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**TOWN OF NEW HAMPTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, February 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Present were Mr. Drake, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Shaw (by phone).

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Administrator Mr. Davenport, Richard Morse, Scott Provencal, Bradford Leclerc, Tony Vagliardo and Eric Pyra.

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. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the minutes of 2/13/25, as corrected. Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to approve the non-public minutes of 1/30/25 (c), and 1/30/25 (a), as written and 1/30/25 (b), as corrected. All votes unanimous.

APPOINTMENT: 6:30 pm Eric Pyra and Tony Vagliardo, Conexon
The Board agreed to hear from Conexon early. Mr. Vagiardo advised they were installing fiber optics on Eversource and NHEC poles and that any tree trimming and pole replacements were not done by them, but by subcontractors hired by the power companies. Mr. Davenport said this issue came up as there had been some tree removal on designated Scenic Roads, which must be approved by the Planning Board through a public hearing process, per RSA. Scenic Road signs have been ordered, so they can be posted and power companies will be aware of the four roads (Pinnacle Hill Rd, Ridge Rd, Beech Hill Rd & Blake Hill Rd) in Town that have this designation.

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

The Board reviewed the following Building Permit Applications:

1. Richard & Rebekka Piper; 90 Mountain Vista Dr; Map R8, Lot 1A8; After-the-fact permit for front porch and carport. It was noted that this was discovered after the assessing firm found new unpermitted construction. The Board approved the permit.
2. SBA Towers; Map R4-27-TOW; 41 Ridge Rd; upgrades to existing cell tower; *approved by the Land Use Administrator.*

The Board approved the following Intents to Cut Wood:

1. Marshall & Emma Torsey; Straits Rd, Map R6, Lot 50
2. Kaleb Allen & Kelsey Fowler; 44 Sinclair Hill Rd, Map R4, Lots 41 & 55

OPEN ITEMS DISCUSSED:

- 17 Main Street – Mr. Davenport working on 90-day letter to send to prior owner. Mr. Davenport to create list of which entities are owed money and who has priority during a tax sale.
- Mr. Harvey said the tree removal at the Town House is complete. Mr. Davenport suggested submittal for another Congressionally Directed Spending Grant and the Board agreed. Mr. Harvey asked Mr. Davenport to ensure the Town House is plowed in preparation of the March election.
- Fish Hatchery Project Fish & Game (F&G) – Mr. Davenport received feedback from town counsel on the bond agreement for protection of Hatchery Road. Town Counsel will draft language for F&G to use.
- NHS MOU – Mr. Shaw said he spoke with Town counsel about the termination right that NHS proposed in their agreement to maintain the sidewalks near the elementary school during the winter. Mr. Shaw asked who owns the sidewalk and Mr. Harvey said he thought the Town owns them, based on RSA's. Mr. Davenport to investigate further.
- Job Postings – Mr. Davenport said the office is waiting for background check info on the DPW hire, before finalizing it and that the Fire Dept still has their opening for a full-time position. Mr. Davenport to follow-up that this is still being actively advertised and to advise the Board of a start date for the DPW hire.

- Dry hydrants – Mr. Davenport said he met with the Fire Chief and some residents from Winona Heights, where a different location on a pond has been discussed for creating a dry hydrant. Chief Cathy to get a rough estimate of cost and develop an RFP.

ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- ❖ Board signed an Elderly & Disabled Tax Deferral Application for Patricia Provencher; 1111 NH RT 132N; Map R20, Lot 63.
- ❖ Building Permit for posting purposes was reviewed to see if any changes were needed; Mr. Harvey asked that it state “*It Must Be*” ... *placed in a conspicuous location*.
- ❖ Memo from the Conservation Commission regarding Map R5, Lot 9 – while Conservation Commission Chair Mr. Pollock has said the commission is not interested in purchasing the property (as the property owner thought they may be interested in a portion of the property they’ve listed for sale); it was suggested that the Town may want to purchase it for a future water supply along Route 104. Though the Board recognized there was a sufficient aquifer in the area, the Board agreed to take it under advisement.
- ❖ Follow-up letter & email for 190 Main St (Leclerc property). As Mr. Leclerc was present, he spoke with the Board. He said he did everything Fire Chief Lang had asked of him few years ago, and he has had different items needed by Mr. Pendergast, and said more items are getting added over the 5 inspections that have taken place. Mr. Drake advised that after Mr. Leclerc came in to speak with them, they spoke with Chief Cathy, and learned not all issues have been addressed and therefore have decided to engage the State Fire Marshall’s Office in this matter. Mr. Drake said Mr. Leclerc has complained about Chief Cathy, then Fire Dept member Dana Pendergast, so now it will be up to the Fire Marshall’s office, as they are the final authority and are a neutral party. Mr. Drake said the Board wants to ensure the safety of the occupants and that if the Fire Marshall comes in and says everything has been addressed the Occupancy Permit will be approved. Mr. Leclerc said he doesn’t want to allow for any more inspections and will seek legal counsel if needed. Mr. Shaw pointed out that Mr. Leclerc keeps putting the blame on the Fire Chief and Mr. Pendergast, and is questioning their competency, so Mr. Leclerc should welcome having the State Fire Marshall perform the review. Mr. Drake said the Fire Marshall can get a warrant to enter any apartments where there are concerns with access and said he would like to see this matter put to rest as much as Mr. Leclerc would. Mr. Drake asked Mr. Leclerc to confirm that he was claiming that Chief Cathy and Mr. Pendergast are incompetent at their jobs, and Mr. Leclerc said they did not fulfill their job. Mr. Drake reminded Mr. Leclerc that he had asked that Chief Cathy not come back to perform the inspection, so they sent Mr. Pendergast, which he did not like either, and now has said it’s okay for Chief Cathy to come back and perform the inspection. For all these reasons the Board agreed this will now be a matter for the State Fire Marshall. Mr. Drake said that Chief Cathy has performed many inspections since he’s become chief and there have been no complaints of incompetency. Mr. Leclerc said he is finishing the room for which he obtained the permit to create the apartment, where the corners of the sheetrock have not been taped as required by the Fire Dept, and is putting it back to bedroom, bathroom and closet, it’s status before the building permit construction, 3 years ago. Mr. Drake asked if this was going to be a new unit, and Mr. Leclerc said it was going to be part of his own living unit, and his sister will move in there. Mr. Drake asked how many units, total, he would have and Mr. Leclerc said – four. Mr. Leclerc said there were 3, then said “I could have always said my upstairs was an in-law apartment – don’t need to.” The Board said at this point they plan on involving the State Fire Marshall. Mr. Leclerc said he doesn’t want inspections every year and Mr. Drake said annual inspections are a state requirement. Mr. Leclerc left.
- ❖ Chairman Drake signed the Audit Governance Questionnaire which will be forwarded to the auditor.
- ❖ FYI – Belknap County Statement of Financial Condition

New Business After Agenda Was Posted:

- Park Model RV zoning question – Mr. Davenport advised a building permit has been submitted, though the applicant knows it is incomplete, to find out whether the Town allows for an RV Park Model to be placed on a property to be used as a dwelling unit. Mr. Davenport pointed out that the Town only allows for a manufactured home, which has HUD approval, and RV Park Models do not have this type of approval. It

105 was the consensus of the Board that based on present zoning regulations, it is clear that this could not be
106 allowed.

- 107 Police Chief request to destroy or dispose of old Police Department camera equipment. The Board agreed
108 to the destruction of the hard drive and to offer the cameras on Municibid for 10 days. Mr. Drake asked
109 what the outcome was of the other offerings and Mr. Davenport said the Town received a top bid of \$402
110 for the boat motor and \$160 for the smart board. Mr. Davenport said the cameras do not work but doesn't
111 know if parts and pieces can be used. Relative to the 2013 International dump truck, Mr. Davenport said the
112 Highway Dept will clean it and take pictures next week so it can be listed on Municibid ASAP, with a
113 minimum bid of \$20,000.

114
115 **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 116 • Mr. Harvey said the Highway Dept needs to widen Shingle Camp Hill Road as vehicles are having to go
117 into the snow banks to pass each other at the top.
118 • Mr. Davenport said Ms. Schofield wanted input on the draft deliberative session minutes she sent to the
119 Board. The Board said they would review them.
120

121 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Provencal noted that very few people come in to meet with the Selectmen to bring up
122 complaints. He also asked if the Hwy Dept pickup was going to be sold and the Selectmen said they would be
123 discussing that in the future. Mr. Provencal and Mr. Morse left the meeting.
124

125 **ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:11 PM, Mr. Drake made a motion, seconded by Mr. Harvey to adjourn the meeting. Vote
126 was unanimous.

127
128 Respectfully submitted,
129 Pamela Vose