

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2016

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

In Attendance: Michael Pon, Joyce Bosse, Peter Brigham, Michael Borden, Jim Morse, Mark Rodier,

Selectman Bailey opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and explained that Chairman Urquhart is running a little late. Selectman Bailey asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Brigham – Mr. Brigham stated that Judy Fournier received her license as Masters Level Drug & Alcohol Counselor. Mr. Brigham said this is quite a big deal and if the Town desired, we could actually bill medical insurance for expenses associated with some of the work Mrs. Fournier does. Mrs. Fournier was congratulated by the Selectmen.

Mark Rodier – Mr. Rodier asked if there was any new information on the Bog Road/Gould Pond Rd. intersection with regard to additional signage. Ms. Buono said the engineer took a look at the area in order to give a price for them to perform an assessment of the alignment and safety of the intersection. The estimate came in at \$1,900 with a suggestion that using an all way stop sign would be a less expensive option. She said that she had forwarded this recommendation to Chief Roarick and Billy Goss to review. Mr. Rodier said ELVD is willing to donate a stop sign but felt having a stop on the hill would not work. Selectman Bailey feels that placing one more stop sign would work and doesn't necessarily want to spend \$1,900 to do a full assessment. It was also discussed to move the 30 MPH sign so that drivers are warned. Ms. Buono will relay this to Mr. Goss.

Joyce Bosse – Mrs. Bosse said she worked at the Emerald Lake Village District Meeting over the weekend and it went very well. Mrs. Bosse said the Commissioners knew the answers to questions asked and it went smoothly.

Leigh Bosse – Mr. Bosse said he feels Peter Brigham is a valuable asset in Hillsborough and in lieu of the social media attack on him, Mr. Bosse feels the Selectmen should make some kind of statement.

2. MICHAEL BORDEN – BUILDING INSPECTOR

Mr. Borden came before the Board to discuss a property maintenance code for Hillsborough. Mr. Borden said we have control over new construction with regard to safety codes but after that, we don't have much say in the condition of properties and would need a way to deal with properties moving forward. A discussion ensued and the Selectmen made it clear that they don't want to regulate how people live but a maintenance code would allow some regulation on how structures are maintained. Mr. Borden said RSA 155B is a legal way of dealing with abandoned dilapidated properties but said it would be a good idea to be able to have something in place so they don't get that far. Chairman Urquhart said he has concerns about coming down too hard on people if they are living on the property. Mr. Borden agreed and said the town of Berlin had a big problem with empty houses turning into drug houses and becoming fire hazards. Selectmen Bailey also agreed that abandoned properties are a concern but if someone is paying taxes, they should be left alone. Mr. Borden will put together some guidelines for the Selectmen to review and the subject will be discussed again in the future.

Mr. Borden then brought up the fact that Hillsborough is a pre-approval town for septic systems. He said before septic plans go to the State, he looks at them for the necessary setbacks. Mr. Borden recommended that the town begin inspections during the installation of septic systems since the state approves the plan and then looks at it only once it is all built. Mr. Borden said the bed bottom inspection is the most important inspection and feels we should also do a test pit inspection as well. Mr. Borden said other towns charge \$100 for this and it protects the homeowner. Selectman Bailey said he doesn't feel there is a problem with the state process and doesn't want to see us burden the homeowner with fees. After a brief discussion, this subject was tabled to a later date.

3. JIM MORSE

Mr. Morse came before the Selectmen discuss the Contoocook Valley ATV Riders and to request permission to expand their trail system and be allowed to ride on Old Rail Road and Contoocook Falls Road from the Henniker town line to the dirt road that runs along the river that leads to Livingston's Auto (old railroad bed). Mr. Morse said from that point they would ride onto the snowmobile trail that leads to Tooky Mills Pub and the downtown businesses. He stated that CVATV Riders can curtail the trail for the least impact to others. Mr. Morse said according to the tax map, the trail would be all on town property. Mr. Morse introduced Steve Livingston who also had a request that town roads that are posted 35 MPH or less be opened up to qualifying UTV, ROV and side by sides as they were when those vehicles had tractor plates. He gave a sample of the UTV Ordinance adopted by the Town of Henniker and said that any "qualifying requirements" would be set by the Chief of Police. A brief discussion took place with regard to the riverwalk area and the Norton Building at the back of the ball field. Since they don't want to interfere with people using the Riverwalk, it was suggested they could ride between the fence and the Norton building. Ms. Buono said this is the same subject that was discussed a year or two ago with the Chief of Police and various others who had an interest. Selectman Fullerton moved to approve both requests. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Buono will bring this to Chief Roarick.

4. ALAN URQUHART

Chairman Urquhart said he wanted to address Leigh Bosse's comment about making a statement with regard to Peter Brigham. Although Chairman Urquhart indicated he was recusing himself as Chairman so that he could make a statement as a citizen, he did not leave his seat at the Selectmen's table and no acting Chairman was appointed. Mr. Urquhart began reading a statement about a social media attack on Mr. Brigham. As he began mentioning certain information relative to a complaint made last fall and a subsequent investigation into that complaint, the Town Administrator stated that personnel matters should not be discussed in public. Mr. Urquhart ignored this objection and continued to read his prepared statement. At the end of the statement, Mr. Urquhart made a motion to suspend the Manahan Summer Program. There was no second to his motion however; Selectman Bailey called the nonpublic session which was on the agenda at the end of the meeting, in order for the Selectmen to discuss this matter.

5. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Selectman Bailey moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:25 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (a) & (c) personnel and reputation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Urquhart – yes; Selectman Bailey – yes; Selectman Fullerton - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

Selectman Bailey moved to seal and restrict the minutes of the nonpublic. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

6. LIASON REPORTS

Planning Board – Selectman Bailey said Eversource was before the Planning Board asking permission to build another facility at the Jackman Dam as well as to cut dead trees on a scenic road.

