

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2020

PRESENT: Paul Hazelton, Patrick Moriarty, Richard James, and Karen Sanborn, Town Administrator

OTHERS PRESENT: Omer Ahern, Jr. (candidate for Grafton County Commissioner), Travis Austin (Police Chief)

7:00 P.M. **OPENED MEETING:** Chair Hazelton opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 P.M. **CANDIDATE FOR GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER:** Omer Ahern, Jr. approached the Select Board to review with them the reasons he was running as a candidate for Grafton County Commissioner in District 3. Mr. Ahern reported to the Board that he was campaigning for the position due to the significant increase in the county taxes of approximately \$2.5 million. Mr. Ahern reviewed with the Board his background experience and that he had served two prior terms as a Grafton County Commissioner. Mr. Ahern feels that if he was to be elected he could make a difference that would benefit Grafton County as a whole. Vice-Chair Moriarty inquired if each county in the state had a nursing home located within the county. Mr. Ahern replied yes, but would like to see the nursing homes moved to a location that would best serve the community. Mr. Ahern thanked the Board for taking the time to meet.

7:12 P.M. **POLICE DEPARTMENT – RESIGNATION AND NEW HIRE:** Chief Austin approached the Select Board to inform the Board that part-time police Officer Foss had been promoted to Police Chief in his department in the Town of Campton and submitted his resignation as a part-time police officer from the Town of Hebron. Chief Austin presented the Board with a candidate that had expressed interest as a part-time officer with the Hebron Police Department, Zachary Moylan (Police Officer with the Town of Campton). Chief Austin informed the Board that a background check had been performed on Officer Moylan and relayed to the Board that he would be a good fit for the town. Vice-Chair Moriarty asked Chief Austin to bring Officer Moylan in to meet the Board. Selectman James moved to accept Officer Foss's resignation, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous. Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to support the recommendation from Chief Austin to hire Officer Moylan as a part-time officer, seconded by Selectman James. The vote was unanimous.

7:15 P.M. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifest**.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that the office was in receipt of the **2020/2021 Municipal Aid** in the amount of \$4,981.95 which needed to be accepted by the Board. Selectman James moved to accept the Municipal Aid funds received by the town, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- The Select Board signed the **letters to Tracey Steenbergen (Town Clerk) and the Supervisors' of the Checklist (Audrey Johnson, Judy Dodge, and Roberta Flynn)** thanking them for the additional work performed in preparing for the four elections this year and the extra precautions added due to COVID-19.
- The Select Board signed the **2020 MS-535 Financial Report of the Budget** as prepared by Roberts and Greene for the 18 month budget.

7:22 P.M. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board that the Hebron Historical Society was inquiring about holding a **Veteran's Day ceremony on the Hebron Common** with all participants and attendees wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Refreshments would not be served and the basement of the Hebron Union

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Congregational Church would not be used either. The Select Board agreed to allow the event with the necessary precautions to be taken.

- The Select Board reviewed the **HealthTrust rates for CY2021** with health insurance rates increasing by 6.8% and dental insurance rates remaining the same. Ms. Sanborn noted that this will not affect the 2020/2021 Budget as the employee will be reimbursing the town for the increase since the Select Board voted to cap the amount paid by the town November of 2012. Selectman James moved to authorize Chair Hazelton to sign the medical coverage rates form with HealthTrust, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.
- Ms. Sanborn relayed to the Board that the Conservation Commission had requested **removing hazard dead trees along the upper edge of the fields in the Hebron Town Forest**. Vice-Chair Moriarty reported to the Board on the Conservation Commission meeting where a discussion was held regarding removing timber from the Hebron Town Forest. Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that an attendee at the meeting expressed concerns with allowing any timber harvesting in the forest due to environmental concerns. Chair Hazelton noted that the town was working with FORECO, Inc. to update the Hebron Town Forest Stewardship Plan, not harvest timber. Vice-Chair Moriarty felt that funds to update the plan would be on the warrant at the next town meeting. Selectman James moved to allow the Conservation Commission to remove the hazard trees on the Hebron Town Forest property using Don Musial once a Certificate of Insurance had been filed at the Town Office and to offer the wood to Hebron residents, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

