

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
December 22, 2015

Present: Wendy Brien-Baker, Chairman; Alan Urquhart, Selectman; James Bailey III, Selectman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

Chairman Brien-Baker opened the Selectmen's Meeting at 6:05 p.m.

In Attendance: Michael Pon, Paris Wells, Scott Bennett.

**1. OPEN SESSION**

*Paris Wells* – Mr. Wells began by thanking Bill Goss for the temporary patch on Hoyt Lane. He also wanted to mention that Landry Garden in the center of town looked great. Mr. Wells then went on to address a letter from Chris Seig with regard to the sidewalk in front of Bara Dental that Mr. Goss mentioned was going to be discontinued. Mr. Paris said he would like to see the town keep the sidewalk since he feels there is a safety issue at the crosswalk. He said people don't drive the speed limit and if the sidewalk is discontinued, people will have to cross the road to use the sidewalk on the other side and this would create a hazard.

*Chairman Brien-Baker* – Chairman Baker interrupted Open Session to read the following with regard to an editorial in a local newspaper:

“In light of the letter in one of the local papers which included bad mouthing of certain past employees and volunteers along with a misleading report to the Deering Selectmen I felt it necessary to make a statement into the minutes of our meeting tonight. These are just my personal statements to clarify what has been written. In my opinion, many of the statements made are hearsay and no one has ever produced proof to make it fact.

1. There was no debate by the Selectmen in Public Session at our last meeting regarding whether the current Recreation director should continue or not.

2. The statement that no minutes were ever taken by the Park Board under Jim Bailey's Chairmanship is untrue.

3. The statement that no policies were established by the Park Board until Jim Bailey was gone is unfair as the Park Board was never specifically asked for policies to be made or written until just last year.

4. The statement that no criteria for use of town property was ever established until Jim Bailey was gone is unfair as any rules were set forth prior by the Selectmen in our Code Book and were always followed by the Park Board and further they were never asked to set any criteria until just last year.

5. The statement that no new programs were ever established is an unfair and untrue statement. The Park Board is a volunteer board and if prior Selectmen wanted to see more recreation, then it should have been discussed with the Park Board and parameters set, but that was never done. It is untrue as many new things happened at Manahan over the course of camp, one being a special Theatre Camp that had run two years in a row.

6. The statement that Cathy Bennett's friends and family were hired as lifeguards is untrue. While some family members worked as camp counselors and people she knew in town were hired as well does not constitute favoritism and unfair hiring. Cathy is a long-time resident and does know many people so obviously a good number of the people she hired, she knew. I also have a first-hand account of her not hiring someone that would have been considered favoritism if she had, which is my son and that year she interviewed several and he was not chosen, but I did not get upset that we were friends

and I was a Selectman at the time and she did not choose him.

7. The statement that the Park Board is doing all of this without the support of the Selectmen is untrue. How is that possible, since I serve on the Park Board and I have been the one to research and draft all of the new policies.

8. The statement that Bailey and Chair Wendy Brien-Baker have been withholding support for Peter Brigham is false as I supported him greatly with creating the Recreation Facebook page, creating all of the initial flyers for the new recreation programs and the creation of all of the documents for the Manahan program sign-ups along with sitting down with him to go over my Manahan experiences and give him insight into the program.

9. The statement that Brigham served more children this year is untrue as my research did show a decline in participation this year versus last year.

10. Where is the proof of the statements made that Manahan staff members weren't carefully screened, trained and held accountable in the past? Also that the previous director wasn't on-site and involved and that there wasn't work ethic etc.? Why are these things being written without any proof in a statement to the Deering Selectmen. I don't know of any complaints made in any of these areas about the program prior to 2015.

In closing I'd just like to say that I currently and always have supported all Town employees and volunteers. I may disagree at times but that does not constitute misleading statements to be made. Former employees and volunteers of this Town deserve as much respect as the current employees and volunteers."

Scott Bennett – Mr. Bennett thanked Chairman Brien-Baker for her comments with regard to the summer program and said he's very upset by the editorial that was mentioned and feels there is an agenda by that person. Mr. Bennett said his wife (Cathy Bennett) was going to resign anyway and just wants to move on. Chairman Brien-Baker said she just wants the facts in the Selectmen's minutes.

## **2. 2016 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Ms. Buono reviewed various budgets with the Selectmen which included Administration, Land Use, Building Inspector and General Government Buildings. Within the Land Use Budget, there are funds to bring the Planning Director from 30 hours a week to 40. The Building Inspector budget also includes advancing the building inspector position from part time to full time due to the increase in activity over the last couple of years. Ms. Buono supplied a chart which reflects that there were 182 building permits given out in 2015 with \$47,214 in revenues. Both the Land Use and Building Departments are impacted by the increase in both commercial and residential activity. Ms. Buono said that she has placed 20 hours a week within the General Government Buildings budget to cover the maintenance employee. Although this employee handles the majority of the town's buildings, it was easier to place the wages all within one budget.

## **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Encumbrances – Ms. Buono presented the Selectmen with a request to encumber the funds for the following expenses: Master Plan Update \$5,900; Downtown Signage (EDC) \$1,750; Warrant Article 24 (Transfer Station) \$9,000. Chairman Brien Baker moved to encumber the funds as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Hillsborough Historical District Appointment – Ms. Buono said the Historical District Commissioners have requested that the Selectmen appoint Jan Michael to the Commission due to the death of one of their members. Chairman Brien-Baker moved to appoint Jan Michael to the Historical District Commission. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – The Selectmen discussed the next meeting (January 12<sup>th</sup>) and decided that due to personal schedules, the meeting would be held at 5:00 – 6:30 with the Police and Fire Department budgets being the items on the agenda for that evening.

New Leaf Program – Selectman Urquhart brought up the New Leaf Program which he had outlined with the Selectmen at a previous meeting in which he had met with Judy Fournier, Chief Roarick and Peter Brigham. Selectman Urquhart would like to have some seed money for the program appropriated this year (\$15,000) and move forward from there. Selectman Urquhart will have information on the program available prior to Town Meeting so that the public can be informed. The Board agreed to place warrant article on for the purpose of this program.

#### **4. LIASION REPORTS**

Economic Development Committee - Selectman Urquhart reported on the last EDC meeting and said the committee members reviewed the results of the completed parking study and said they are working on wording for a Memorandum of Understanding that may be used with the churches. They will also be holding a business retention forum in 2016 that will be run by UNH Extension.

Planning Board – Selectman Bailey said they are getting ready for the public hearing on the zoning changes. The changes are minor technical changes which should be finalized at their next meeting.

Parks Board – Chairman Brien-Baker said she wasn't at the last Parks Board meeting but reviewed the minutes with the Selectmen. They received one bid for the bathrooms in the amount of \$72,000. After a brief discussion on the bathroom plans, it was decided that the plans will need to be scaled back and placed out to bid again.

#### **5. MANIFEST MOTION**

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 9426 - 9474 a/k/a Vouchers 51 & 52 in the amount of \$138,767.82 (includes 126 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 13281 - 13394 a/k/a Voucher 46 in the amount of \$105,159.47. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 8, 2015 as written. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to approve the consent agenda for December 22, 2015. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Abatement in the amount of \$1,026.45 (SUR Realty land that Town purchased)
- Intent to Cut – Map 4 Lot 52
- Discretionary Preservation Easement Deeds – Concord Coach Realty Trust & Barnes Family Realty Trust

- Veteran's, Disabled, Elderly Exemptions – Map 26 Lot 21; Map 7 Lot 57; Map 16 Lot 69

**8. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to go into nonpublic session at 7:15 p.m. under RSA 91A:3II (c) reputation. Motion was seconded by Selectman Urquhart. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Brien-Baker – yes; Selectman Urquhart – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In attendance: Chairman Brien-Baker, Selectman Urquhart, Selectman Bailey, Town Administrator Laura Buono.

Ms. Buono reviewed a delinquent property tax situation with the Selectmen and discussed the property owner's proposal for payment of the taxes.

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to come out of nonpublic session at 7:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Bailey. A roll call vote was taken. Chairman Brien-Baker – yes; Selectman Urquhart – yes; Selectman Bailey - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Brien-Baker moved to adjourn at 7:50 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Wendy Brien-Baker, Chairman

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Alan Urquhart, Selectman

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James Bailey III, Selectman