Parks Board – Chairman Urquhart said Eric Jackson was elected as Chairman of the Parks Board and Doris Bean was nominated as secretary. They are working on proposed changes to the mission statement and planning on having a work session on May 5th. Chairman Urquhart said the meetings are now at 7:00 and they have prices for new cameras that are being reviewed by Mike Green and Chief Roarick.

7. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Urquhart moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 9898- 9951 a/k/a Vouchers 16 & 17 in the amount of \$139,973.08 (includes 123 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 14157 - 14222 a/k/a Voucher 17 in the amount of \$151,693.88. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Urquhart moved to approve the consent agenda for April 26, 2016. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Disabled Exemption – Map 12 Lot 67-33
- Intents to Excavate – Map 10 Lot 68; Map 7 Lot 190
- Gravel Tax Levy in the amount of \$1,365.00
- Corrected Quitclaim Deed – Map 16 Lot 87
- Quit Claim Deed (tax deeded lot repurchased by previous owner) – Map 11H Lot 304
- Tax Deferral Abatement – Gerard in the amount of \$3,488.91

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Bailey moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 12, 2016 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Conservation Commission – Brett Cherrington said that at the last Selectmen’s Meeting, he had submitted a letter with regard to the Selectmen’s agreement to abate the land use change tax for the Saxton Partners development. Ms. Buono said she reviewed the manner in which the minutes of March 8th were written with our land use attorney and he suggested a clarification of intent be made by the Selectmen stating that the steps under RSA 79-A:10 are taken (request to have the land use change

tax abated once it is assessed), the official approval of the abatement can be tied to and coincide with the acceptance of the deed for the 96 acre easement. Chairman Urquhart moved to clarify the agreement to abate the land use change tax once assessed as outlined by our attorney. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department – Ms. Buono notified the Selectmen that the Highway Department is now working their summer schedule of four 10 hour days (M – TH).

Building Inspector – Ms. Buono said we currently pay the building inspector mileage to use his personal vehicle for town business which is made up mostly of inspections. Currently we reimburse approximately 80 – 100 miles a week and would like to know if the Selectmen would be in favor of looking for a decent vehicle for \$4,000 - \$5,000 to use for this purpose. Ms. Buono said the auction is one place to look for vehicles. Selectmen Bailey said he's not sure what kind of vehicle we could get for that money. After a very brief discussion, the Selectmen suggested keeping the mileage in place until a better option is available.

Heritage Museum – Ms. Buono said the work on the fire escape at the Heritage Museum is partially complete and coming along although she and the building inspector will be meeting with the contractor to go over a couple of concerns before moving forward.

Donation – Ms. Buono said a donation was received to put toward the “New Leaf” program that was discussed at Town Meeting. Ms. Buono asked the Selectmen what they would like her to do with the donation. The Selectmen suggested thanking the donor and explaining that the program is not yet established but we would advise him when it is. If he would still like to donate the money for educational purposes, we can use it for the diversion program.

Master Plan Committee – Ms. Buono noted that there is a Master Plan Committee meeting tomorrow evening and the Planning Director was inviting the Selectmen to attend in order to observe the process.

Manahan Summer Program – Michael Pon said that before the Selectmen entered into nonpublic, there was a comment by Alan Urquhart that he felt the summer program should be suspended and asked if the Selectmen were going to discuss this. Chairman Urquhart moved to suspend the Manahan Program. Selectman Fullerton seconded the motion for discussion. Peter Brigham said he feels it's not a reasonable solution to suspend the program. Selectman Fullerton said he's in favor of something being done either in the way of suspending or discontinuing the program because if not, he feels that whoever is attempting to ruin reputations will continue. Selectman Bailey said he doesn't feel it's a prudent decision to discontinue it. By doing so, it will hurt the kids who attend and it would be the wrong decision to suspend. Joyce Bosse and John Segedy both said they feel the program should continue. A vote was taken. Motion failed with a vote of none in favor and two opposed.

Michael Pon asked what Peter Brigham's title is now that he is no longer the director of the Manahan Park Program. Chairman Urquhart stated that he is still Youth Services and Recreation Director. Chairman Urquhart said he is personally going to continue to investigate who is behind the malicious behavior but clarified it is not being done through the Town.

Selectman Bailey made a motion to continue to run the program with the Assistants that are in place right now and continue the program as planned. Peter Brigham said there is a meeting scheduled this week with the two Assistant Directors, Laura Buono and him to discuss the overall management of the program. Mr. Brigham said the two assistants seem to be interested in co-directing however this hasn't been discussed with Ms. Buono yet. Chairman Urquhart asked if they are certified. Mr. Brigham said they do not have to be certified to run the camp, only the waterfront people need to be certified. Currently there are three administrative people ready to go and he said he's comfortable with what's in

place because there is a lot of experience there. Ms. Buono said the setup would be similar to the way it was run last year and asked if the Selectmen are going to vote on this, to also vote to allow the employees in place to work in the same manner as last year. Selectman Fullerton suggested that the discussion take place and it be brought back to the Selectmen. Selectman Bailey said by doing so it would not give enough time for the planning phase of it. Selectman Bailey withdrew his original motion and made a new motion that the program be run by the Assistants that are in place and to give Ms. Buono the authorization to move forward with the program if she is comfortable with the setup after meeting with the Assistants this week. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Fullerton said he feels the parks and recreation should be brought together as one department as is done in other towns and have Mr. Brigham in charge. He suggested this be thought about and discussed at the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Urquhart moved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. 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