

TOWN OF HEBRON
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 15, 2022

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

ABSENT: Rich James

6:45 P.M. **COMMENCED MEETING:** Vice-Chair Hazelton opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

6:45 P.M. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Vice-Chair Hazelton opened public hearing to expend funds from the Police Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of a 2022 RAM 1500 police cruiser. The amount to be withdrawn from the fund is \$28,439. The purchase price of the vehicle \$32,939 with the trade in vehicle of \$4,500. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the withdrawal of funds from the Police Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of the new police cruiser, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

With no further comments, Vice-Chair Hazelton moved to close the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

7:00 P.M. **NEWFOUND AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT – HEBRON SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE – UPDATE:** Tom Edwards approached the Select Board to give an update on the recent happenings on the NASD Board. Vice-Chair Hazelton discussed with Mr. Edwards the final report from the Article 5 Committee regarding the proposed funding changes to the Newfound Area School District and was looking for the thoughts on the subject by the NASD Board. Mr. Edwards stated that his opinion would be that the Town of Bristol representative wants a change and that Hebron and Bridgewater representatives want the formula to remain the same. If there had to be a vote by the Board, there is a chance that the formula may stay the same.

Mr. Edwards informed the Board that the NASD is working on a new literacy curriculum and reviewing architectural studies on the elementary schools in preparation for a bond in 2024 for replacing or extensive renovations to an elementary school in the district. Selectman Moriarty asked about going for three new schools or proposing one larger elementary school. Mr. Edwards stated that they are looking at many options. There are videos on the NASD website of the interiors of the elementary schools and the many issues with the buildings. Mr. Edwards informed the Board that he is on the building committee and is willing to meet with the Select Board on a regular basis to report on the progress.

Vice-Chair Hazelton expressed concerns with any formula changes to district and that the result would be disastrous for everyone. Selectman Moriarty stated that the contract for the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School is \$1.00 annually to the Newfound Area School District and was disappointed with the attitude projected by the NASD Superintendent, Pierre Couture at the Article 5 Committee Meeting commenting that the BHVS was not needed in the district. Mr. Edwards stated that budget cuts would have to happen to sports to afford leasing the Bridgewater-Hebron Village School if the formula changed. Vice-Chair Hazelton expressed concerns with how New Hampshire raises funds for education through the property tax and that a broad-based income tax would be a fairer option. Mr. Edwards informed the Board that he could meet with the Select Board again with the Superintendent to discuss this issue further. Vice-Chair Hazelton expressed concerns with property value misconceptions due to assessments being higher on the lakefront parcels, but noted that the poverty level is the highest amongst the other properties in town as many residents are retired living on Social Security alone. Selectman Moriarty pointed out that much of the waterfront properties are not taxable as they are summer camps, the Audubon Society, and Grey Rocks Conservation Area. Vice-Chair Hazelton requested that Mr. Edwards bring the Superintendent to the next Select Board Meeting on January 5, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

7:30 P.M.

FOLLOW-UP ON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING FROM DECEMBER 8, 2022:

Bill Luti approached the Select Board to follow-up on the Public Informational Meeting regarding the proposed formula funding changes in the Newfound Area School District. Vice-Chair Hazelton informed Mr. Luti that the Newfound Area School District Superintendent, Pierre Couture and Tom Edwards, Newfound Area School District School Board Member – Hebron Representative are invited to the next Select Board Meeting on January 5, 2022. Mr. Luti informed the Board of recent legislation regarding withdrawing from NASD.

8:00 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The Select Board signed the **accounting manifests**.
- The Board reviewed the **letter to State of NH Department of Safety** notifying the m of the town's insurance provider and authorizing the provider to request accident reports on behalf of the town. Selectman Moriarty moved to authorize Vice-Chair Hazelton to sign the letter to NH DOS authorizing Primex to obtain accident reports for the town, seconded Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- The **Memorandum of Understanding between the Coalition Communities 2.0** and the Town of Hebron was tabled until a full Board was present.
- The Board signed the **letter to the Town of Bristol Select Board** requesting matching funds allocated for the Fiber Optics Project.
- Selectman Moriarty moved to authorize Vice-Chair Hazelton to sign the **funds transfer to cover the administrative costs** from the Snow Plow Fund, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.
- The Select Board signed the **letter to the NH Department of Transportation** requesting a lowered "Seasonal Speed Limit" on Route 3-A.

8:08 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Newfound Area School District** – revised payment schedule 2022-2023
- **Letter from NH Department of Revenue Administration** – Report on 2021 Cyclical Revaluation
- **Report from the Article 5 Funding Formula Committee**
- **Meeting with taxpayer on abatement application** – scheduled for January 10, 2022 – Chair James will be at the meeting.

8:15 P.M.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Ms. Sanborn informed the Board that Doug McQuilkin, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair, has **resigned from the chairperson position**. Ms. Sanborn noted that a Select Board member would need to attend the next Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting to appoint a chairperson.
- Ms. Sanborn discussed with the Board the **recommendation from the Town Auditors** for the Town Administrator to initial all invoices not covered under other department heads. Ms. Sanborn stated that the invoices are reviewed then submitted to Alison York, Administrative Assistant for payment and the Select Board initials the invoices. Selectman Moriarty felt that the process should remain the same for account credibility.
- Ms. Sanborn reported to the Board that Stuart and Jane Thompson are in the process of constructing a new residence on Loon Lane and their water supply comes from Newfound Lake. The Thompsons have an easement to maintain a water pipeline in their deed already, but they are looking to move the location of the waterline. **An Easement Deed for the proposed relocated waterline** was reviewed by the Select Board. Selectman Moriarty moved to sign the Easement Deed as presented for the Thompson Family, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous. Selectman Moriarty noted that the Thompson's would cover the recording fees at the Grafton County Registry of Deeds.

8:35 P.M. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 1, 2022 and made the following corrections: page 1, third bullet under Any Other Business – insert “of” after “result”, and page 2, top of the page – insert “this information to” before “Audrey Johnson”. The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Non-Public Session minutes of December 1, 2022 and the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 7, 2022. The Board agreed to approve the three sets minutes at the next Select Board Meeting as Selectman Moriarty was not present at the meetings.

The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 8, 2022. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Select Board Meeting minutes of December 8, 2022 as written, seconded by Selectman Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

The Select Board reviewed the Select Board Public Informational Meeting minutes of December 8, 2022 and made the following correction: page 2, third paragraph, last sentence – replace “odds were” with “committee voted” and remove “at the committee meetings” from the end of the sentence. Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the Select Board Public Informational Meeting minutes of December 8, 2022 as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

8:50 P.M. **MEETING ADJOURNED:** Selectman Moriarty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Vice-Chair Hazelton. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Sanborn
Town Administrator