

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2018

Present: James Bailey III, Chairman; David N. Fullerton, Selectman; Jon Daley, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Leigh Bosse, Michael Pon, Stephen Peucker, Art Kaufman, Judy ??, Ted ??

Chairman Bailey opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. **OPEN SESSION**

There was no public comment.

2. **STEPHEN PEUCKER RE: ASSESSMENTS**

Mr. Peucker met with the Selectmen with regard to the most recent assessments on some waterfront homes on Pierce Lake. He stated that he is the spokesperson for approximately 20 property owners in the lake area who disagree with the most recent revaluation of their properties. Mr. Peucker said they also disagree with the method used when determining the value of their water frontage and don't understand why the method that had been previously used changed. Even though some of the residents he is representing met and/or spoke with the Assessor, they are not satisfied with the information they were given and said they can't get an answer as to why the method was changed. Mr. Peucker acknowledged that they have been told to go through the process and file for an abatement if they feel the value is wrong. Chairman Bailey said the Selectmen don't have anything to do with the assessment process and agreed that they need to go through the process if they disagree with the assessments on their properties. Art Kaufman said he had called the Assessor when he received the initial letter last year on his property value because there was information that was incorrect. The Assessor agreed to come to Mr. Kaufman's property and left a card when he did however, the Assessor didn't call Mr. Kaufman back after that but instead sent a letter. Ms. Buono brought up an email that had been received from Charles Reese from the Department of Revenue with regard to Mr. Peucker's concerns over the method of assessment. Mr. Reese informed Mr. Peucker within the email that "the state statues give a fair amount of latitude for the assessor to apply any credible approach to value as they see fits their real estate market within the community ...". Mr. Peucker feels it's not a fair and accurate way to assess the properties along the lake. The Selectmen encouraged individuals who feel the values are incorrect to go through the process and file an abatement request by March 1st to dispute it.

3. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Warrant Article Assignment – The Selectmen reviewed the warrant articles and each were assigned certain ones to move forward at Town Meeting. Although the various department heads will be present at the meeting to answer questions as they arise, the Selectmen are prepared to do the same.

Historic Village District – Ms. Buono stated that during conversation with the Chairman of the Historic District Commission surrounding the applications submitted by Mr. Denton, she found that not only is the ordinance for the town outdated, the Commission itself is not set up as the state statute dictates. A brief discussion ensued with regard to the duties of the Commission in conjunction with the handling of the applications. Ms. Buono noted that the 45 days had gone by on the applications in

question without the Commission taking formal action. The Selectmen will revisit the makeup of the Commission at the March 27th meeting and Ms. Buono will advise the current members of such.

Water & Sewer Department – Ms. Buono brought up the fact that the Water & Sewer Department has sent invoices to the Town to pay for service at two properties (with buildings) that the Town acquired via Tax Deed in November. She said the department is charging the Town for services even though those buildings are, and have been vacant. Ms. Buono said when she spoke with Penny Griffin about the invoices and Ms. Griffin informed her that the Selectmen would have to send a request in writing to waive the fees to the Water & Sewer Commission to consider at their next meeting even though it's a department of the town, billing the Town. Ms. Buono will write the letter for the Selectmen to sign.

Camp Manahan – Ms. Buono informed the Selectmen that the individuals who have supervised the counselors and lifeguards during summer camp the last two years will be coming back again this summer in those same roles. Applications for counselors will be accepted beginning immediately.

RFQ's for Sidewalk Project – Ms. Buono reminded the Selectmen that the Requests for Qualifications are due in on Friday, March 2nd for the Sidewalk Project and she'll update the Board at the next meeting.

HYAA Field Improvement Request – Ms. Buono said the Recreation Director had received an email from Mike Greene of HYAA requesting various work to be done on the fields. Chairman Bailey said the request isn't anything different than is usually done and most of it will require infield mix. He said it would be nice to have any requests from them sent to us at the end of the season from now on so that the crew can work on it over the summer and money can be placed in the budget if need be. Selectman Daley noted that the Balloon Fest Committee will be digging a ditch for an electrical wiring as well but that it shouldn't interfere with anything.

