

**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE, NEW HAMPTON, NH 03256**

Thursday, November 7, 2024

MEMBERS

Present were Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Harvey.

PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Mr. Davenport, Scott Provencal, Richard Morse, William Hodges, Kelly Kinhan, Chief Josh Tyrrell, Regina Scholfield, and Mr. Howe.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Drake called the meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

Mr. Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to approve the 10/24/24 minutes as amended. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Harvey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Drake to approve the non-public minutes of 10/24/24 as written. Vote was unanimous.

Relative to the non-public minutes of 11/1/24 the Board asked Mr. Davenport to make some changes for clarification purposes for further review.

WORK SESSION:

The Board reviewed/signed manifests, invoices, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms.

The following building permits were signed by the Land Use Administrator:

1. Rempro Enterprises Prop Mgmt, 62 Donkin Hill Rd; Map R20, Lot 47; in-ground pool.
2. Rempro Enterprises Prop Mgmt, 62 Donkin Hill Rd; Map R20, Lot 47; 52' X 28' garage.
3. Matthew & Donna Cohen, 598 Old Bristol Rd; Map R15, Lot 2; demo house & garage.

The following septic designs were signed by the Land Use Administrator:

1. Kenda Corcoran; Gordon Hill Rd, Map R3, Lot 29B (new lot)
2. Hedberg Family Rev Trust; 88 West Shore Rd, Map U14, Lot 6
3. Michael & Brandy Sharp; 90 NH Route 104, Map R12, Lot 28

Mr. Shaw asked that any permit (bdg or occupancy) or septic designs on properties that are tax exempt come to the Selectmen for approval.

OPEN ITEMS

- Tax Deeded Land – no update
- Fees – Mr. Davenport said he contacted NHMA who advised the proposed fees must be posted in the paper 7 days prior, which were not, so the public hearing needs to be rescheduled, with the Board agreeing to 11/26/24 at 6:00.
- Timber Harvest – Relative to the forester's contract, it is still being reviewed by legal.
- Personnel Policy – no update
- Emmons property – 30-day letter has been sent to the estate with final date for response being 12/13/24, at which point the house will get new locks installed.

- 911#'s – Mr. Davenport reviewed possible cost to replace all numbers with white on red number plates. The Board agreed to focus on missing 911 numbers to begin with. Mr. Davenport to work with Fire, Police and DPW to gather those numbers and budget for 30-50 per year.
- Grants – no update
- Carter Mountain Rd unregistered vehicles – no update
- Town House – no update
- Drake Road – no update
- Job Postings – no update
- Town Roads – no update
- Dr. Childs Rd discontinuance – Relative to a letter from NHS in response to a meeting between Head of School Mr. Williams and Mr. Davenport, where commitments were made by New Hampton School in return for putting the warrant article forward last March to discontinue Dr. Childs Road, Mr. Shaw was not pleased with the tone of the letter. Mr. Shaw pointed out that the Board agreed to this article in return for specific undertakings, both verbally and in writing and was discussed with taxpayers, at Deliberative Session, but the New Hampton School have since changed their minds on the sidewalk maintenance.

Apart from the road issue, Mr. Shaw reminded the Board that the school is the beneficiary of a large tax break, being taxed on approximately 15% of their total assessed value. In the last 15+ years the school has purchased properties, putting them in tax exempt status, at an estimated cost to the other Town taxpayers of \$64,000/year due to loss of property taxes. He said NHS teachers have students living in tax exempt housing, but which attend the public school, with that cost (roughly \$22,000/student) being borne by the taxpayers. This net amount is about \$200,000 per year. Mr. Shaw asked Mr. Davenport to invite NHS into a meeting to discuss this further. Mr. Drake expressed his support to Mr. Shaw's statements.

- NHS PILOT – No update
- Welcome Sign relocation – no update
- Grant status of culvert replacement – No update
- Coolidge Woods Rd erosion – no update
- Dry Hydrants – no update

**ACTION &
DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Insurance Rates for 2024 – the Board reviewed Mr. Davenport's spreadsheets outlining costs for various deductible plans for medical insurance (\$1,000/\$3,000/\$5,000) versus various wage increases based on percentages. The \$5,000 plan would also cause copayments to increase for insured employees. Mr. Davenport said the Board could consider having the employee pay the difference with the lower deductible plans. It was the consensus of the Board to also offer the \$5,000 plan, then calculating wages from that. Mr. Davenport said this sets the maximum rate paid for by the Town at \$2,042.32 for the family plan, \$1,548.47 for 2-person plan, and 774.24 for single person, suggesting the Board could offer whichever plans they choose. It was the consensus of the Board to offer all three plans to employees with only the cost of the \$5K being borne by the Town. Mr. Shaw made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to offer the \$5K medical plan for 2025 in addition to the \$3K and \$1K

plans, with the new max rate paid by the Town to be \$2,042.32 for the family plan, \$1,548.47 for 2-person plan, and 774.24 for single person plan. Vote was unanimous.