7:32 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Selectman James reported to the Board that Ron Collins sent him an email requesting that **three more members be appointed to the Historic District Commission** as outlined in the Certified Local Government guidelines. A list of names were suggested. Vice-Chair Moriarty requested that the Historic District Commission make the recommendation to the Board of people willing to accept the positions as members for the Board to make the appointments. Selectman James agreed to follow-up with Mr. Collins.
- Chair Hazelton informed the Board that he received a **letter prepared by Mike Riess (Chair of the Town Space Needs Committee)** to be added to the town newsletter. Chair Hazelton commented that the letter may be submitted to the Town of Hebron monthly newsletter from the committee. ~~better to come from the Select Board as opposed to the committee as a statement of the committee's work to date.~~
- Vice-Chair Moriarty reported on the **Planning Board Meeting**. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that Ivan Quinchia (Planning Board Chair) presented the Board with a suggested ordinance to regulate restrict wind/solar ~~from in~~ the Lake District. The draft was based on an example of an ordinance from Troy, NH. Chair Hazelton noted that today's solar arrays are powerlines of the past. Selectman James commented that discussion can happen, but the final decision is made by the voters. Chair Hazelton felt that ~~when~~ the Planning Board should be careful with the regulations that are put on private property. Vice-Chair Moriarty stated that the Planning Board discussed requiring private property owners to post a bond for ~~deregulation decommission.~~ Selectman James felt that the ordinance should be kept simple, for future interpretation.
- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that they had been invited to be present for the **inspection of the ambulance** which has to be done every two years on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at the Public Safety Building at 10:00 a.m.
- Chair Hazelton informed the Board that Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor, and he walked part of the **Cockermouth Riverbank and determined the worst of the debris pile-up** was on the Alexander property. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that Mr. Hall provided costs of \$2,400 per day for two or three days and this would include two excavators, a skid steer, and the log

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truck to haul away the debris removed. The Select Board discussed funding for the project. Ms. Sanborn suggested looking into the Emergency Contingency Trust Fund as the purpose related to hazard mitigation. Selectman James moved to approve using the funds from the Emergency Contingency Trust Fund for the project assuming the Select Board has the authority to do so and contingent upon Tracey Steenbergen, Town Clerk, reviewing the trust fund creation to ensure the Select Board has the authority to expend the funds, seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Select Board on the **bids submitted by private plow contractors**. Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that Ben Hall, Highway Supervisor, recommended a ¾ ton truck with a 9' plow at \$58/ hour and for a one-ton with a 9' plow and 3 yard sander at \$65/ hour. Selectman James moved to approve the recommend rates for the plowing 2020-2021 season as recommended by the Highway Supervisor. The vote was unanimous.
- Chair Hazelton discussed with the Board email reply from Tyler Davidson, Wetlands Specialist with NH Department of Environmental Services regarding the **required permit and process for removing the grown-up brush from Tannery Brook**. Vice-Chair Moriarty suggested starting the process of filing the necessary permit. Chair Hazelton agreed to contact Ton Hahn (FORECO, Inc.) for recommendations for assistance with the permit. Selectman James commented on contacting the NH Municipal Association for a list of engineers to assist with the permitting process. Vice-Chair Moriarty noted that the Lakes Region Planning Commission might be able to assist with qualified engineers.

8:08 P.M. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of October 1, 2020 and made the following corrections: page 1, first bullet under *Discussion Items*, separate the two topics – clearing debris from Tannery Brook and removing debris from the Cockermouth River, and page 2, second bullet, add after the third sentence “Ms. Sanborn noted that the Snow Plow Account had been reduced by \$30,514 as a result of reducing the fees to the customers.” Vice-Chair Moriarty moved to accept the Select Board Meeting minutes of October 1, 2020 as amended, seconded by Selectman James. The vote was unanimous.

8:12 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Selectman James moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 P.M., seconded by Vice-Chair Moriarty. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator