

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016

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

In Attendance: Jan Michael, Gil Shattuck, Michael Pon, Jon Segedy, Terry Yeaton, Bob O'Mara

Chairman Urquhart opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

1. PROPOSED GIFT OF CHURCH at HILLSBOROUGH CENTER

The Selectmen met with Jan Michael and Gil Shattuck at the old Methodist Church at Hillsborough Center for a tour of the building. The building is being offered to the town as a donation from Will Quinn if the Selectmen so choose to accept it. The history of the building was discussed as well as the fact that the outside has been painted, the roof was repaired and shingled, and the steeple was repaired as well. There is some damage to a section of the ceiling due to water that had come in through the steeple before the repairs. There are various cosmetic repairs to the inside plaster and some of the floor boards may need replacing but the bones of the building appear to be solid. The church is in a historic district and the area where the town owned clubhouse, schoolhouse, dog pound and cemetery are located. The Selectmen asked Ms. Buono to find out what the taxes per year on the property are and they will hold a discussion at their next meeting. If the Board chooses to move forward with the offer of a donation, a public hearing will be held prior to a final decision.

2. OPEN SESSION

Jon Segedy – Mr. Segedy explained that the school is going to be spending a million dollars to build a new building and they will be getting rid of the temporary classrooms they currently have. Mr. Segedy suggested that the town could either use them or store them until there was a use for them. Selectman Bailey said he's familiar with the buildings and they would be costly to move and store plus the buildings need work which is the reason their use is being discontinued.

Bob O'Mara – Mr. O'Mara said he feels the school taxes are pricing them out of town. The school population is going down but the budget continues to go up. The Selectmen listened to Mr. O'Mara's complaint but Chairman Urquhart told him that the Selectmen have no authority over the School Board. The Selectmen suggested that anyone with concerns should attend school board meetings, budget hearings and the deliberative session. Mr. O'Mara would also like to see some beautification of the town center.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – EQUIPMENT DONATION TO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Stafford came before the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of requesting that they accept a donation from the Hillsborough Firefighter's Association and the EMS Association of a 2017 Artic Cat Prowler plus accessories as well as a trailer to be used to move the equipment when necessary. Chief Stafford said Steve Livingston has allowed them to borrow equipment in the past for forestry

operations. Both Associations teamed up and did some fundraising in order to purchase this equipment for the department. Public input came from John Segedy who simply wished to thank the organizations for the donation. At the close of the hearing, Selectman Bailey moved to accept the donation from the Hillsboro Firefighters Association and the Hillsboro EMS Association. The motion was seconded by Chairman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

4. LIAISON REPORTS

Planning Board – Selectman Bailey said the Planning Board is working on the Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan which includes sidewalks. He also reported that the grant application for the sidewalks was submitted which is a project from Main Street to the Shaws Supermarket area. Selectman Fullerton asked who worked on the grant application and was told that the Planning Director, with some assistance from CNHRPC worked on it. A brief discussion ensued with regard to grant writing education. Ms. Buono said there are grant writers who can be hired for specific grants and who are paid through a successful grant which may be a better option at this time for Hillsborough.

Economic Development Committee – Chairman Urquhart reported that there were representatives from the Dept. of Economic and Resource Development as well as the USDA Rural Development departments at the last EDC meeting. They discussed various programs that are available for communities and businesses that the EDC is interested in utilizing in the future.

Parks & Recreation – Selectman Fullerton said he was pleased to see that Manahan Park was open to Labor Day this year. There was also a brief discussion around whether or not the state water tests look for strep since there seemed to be various children who came down with strep throat this year.

5. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Urquhart moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 10593 - 10684 a/k/a Vouchers 35, 36 & 37 in the amount of \$213,921.93 (includes 213 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 14977 - 15079 a/k/a Vouchers 33, 34 & 35 in the amount of \$1,022,236.74. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**A/P checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$768,072.30

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Urquhart moved to approve the consent agenda for September 13, 2016. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Gravel Tax Lien in the amount of \$36.00
- Yield Tax Levy in the amounts of \$1,979.35 & \$4,999.14
- Intent to Excavate Map 7 Lot 196
- Intents to Cut – Map 4 Lots 40 & 46; Map 5 Lot 69
- Solar Energy Exemptions – Map 22 Lot 26 & Map 22 Lot 28

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Selectman Bailey moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2016 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Fullerton. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Children Playing Signs – Selectman Fullerton said he has driven down Gay Ave which is off of School Street, and it is filled with children riding bikes, etc. in the roadway. Selectman Fullerton would like to see a couple of signs on the road indicating there are children playing. The board agreed.

Merrill Road Property – Chairman Urquhart brought up the property on the corner of Merrill Road in which the modular home has been abandoned and there is now a boat and another trailer on the property. He said some neighbors have complained but they were unable to attend the meeting. The property is owned by Paul Sousa and although the Town has contacted them, they have not cleaned up or secured the property. Chairman Urquhart feels it's a public safety problem. Selectman Bailey said although he's not trying to minimize the concern for this property, he feels the vacant building in the center of Town is more of a safety concern since he isn't quite sure about the stability of the metal roofing that was put on it years ago. The need for an ordinance to address the abandoned properties and blight problems was discussed. With regard to the Merrill Road property, it was suggested to get permission from the owners to have it boarded up for safety reasons. Selectman Bailey said he was surprised to see that there are even blighted properties on Nantucket in these conditions. Ms. Buono mentioned that it's great to have an ordinance but there has to be money budgeted in order to enforce them. Selectman Bailey agreed and said we can have all the ordinances we want but they are no good unless they are enforced. Selectman Fullerton suggested the property owners contact someone who may be interested in taking the metal.

Sewer Department – Ms. Buono said that she, the planning director and Selectman Bailey met with Peter Mellon on September 1st per his request to discuss the sewer agreement they are negotiating with Mike Black for Weatherstone Crossing. Once this approval is granted, there won't be much more capacity left and a solution with regard to what direction the Town should go still needs to be discussed. Ms. Buono said the sewer department is working on various projects to fix water infiltration but there are still problems with people using sump pumps. The next project is going to be on Bridge Street. Selectman Bailey said there are certain issues in that area which may come up because it's a state road. He said moving forward we cannot supply projects with sewerage but we can supply them with water until we get the problem fixed.

Phil Harvey – Ms. Buono said she spoke with Mr. Harvey who would like to know if the Town would be interested in his house on River Street. The property was briefly discussed. Ms. Buono will contact Mr. Harvey and set up a tour for the Selectmen in the near future.

Perambulation of Henniker Town Line – Ms. Buono said the Town of Henniker would like to have representatives from Hillsborough to perambulate the town line. Since its short notice, Ms. Buono volunteered to take part in the perambulation which is scheduled for the week of September 26th although the date itself hasn't been set.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Urquhart moved to adjourn at 8:27 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