meeting floor to \$8,000 as it was last year, they would support it. Selectman Fullerton moved not to

support the article as submitted. Motion was seconded by Chairman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Buono will send an email to the president of GHSS and let her know about the discussion.

Hillsborough Center Church Donation – Ms. Buono asked the Selectmen for a recommendation with regard to the warrant article to accept the donation of the church building in Hillsborough Center. Ms. Buono said there is a trust that was set up which currently has approximately \$6,000 in it for the purpose of taking care of this building. The purpose of placing the donation on the warrant is so that the residents understand that with owning buildings, there are maintenance expenses involved and Selectman Bailey said we may be looking a maintenance department in the future. Selectman Bailey moved to support the warrant article to accept the donation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed with a vote of two in favor and one opposed (Chairman Urquhart).

Contoocook Housing Trust – Ms. Buono said a letter was received from Contoocook Housing Trust with regard to a \$500 donation they had requested for 2017. This organization owns apartment buildings and offer lower rents for their tenants and try to work out payment plans when they fall behind. Ms. Buono said the letter complains that they heard nothing from us about their request however, Dana Brien had contact them in order to gather information to decide if it was something she wanted to place in her budget and bring forward to the Selectmen. Ms. Buono said that within the fact finding, Alice Altman, Executive Director sent an email stating, “Thank you for your input about our request for \$ 500 in town funding. Unfortunately, I am concerned that the Board will now opt to pay no property taxes to Hillsborough since we are a 501(c)(3)”. Ms. Buono said that just because an organization is a nonprofit, it doesn’t exempt them from taxes. The Selectmen supported Ms. Brien’s decision not to include the request in her budget and Selectman Bailey moved to deny the request from Contoocook Housing Trust. Motion was seconded by Chairman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

3. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Urquhart moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 11206– 11282 a/k/a Vouchers 3, 4 & 5 in the amount of \$214,106.97 (includes 196 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 15814 - 15951 a/k/a Vouchers 4, thru 10 in the amount of \$317,160.21 Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Urquhart moved to approve the consent agenda for February 1, 2017. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Veteran’s Exemption – Map 11K Lot 67
- Intent to Cut – Map 12 Lots 323 & 124

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Bailey moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 10, 2017 as written. Motion was seconded by Chairman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Urquhart moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

Alan Urquhart, Selectman

James Bailey III, Selectman

David Fullerton, Selectman