

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

Thursday, February 15, 2024

MEMBERS

Present were Mr. Drake, Mr. Harvey, & Mr. Shaw (by phone)

PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Administrator Corey Davenport & residents Scott Provencal & Richard Morse

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 asked that the minutes of 2/8/24 be held so he could spend more time reviewing them.

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the Non-Public minutes of 2/8/24 and seal them for one year. Vote was unanimous.

WORK SESSION:

Board reviewed and/or signed manifests, bills, requisitions, purchase orders and leave request forms.

- Board asked that all employees note what duties were performed during overtime.
- Hwy Dept purchase order - Estimate on repair to overhead doors. Board asked for additional quotes.

FYI – Approvals by Land Use Administrator:

- Building Permit application: Thompson-Guyotte Rev. Trust; Map R19, Lot 20;
- Occupancy Permit application: George & Debra Sargent; Map R8, Lot 1A16;
- Septic design: Andrew & Krista Nitschelm; Map R6, Lot 24;

Mr. Davenport advised that a previous building permit application brought up the question whether the rooms shown on submitted architectural plans showing “bunkie” rooms, had an adequate septic design for the number of bedrooms. He said notes have been placed on the permit which limits the number of bedrooms to match the septic load limit.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:30 pm

*Douglas & Doreen
Tehan*

Mr. and Mrs. Tehan were not present and Mr. Davenport said he had not heard from them.

6:45 pm

*NASD School Board
Rep Nathan Saler*

Mr. Saler arrived at 6:31 pm. and the Board took him early. Mr. Drake said they were looking for updates on what is happening with the school district. Mr. Saler reviewed that a new superintendent has been hired, SEL (Social Emotional Learning) remains strongly supported by parents and there was a large turnout in support of teachers and staff. He said the budget increases were due to increased costs (15%) for medical insurance, making it difficult

to keep the 2% tax cap, given wage increases and overall increased costs of running the school district. Mr. Drake asked why public comment input was only allowed at the beginning of a recent school board meeting as many people left after public comment, therefore they did not hear the entire meeting discussion. He also asked why it states the public should not expect an answer from the board. Mr. Saler said the Superintendent typically takes notes and then responds to questions at a future date.

Relative to Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton pulling out of the district, Mr. Saler said NASD has said they will not supply superintendent services, any busing or special education, and will enter into no contracts at this time. Bridgewater-Hebron is pulling out of the district because they're concerned with a possible increase to their tax rate, but Mr. Saler said this move will cause their towns, and the remaining towns, to see increases. He said over the last 2 years that there have been discussions, no numbers have been provided to determine the impact. Mr. Saler said this will be decided by a ballot vote, not through SB2, but by traditional town meeting in Bridgewater, Hebron and Groton, which will have to go into effect in one year if it is passed. All students currently enrolled from those towns can finish the school year in NASD if they desire. Alexandria students will be most affected as approximately ½ of them attend the Bridgewater-Hebron school.

Mr. Shaw asked Mr. Saler what he thought of the school's tax cap and Mr. Saler said he feels it handicaps the district but also realizes that there could be increase after increase, therefore a balance would be great if that could be obtained. Mr. Shaw said he just wants to ensure the district keeps in mind the affect of the school portion on the taxpayers as that is the largest percentage of the tax bill. There was discussion on funding formulas and considering changes to those formulas. Mr. Drake said this was discussed previously but no decisions were made. Asked why it is that all the towns in the district vote for who a rep for an individual town should be and Mr. Saler advised it's a cooperative school district therefore everyone has input. There was discussion on whether this procedure could be changed as it didn't seem to make sense.

Mr. Saler agreed to coming to meet with the Board as requested in the future.

OPEN ITEMS:

- Brook Road bridge – Mr. Davenport advised that at the end of 2023 the amount in the bridge account is \$96,804; this amount remains after the payment for the bridge itself, to pay for demo and installation.
- Tax Deeded Land – no update
- Timber Harvest – no update
- Fees – no update
- Driveway Permit revision – no update
- 911#s – no update
- Grants – no update
- Carter Mountain Road unregistered vehicles – Letter was reviewed and signed by the Board, relative to number of vehicles/trailers/boats.
- Town House – no update
- Drake Road – Letter was reviewed and signed by the Board, relative to vehicle in ROW.
- BOS Guidelines – no update

- Town Roads – no update
- Dr. Childs Rd; discontinuance – no update
- NHS - PILOT

DISCUSSION:

- Precinct Lease Agreement Update; the Board agreed to the precinct commissioners' request to put a lock on the door they use in the Town Office for their storage, as long as a key is also provided to Mr. Davenport. Mr. Drake asked the Board if they want to terminate the lease agreement at the end of the year based on the fact more storage is needed by the office. There was discussion that the Precinct may want to utilize the storage space in the Town Office for staff to perform work. Mr. Davenport to discuss with Precinct Commissioners what their future plans are, and advising them to think about a different location for their storage needs.
- Timber Tax Warrant – Smith Family 2018 Joint Trust; Map R10, Lot 17; Dana Hill Road, at \$949.22.
- Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve an Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral for Patricia Provencher. Vote was unanimous.
- Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve a Blind Exemption application for Patricia King. Vote was unanimous.
- Abatement application submittal which claimed inability to pay as the reason for the request. The assessing firm recommended the Board deny it as it was not contesting the assessed value. Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shaw to deny the application for Philip & Faye Uhlendorff and to send a letter advising them of the various choices they have to seek assistance. Vote was unanimous.
- Request from the local PTO President asking to use the 2nd floor meeting room of the Town Office on 2/19/24 to hold a School Board Candidate Forum. Mr. Harvey agreed he could open the 2nd floor door for access.

New Business after Agenda was Posted

- Building permit for Charles Goodwin 1991 Trust, Map U12, Lot 8, approved by Land Use Administrator with condition that property cannot be used for short-term rental use, limiting the use of no more than 2 bunk beds total, in the 3 “bunkie” rooms of the addition.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mr. Davenport EMS rates are updated.
- Mr. Davenport confirmed that plow routes are listed on the website, under the public works department's tab.
- Mr. Davenport advised that he had clear guidance on handling non-public minutes, recommending coming in and out for each RSA category.
- Mr. Davenport said the Fire Dept. has joined the Federal lease list which allows for leasing of excess or used vehicles, as Chief Cathy is looking for a pick-up truck.
- Mr. Davenport advised he would send the required written notification to NHS of the possible discontinuance of Dr. Childs Road.
- Mr. Davenport asked for clarification on the Fire Dept. part-time hiring process. It was the consensus of the Board that the Chief could begin all background checks and required documentation for any potential candidates he wants to hire, with the Board giving the final approval for a new hire.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Provencal said he appreciated the visit by Mr. Saler but wished more of the public were aware of what is happening in the school district. Mr. Davenport suggested the Town's website could provide a link to NASD minutes.

Mr. Provencal asked what types of documentation is requiring storage room in the building. Mr. Davenport reviewed the various types of documents that continue to be held even though some documents can be shredded.

Mr. Morse suggested if more space was needed it would be sensible to think long term, creating more space than what is initially needed.

Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to accept the resignation letter from Nicholas Marsh. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Provencal and Mr. Morse left the meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: At 8:09 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c) - Personnel. A roll call vote was held. Mr. Drake – Y, Mr. Shaw – Y, Harvey – Y.

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

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: At 8:15 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to come out of non-public session and seal the minutes for one year. Vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:16 pm, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to adjourn. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Vose