Anonymous Letter - Ms. Buono said an anonymous letter was received about the Building Inspector with regard to the fact that he works in other communities as well. Ms. Buono said she doesn't normally give anonymous letters any time but this one had several remarks that are incorrect and perhaps the author reads the meeting minutes and will see this clarification. Ms. Buono said that our Building Inspector works in Hillsborough from 8 – 5 during the week with the exception of Tuesdays. On Tuesdays he works for Greenfield and Dublin. Ms. Buono said that within the letter, the individual states that the Inspector has a town phone which is inaccurate, is double dipping which is also not true since he only works for one community at a time. This individual also had pulled information from the internet on the fact that our Inspector had previously owned a construction company, volunteers as a scout leader and a firefighter in Greenfield. Ms. Buono said there was nothing within the letter that was not discussed prior to our Inspector being hired. Ms. Buono said there are times that he is working for Hillsborough and takes calls from residents in other communities but there are also times that he is in other communities and takes calls from Hillsborough residents so it evens out. The Board agreed that this information was not concerning.

Police Department – Selectman Fullerton wanted to give kudos to the Police Department for responding quickly to his call that two cars had gone into Hillsboro Ford after closing. Selectman Fullerton said he had called it in as suspicious activity and was happy to see the police responding so quickly.

Warrant Article 15 – Selectman Daley asked the Board if they were planning on speaking about Article 15 (disbanding of the Water & Sewer Commission) at Town Meeting. Selectman Daley said he's against it and is planning on speaking as a citizen. Selectman Fullerton said he is not against it and Chairman Bailey said he feels it might be time. Chairman Bailey said the current commission does a good job with what they deal with right now but the future planning may be beyond them.

Selectman Daley said the Commissioners feel that if expansion of the system is expected, it should come from the Planning Board. Ms. Buono brought up the water and sewer bills that she talked about earlier in the meeting and said the Selectmen shouldn't have to send a formal request in writing to a town department to waive those fees. A discussion ensued with regard to when the Town had to start paying for water and sewer services in the past. Chairman Bailey said it's also a big deal if the Commissioners do something that gets the Town sued because it's the Town that gets sued, not the department. Again he said they do a good job with the existing infrastructure repairs. Selectman Fullerton disagreed and said he doesn't feel they have done a great job.

4. **MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 12980 - 13036 a/k/a Vouchers 8 & 9 in the amount of \$174,481.85 (includes 130 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 18244 - 18301 a/k/a Voucher 11 in the amount of \$351,056.12. Motion was seconded by Selectman Daley. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the consent agenda for February 27, 2018. Motion was seconded by Selectman Daley. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Veterans Exemptions – Map 24 Lot 44
- Application for Current Use – Map 5 Lot 4
- Yield Tax Assessments in the amounts of \$3.15 & \$945.76
- Abatements on Tax Deeded Properties in the amount of \$5,425.66

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 as amended (change “advisory” budget committee to “official” budget committee). Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:45 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (c) reputation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectman Daley – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectman Daley, Selectman Fullerton, Town Administrator Laura Buono.

Ms. Buono brought up information that was relayed to her about a member of the public who may loudly go off about an employee at Town Meeting over a perceived change in services to the public. The Board agreed that although it's acceptable for the public to ask questions about programs within a budget, personal attacks are not appropriate. Ms. Buono said she has already alerted the Moderator of the possibility.

Chairman Bailey moved to come out of nonpublic session at 7:51 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Daley. A roll call vote was taken. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Bailey – yes; Selectman Daley – yes; Selectman Fullerton – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 7:56 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Daley. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Board of Selectmen

Date: _____

James C. Bailey III, Chairman

David N. Fullerton, Selectman

Jonathan M. Daley, Selectman