- Relative to wages the Board agreed they needed to review all the department requests, warrant articles, and the health insurance prior to making any decisions on wages. Mr. Davenport said when the department heads come in to discuss their budget requests the Board can discuss individual adjustments to wages for employees.
- The Board discussed the ZBA approvals for William Hodges & Anne Tarryk; 102 Seminole Ave; Map U10, Lot 11; to determine what needs to be done to consider this variance as being utilized by the 2-year deadline (4/7/25). One was a Special Exception on the septic system being too close to the property and the other was a Variance for a garage being too close to the property line. Kelly Kinnon and William Hodges were present. Mr. Kinnon said installation of the septic system was reasonable and could be done. He said having a foundation poured by the deadline date is more difficult due to constraints in building from the lake back, and a retaining wall that has to be removed, during winter months. Mr. Kinnon said they expect the house to take 10-12 months to build. The Board agreed to the installation of the septic system, demolition of the existing home and the tire retaining wall, with foundation hole being dug.
- Board signed a Timber Tax Warrant at \$5,119.57, for Michael, Sonya, & Devon Fuller; Map R5, Lot 9.
- Board signed the Sansoucy Utilities Assessing Contract, which had been reviewed by legal and Primex.
- Mr. Davenport advised that the tenant on property belonging to AR New Hampton LLC; 988 Dana Hill Rd; Map R19, Lot 8, would like 2 months to clean up the property. Though the issue was with a perpetual yard sale, the Board agreed to the additional time requested. Mr. Davenport to write a letter to the renter, advising the Board is agreeable to a 2-month extension for cleanup, with no further yard sales.
- Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to sign a Letter of Commitment with LRPC for the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Collection Program. Vote was unanimous.
- The Board signed the Highway Safety Grant Agreement. As Police Chief Tyrrell was present, he advised that their signatures would just continue this agreement for speed enforcement and distracted driving.
- TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) document: Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw that the vote entitled "Vote to authorize \$1,200,000 Tax Anticipation Note for Fiscal Year 2024", be approved in the form presented to this meeting, and that an attested copy of said vote be included with the minutes of this meeting. Vote was unanimous. Mr. Davenport said if the school district doesn't submit documents to NHDRA soon, the tax rate setting will be delayed, the Town tax bills will not be sent in a timely manner, causing a cash flow problem for the Town, affecting the need for a TAN.
- Board signed enforcement letter to William Krueger; 432 Blake Hill Rd; Map R1, Lot; as he has not followed through with his statements made at a meeting in August.
- FYI – Conservation Fund Transfer

New Business after Agenda was posted:

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mr. Harvey asked what could be done to neaten up the Town House and remove clutter. Mr. Davenport said he and Ms. Schofield would work on this after the March election.
- Mr. Harvey asked if there was a way to increase the lumens of the lighting in the Town House. Mr. Davenport to investigate.
- Mr. Davenport asked when the new fees should go into effect after the hearing. The Board agreed to Dec. 1st 2024.
- Mr. Davenport advised the leaf springs for International Hwy truck need to be replaced prior to plow season with a quote of approximately \$1,800. The Board agreed this truck should be sold in the spring 2025.
- Mr. Drake suggested that no employee be added to the Hwy Dept without a CDL license.
- Mr. Davenport asked if a lift should be rented to put up the lights on the tree on the Common. Mr. Harvey said he would arrange the lift.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mr. Provencal expressed his agreement with the Board's opinion on Dr. Childs Road. He also said that if a PILOT was arranged with NHS this could help offset the cost increases to medical insurance for Town employees. Mr. Davenport said the school had told the Selectmen that NHS legal counsel advised against NHS taking responsibility of clearing the sidewalks near the elementary school, but offered to purchase the equipment for the Town to use, to clear the sidewalks.
- Mr. Morse asked for clarification on the 911 numbers and Mr. Drake said they want to switch the numbers from black on white, to white on red, which are more easily seen, and that the town had guidelines on how to post numbers.

Members of the public left the meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

At 8:28 PM, Mr. Drake made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) Personnel Matters, seconded by Mr. Harvey. A roll call vote was held: Mr. Drake – Y, Mr. Shaw – Y, & Mr. Harvey – Y.

PRESENT:

Mr. Drake, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Harvey, and Mr. Davenport.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION:

At 8:54 PM, Mr. Drake made a motion to come out of non-public session and to seal the non-public minutes of 10/24/24 for 10 years, seconded by Mr. Shaw. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:54 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose