

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 20, 2023

PRESENT: ~~Rich James,~~ Paul Hazelton, Pat Moriarty, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Travis Austin (Police Chief), Jennifer Larochelle (Library Trustee), Bill Luti, Audrey Johnson, Michelle Matthews

ABSENT: Rich James (previous engagement)

2:30 P.M. **PUBLIC HEARING – EXPEND FUNDS PRESERVATION OF RECORDS FUND:** Chair Hazelton opened the public hearing to expend funds from the Preservation of Records Fund. Ms. Sanborn informed the attendees that the Town Clerk, Tracey Steenbergen, hired Kofile to restore town records from 1822-1955. The records included perambulation of town lines and imaging of general town records from this time period. There were no comments or questions from the attendees. Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to send the request to the Trustees of Trust Funds for the \$5,385.00 to be withdrawn from the Preservation of Records Reserve Fund, seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

2:38 P.M. **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:** Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to close the public hearing at 2:38 p.m., seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

2:38 P.M. **HEBRON LIBRARY- FUTURE:** Jennifer Larochelle approached the Select Board to discuss moving the Library forward since the vote at the May Town Meeting failed for the construction of a new Community Center/Library Building. Mrs. Larochelle informed the Board that the Library is utilized by many patrons and the space does not adequately meet the needs of the patrons. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that he would like to see a better place for the library and many of the townspeople like the ~~little~~-buildings. Chair Hazelton suggested that the Library Trustees form a committee to propose suggestions on solutions for the Library and adequate space needed to grow. The Board discussed with Mrs. Larochelle the current issues with the two buildings, repairs that could be made which are limited, and the limited use of the buildings due to the poor construction and the lack of quality materials used. Alternate locations were discussed for the Library and again what issues would the town be dealing with at these locations. Mrs. Larochelle informed the Board that Robbie Flynn and Donna Luti have done a great job filling in at the library with the vacant Librarian position but were tired. The Library Trustees hope to have a replacement within the next few weeks. Mrs. Larochelle informed the Board that a letter has been sent to the Library from the town stating that the Library had first bids on utilizing the old Town Clerk/Tax Collector Building. Mrs. Larochelle asked the Board if there was a reason given to the town why they did not receive the grant from the Community Development Finance Authority. At this time, the Board did not receive an explanation.

3:00 P.M. **GEORGE ROAD PROPOSED RELOCATION RIGHT OF WAY:** Michelle Matthews approached the Select Board to discuss the proposed release and discharge of the “public road dedication” through property ~~that of which~~ she is part owner. Chair Hazelton discussed with Mrs. Matthews the consent to, and limited waiver of damages associated with, release of dedication of public way document prepared by town counsel. Mrs. Matthews informed the Board that one of the lots would have no road frontage since the proposed George Road relocation would have been the frontage for this lot. Mrs. Matthews would like the town to split the costs with them for a boundary line adjustment for this lot so it would be a buildable lot based on town zoning specifications. Ms. Sanborn handed the Board a copy of the subdivision map which designated the proposed relocation of George Road. Chair Hazelton informed Mrs. Matthews that he needed to address the questions discussed today with town counsel and would get back to her. Chair Hazelton explained to Mrs. Matthews that the Board wanted to discuss this in person as opposed to just mailing the document. Mrs. Matthews appreciated the Board’s consideration.

Note: Any changes to the minutes would be reflected in the next set of minutes.

3:23 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifests**.
- Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to **authorize Chair Hazelton to sign the forms** for changes in rate of pay for employees that received raises, seconded by Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- The Select Board signed the **letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency** regarding the Procurement Policy utilized by the town.
- Chair Hazelton moved to **reappoint Paul Connor as a Conservation Commission Member** until May 2026, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- The Select Board signed the authorized **signature forms with Union Bank**.
- The Select Board signed the **letter to The Honorable Jennifer Granholm Secretary of Energy** in support of the Twin States Clean Energy Link Project.

3:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION:

- Ms. Sanborn handed Vice-Chair Moriarty the most recent **report on ambulance billings to Comstar** (billing service) which noted the number of calls responded to for the month (including unbillable). Ms. Johnson reviewed the report with the Board and expressed concerns with the increase in calls that the ambulance is responding to, which are unbillable. Ms. Johnson reported to the Board that the State of NH does not allow ambulance services to bill for non-transport, but Massachusetts and Vermont do have legislation that authorizes them to bill for non-transport with Medicare and Medicaid. The Select Board approved Ms. Johnson to research this matter further.
- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that Elaine Mills (resident) offered some **granite blocks to the town** to place along the shore of the town beach to reduce the erosion of the Hebron Memorial Beach. Chair Hazelton inquired about storing the granite blocks somewhere at the beach since permits were required to utilize the rocks for erosion control. Vice-Chair Moriarty thought there would be room to store the granite blocks in the area near the main beach parking lot that was cleared. Chair Hazelton would review possible locations at the Hebron Memorial Beach and contact Mrs. Mills about the size and number of blocks being donated.
- Ms. Sanborn noted that **Malcom Bliss (Kearsarge Energy) responded to evaluating a ground mounted solar panel system at 37 Groton Road** – Public Safety Building. Based on the evaluation, Mr. Bliss recommended only a roof-mounted solar panel system which would have to be handled by another company. The Board felt another issue may be that 3 Phase power does not come into town.
- Ms. Sanborn emailed earlier to the Board the Town Auditor's report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 with the auditors comments to review. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that she would set up a meeting with the Town Auditors if there were questions on either document.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that **Steve Nilhas (Interim Superintendent of Newfound Area School District (NASD)) sent an introductory email and is willing to meet with the Board**. The Board asked Ms. Sanborn to invite Mr. Nilhas to the August 3, 2023 Select Board Meeting. Bill Luti reported to the Board that Terry Murphy (Town of Bridgewater Selectman) and Eric Piper (Bridgewater representative to the Budget Committee for the NASD) met with Mr. Nilhas and felt the communications would be more open than in the past.

3:48 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Thank you notes from Voices Against Violence and Newfound Lake Region Association for the donation.**

3:59 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Ms. Sanborn updated the Board on the recent **meeting with FEMA representatives** that was attended by Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor and Chair Hazelton. The meeting was very

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productive. The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Hall has one more estimate to provide at this meeting.

- Vice-Chair Moriarty reviewed with the Board his thoughts on the overall **2022 Budget as expended**. Overall 95% of the budget was expended with most of the department budgets reflecting the same. Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that some of the account lines were significantly over expended – legal, town buildings electric, and town building repairs and maintenance. The Highway Department Budget overall was expended reasonably within the budget, but the account lines did not reflect close to the budgeted amounts. Vice-Chair Moriarty would like Mr. Hall to pay attention to the amount budgeted, the amount expended and adjust accordingly. Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that a projected timeframe for replacing the dump truck would be helpful with financial planning. Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that there are funds available through Granite State Clean Fleets for replacing and upgrading diesel motor vehicles which she was looking into applying for funds.
- Vice-Chair Moriarty reported to the Board that **HB349 is on Governor Sununu’s desk** for signature. Once signed, the towns involved will need to meet to discuss moving forward based on the amendment made to HB349.
- Chair Hazelton reported to the Board on an upcoming **teleconference scheduled with NH Department of Environmental Services, Kent Brown (engineer), and Representative Sellers** to discuss the dredging of the mouth of the Cockermonth River project. Mr. Luti suggested including Andy McLane as he has historical data regarding the lake level and reasons for more silt in Newfound Lake since the lake is kept at a higher level. Chair Hazelton will report back on the discussions of this meeting and the best way to move forward.

4:44 P.M. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. Sanborn noted that the June 15, 2023 Select Board Meeting minutes and the July 6, 2023 Select Board Meeting minutes would be tabled until the August 3, 2023 Select Board Meeting when the full Board is present.

4:45 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Chair Hazelton moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator